Rapid Rocks! : Special Edition

An Annual Update

Due to scheduling conflicts, the annual Rapid User Group meeting was not held in New Orleans in June. It has been rescheduled for January, 2019 and details will be forthcoming.

In the meanwhile, the Rapid team is anxious to tell you about our past year's accomplishments, share announcements, and describe upcoming projects.

Announcements

- 23 new libraries have joined the Rapid system since June, 2017. A handout listing the new members is at the end of this document.

- In addition to new member libraries, there are also three new Rapid pods:

  * The GWLA pod. GWLA, the "Greater Western Library Alliance," is a consortium of 38 research libraries across the United States. GWLA is focusing on RapidRR (Returnables) to take advantage of RapidR's routing algorithm that includes load-leveling, geographical awareness and regional groupings. The GWLA pod currently has 30 active members.

  * The EAST pod. The Eastern Academic Scholar's Trust, is a shared print initiative that brings together academic and research libraries in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. The EAST pod currently has 23 members.

  * The third pod, the Phoenix pod, is comprised of former NEXpress consortium members and is expanding to include additional participants. The primary focus of the Phoenix pod will be using RapidR for returnable resource-sharing. There are 8 initial Phoenix pod members.

- We are pleased to announce that the annual maintenance increase for FY18/19 is only 1.5%. This nominal increase will enable us to continue excellent support of the system, in addition to providing new enhancements.

- Rapid team members attended a number of conferences this year, including ALA, IDS, NWILL, Colorado ILL, OCLC RS, and the Great Lakes RS Conference.

Enhancements

- Rapid's "Status Check" functionality has been improved and you can now narrow your search by "Type of Request".

- The Rapid API has been enhanced to handle new RapidR states such as received, returned, not received and lost. It also supports variable due dates and renewal requests. The updated API is complete and in production, but requires outside vendor adoption for ILLiad and Tipasa.

Reports
Tech: Greg Eslick
- The tech staff has started a large development project to move the holdings load process to Azure cloud architecture with a 24/7 load scheme.

- Working with OCLC to add Tipasa support for the Rapid articles workflow (including Article Exchange). OCLC is still outstanding on adopting RapidR workflow.

- Purchased and migrated new servers to support Rapid core services and the holdings loading data storage array.

- Easy lending is averaging 100 request per day serving Open Access articles. The database is now contains over 35 million articles.

- Continuing utilization and migration of processes to Microsoft's cloud architecture.

- Migrated core physical services and servers not cloud based to high availability data center.

Statistics and Analyses: Tom Delaney
- A reminder that if you want in-depth statistics or an analysis of your Rapid performance, Tom Delaney is ready to help. You can reach him at: tom.delaney@colostate.edu.

Retraining: Tom Delaney and Mike Richins
- For many of you your original Rapid training was quite a while ago...perhaps you've had a turnover in staff, maybe your borrowing or lending numbers aren't what they could be, or maybe you want to be sure you are taking full advantage of everything Rapid has to offer. In these cases, please contact the Rapid staff to schedule a Rapid retraining session. The retraining sessions are tailored to your needs and have been shown to enhance libraries' Rapid performance. Contact Mike or Tom at: rapidstaff@rapidill.org

Holdings: Sam Friedman

Fall Projects: All Libraries
- If you are planning Rapid holdings projects that you want completed before the fall semester begins in September, now is a great time to start. Starting in July or August gives us enough time to make sure that new settings are in place by semester start.

Fall Projects: Alma Specific
- Alma OAI Automated Holdings Process

For almost two years, we have been using an automated process with many Rapid libraries that use Alma. Here are some things we've learned in that time that may help if you plan to move your Rapid holdings to this process:

1) Setup takes time.

If everything goes smoothly and all necessary data is present, the setup process can take about a month. Once the initial holdings load is complete, however, libraries often find small adjustments that need to made as a result of changes in holdings data. While we try to catch all of these in advance, some don't show up during initial setup and only become evident once you begin filling requests from the new Alma holdings.

Please let Sam know about these at Holdings@RapidILL.org and he will investigate.

2) What fields to use?

The process used to set up your OAI profiles lets you use Data Enrichment to specify what fields you want to use for what data points. I've found that many libraries use the following fields and it seems to return good results:

Print materials: 954 fields
  $q $r – "temporary" location. Usually a physical collection. The Temporary field seems to
    be the location field that is regularly updated.
  $t – call number
  $m – years held (for journals)
Electronic materials: 949 fields
  $a – Location. Usually a database name. Alma calls these "Portfolio".
  $u – URL. Used in place of call number to allow you to retrieve electronic material more
    quickly
  $e – years held. Often includes embargo phrases like "2 year(s) not available".

We've also learned that some electronic ISSNs were located in the 776 $x field instead of the 022 $a and we are now accounting for this.

3) Monthly Updates

The automated monthly process seems to work well most of the time. This helps ensure that your Rapid holdings are up to date and saves time on generating and sending us holdings files. The consistency in formatting also helps us to process the data more quickly.

Some Alma users have reported that their automated monthly update can sometimes fail or return a message, "Completed with errors." This seems to be resolved by re-running the publishing profiles manually. If you see the "completed with errors" message, please let Ex Libris know about the issue; hopefully there is something they can do to correct it, but it may take multiple libraries alerting them before they know it's a recurring issue.

Libraries have also reported that the automated process is resource-intensive when it generates new holdings data. While we are careful to throttle our download so as not to strain library resources, you may want to ask Ex Libris if there are ways to throttle or adjust the resources used when generating the data.

An Invitation:

We hope to see all of you in Seattle in January 2019. Please plan to attend the Rapid User Group meeting where we will have the opportunity to visit, entertain questions and talk more about Rapid's enhancements.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or kudos for the Rapid team, please send them along: rapidstaff@rapidill.org

New Rapid Participants
June 2017-June 2018

OKT: University of Tulsa

IAY: University of Illinois at Chicago

TNY: Trinity University

GPM: Georgia Southern University

YMG: Yuan Ze University

YU0: Notre Dame de Namur University

CPO: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

CH4GT: Chang Gung University (Taiwan)

UMK: University of Missouri—Kansas City

WUG: Gonzaga University

YQU: University of Queensland

SOI: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

HUH: University of Hawaii at Manoa

UZ0: University of Otago

LS0: University of South Australia

IXA: University of Texas at Austin

TMB: University of Texas, Medical Branch

TXH: University of Houston

LE1: University of Adelaide

NKM: University of North Carolina at Charlotte

SJG: William Jessup University

UNL: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

KKR: Emporia State University