RapidILL: Project Bedrock

January 2019

Background

In July 2018, RapidILL began the development of a new system to facilitate RapidR lending (the lending of “returnables,” or physical library collections) among member libraries at the consortial level. Nicknamed “Bedrock,” this new system will make it easier for participating libraries to lend physical materials to one another, and will facilitate cross-consortial lending. Initially, all libraries participating in Bedrock must also be RapidR participants.

The goal of Bedrock is to provide academic libraries with a cost-effective, responsive, and easy-to-use tool for managing ILL lending and borrowing workflows outside of traditional systems such as Relais D2D, ILLiad, or Tipasa. Bedrock will also include tools that allow both library staff and patrons to manage requests. The system has been conceived, and will be built, in close collaboration with key academic library consortia in order to ensure that it meets the needs of the library community. Critical features of Bedrock will include affordability, reliability, and the collaborative nature of its development and deployment.

RapidILL has funded the first phase of the Bedrock project, which was recently completed, and is exploring funding options such as grants to support completion of the project.

Why Bedrock?

Since RapidILL was launched in 2004, the service has maintained a future focus – not only launching innovative products, but continuing to improve those products while exploring new opportunities. The main goal of RapidILL continues to be to provide libraries with highly effective, low-cost services that facilitate resource sharing while minimizing staff time and effort. This objective has led to the successful development of RapidILL (for article and book chapters) and the launch of RapidR-Returnables (to facilitate the lending and borrowing of physical materials). The Rapid team views Bedrock as a natural progression for the RapidILL suite of services, as libraries increasingly consider collaboration as a tool to save money, time, and space.

The drive to develop Bedrock came from libraries themselves, who have asked the RapidILL team to consider providing additional solutions in this space – specifically, to provide new ways for consortia to collaborate on resource sharing. Simultaneously, the resource sharing
landscape has shifted as smaller vendors have been purchased, providing fewer competitive options for libraries.

**How is the Bedrock project managed?**

Bedrock is managed by the RapidILL team based at Colorado State University. Key staff on the project include Mike Richins (Rapid management and partner collaboration), Greg Eslick (vendor management and coordination) and Amy Hoseth (project management and supervision). Additional guidance is provided by Patrick Burns (CSU Dean of Libraries and VP for IT).

The RapidILL team is also planning the formation of an advisory group. In addition to selected members of the Rapid team and CSU Libraries management, this advisory group will include representation from consortial partners and key academic library leaders. The group will have operational insight into Bedrock and will provide high-level guidance for both this project and other Rapid services.

**Project costs**

RapidILL programmers have broken Project Bedrock into several phases, or “versions,” in order to prioritize and streamline the work. RapidILL funded Version 1. Rapid has also funded preliminary work to scope the project, including research and development, projected costs, and anticipated timelines. Additional information on project costs will be shared with consortial partners and advisory group members.

**Development timeline***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Core feature set</td>
<td>July 2018 - December 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Completed</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NCIP, API, federated authentication</td>
<td>Potentially Fall 2019/Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Additional functionality</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Future development</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*The timing for Phases 2 and on depends on the identification of external funding
Future directions for Bedrock

Initially, Bedrock will only be available to RapidR participants at a select group of participating consortia. However, the RapidILL team envisions that Bedrock will grow to encompass a variety of additional services and features, including:

- Expansion beyond current Rapid members
- Enhanced customization options
- Sharing of non-returnable materials
- Interaction with other resource-sharing systems (such as DocLine, OCLC, ReShare, and Alma Resource Sharing)
- Facilitated access to Bedrock via APIs and other protocols (for example, for statistical reporting)

How can libraries and consortia get involved with Bedrock?

Since collaboration with the library community is a key element of Bedrock, the RapidILL team is exploring several ways in which interested libraries and/or consortia can get involved with the project. First, libraries may have the opportunity to participate in the advisory group in order to provide input and guidance for Bedrock and other Rapid projects.

Second, as Bedrock is launched, selected libraries will be invited to participate in the beta testing and ongoing development of the tool. Early adopters of Bedrock will receive a number of benefits as a result of their participation, including the opportunity to provide input into future Bedrock features and functionality; the opportunity to test/implement the service before it is available to other RapidR libraries; and an initial discount on Bedrock pricing when the system goes live.

About RapidILL

RapidILL is a unique resource sharing system that was designed by the interlibrary loan staff at the Colorado State University Libraries. Created in the wake of a 1997 flood that devastated CSU’s main library, RapidILL was conceived and developed by ILL staff as a way to provide fast, cost-effective article requesting and delivery through interlibrary loan. In 2014 Rapid moved beyond article sharing and began facilitating the exchange of “returnables” (physical library collections) among participating libraries through a service called RapidR.
RapidILL is built around groups of libraries, called “pods,” that are created to support peer or consortial resource sharing. All Rapid participants belong to at least one pod, and most belong to more than one. (For example, the CSU Libraries belongs to a general academic pod, a pod of ARL institutions, and a pod for the GWLA consortium.) Participating libraries sign a contract that includes peer-to-peer service commitments without charging fees. Rapid incorporates automatic processing, routing, and load-leveling to ensure fast, efficient service.

Today, RapidILL includes a suite of services that facilitate interlibrary lending, including articles, returnables (via RapidR), and open access materials. More than 300 libraries now participate in Rapid, including libraries in the United States, Canada, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

RapidILL staff

- Amy Hoseth, Assistant Dean, Resource Delivery Services, CSU Libraries
- Mike Richins, Manager of RapidILL
- Greg Eslick, Director of RapidILL Technology
- Tom Delaney, Director of RapidILL Outreach and Support
- Mike Morrison, Director of Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Technology
- Sam Friedman, Assistant Coordinator, Book and Serials Holdings
- Jane Smith, Coordinator of RapidILL Support, Training and Development

FAQ

Is Bedrock an open source solution?

To ensure the security and integrity of the existing RapidILL system, and to guarantee the reliability of Bedrock, this system will not be open source. However, the Rapid team is exploring ways in which some parts of Bedrock could be made open in the future—for example, through programmable APIs. In addition, Rapid team members have had discussions with staff at the ReShare project about opportunities for future collaboration.

How can I get updates on Bedrock development?

Rapid is developing a web interface where current information about Bedrock will be posted and shared. Rapid team members also plan to host informational meetings at the upcoming ACRL conference (April 2019) and at ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. (June 2019). Additional information will be shared when it is available.
How much will Bedrock cost?

Pricing for Bedrock has not been determined yet. However, RapidILL has long been committed to providing innovative, reliable and user-focused resource sharing tools at a very reasonable price.

Who is participating in Bedrock?

RapidILL is developing Bedrock in close collaboration with a select group of library consortia. Specific information about those development partners will be shared at a later date. Ultimately, the goal is for Bedrock to be available to any academic library, although the current development plan prioritizes its deployment to libraries that are currently using the RapidR service.

Who can I talk to for more information on Bedrock?

For more information on Bedrock, or any RapidILL service, please contact Mike Richins at 970-491-0955 or RapidStaff@RapidILL.org.