We are excited to announce Rapid’s new Medical Pod! This pod has been designed in response to many requests for a specific medical pod.

Participants in the medical pod must be a medical library or branch library; or have an extensive medical collection. ‘Medical collection’ does include veterinary collections.

For those of you meeting these qualifications and are interested in the medical pod, there are three options for participation.

1) If your home institution belongs to Rapid, you can join Rapid as a branch library. In this scenario, you would participate in all of the pods in which your home institution participates and you would be in the Medical Pod. There is no cost to you or your home institution in this scenario.

2) If your home institution belongs to Rapid, you can choose to participate only in the Medical pod if you prefer. This option is for those that only want to supply to and receive requests from those in the Medical pod. There will be a small fee for this option. In order for the Medical pod to be viable, there must be at least seven participating sites.

3) The final option is for Medical libraries where the home institution does not participate in Rapid. In this option you are free to participate in the Medical pod only or to cross-podinate in any other pods for which you are qualified. In this instance, the costs would be the same as for any new Rapid site.

Are you interested? If so, or if you have additional questions, please contact the Rapid team at: RapidStaff@RapidILL.org

Rapid is a strong and innovative system because of the strength and innovativeness of our users. Do you have a cool or interesting idea about resource-sharing? Do you wish “X” was possible? What issue do you wish was solved? Share your ideas or frustrations with your Rapid colleagues and together we can tackle anything!

Special note to our Canadian, Taiwan and Hong Kong participants
Thursday, November 24th is a national holiday in the U.S. Many libraries will be closed several days, usually Thursday and Friday in celebration. Next week you may notice more unfilled requests than usual.

We’re listening...
Do you have a “Tidbit” topic you’d like to have addressed, or a question for the Rapid staff? Maybe you’d like a refresher or tips on some aspect of Rapid processing? Please ask! RapidStaff@RapidILL.org

We plan to profile different sites occasionally in our sidebar. It’s a nice way to get to know folks in our Rapid community.