'I Understand (Just How You Feel)', but really, you don't need OCLC

Dzintra Lacis and Dev Singer

Brandeis

LIBRARY

Brandeis University

- R1 liberal arts university
- 3,342 undergraduates; 1,354 grad students; 492 faculty members
- 13 research centers and institutes



History of Rapido at Brandeis

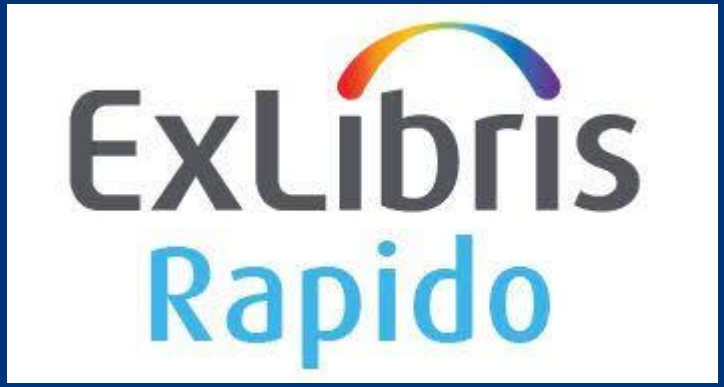
- OCLC WorldShare ILL subscription ended 6/30/21
- ILLiad was turned off on 6/30/21
- Brandeis was one of the first adopters of Rapido,
  and among the first to drop WS ILL
- Started using Alma RS with the SUNY libraries (who mostly do not use Rapido) at the same time
- Rapido (which handles returnables) works with RapidILL (for non-returnables) and RapidR (returnables)
  Luckily, the RapidILL/R systems weren't new to us

Why we switched

- Cost of WorldShare ILL - the most important reason
- RapidR was (and still is) used by our local consortium as their sharing system, about 50% of total requests were supplied by them
- Improvements in the patron experience: for requesting, monitoring My Account, etc. Everything in one patron account now.
- Improved information about the request status - patrons can see if an item is In process by a lender and if it is shipped
- Rapido Offer tiles – patrons can easily choose the type of request they want and get an estimate of the delivery time
- We felt it was the future more generally - cloud based

How we borrow: The built-ins

- RapidILL / RapidR
- Rapido





How we borrow: Built in, with a little effort

- Alma Resource Sharing
- Hybrid Pods





How we borrow: Our systems librarian set it up

- Individual ISO connections
- ComCat





How we borrow: Outside the system (mostly)

- ILLiad, etc. logins
- ALA requests
- GEBAY
- National Library of Israel
- RSCVD





What can’t we get? Very little!

- Some libraries won’t lend outside OCLC, but only a few have unique holdings we need
- Materials we couldn’t get in the old days? Still can’t get them.

Statistics

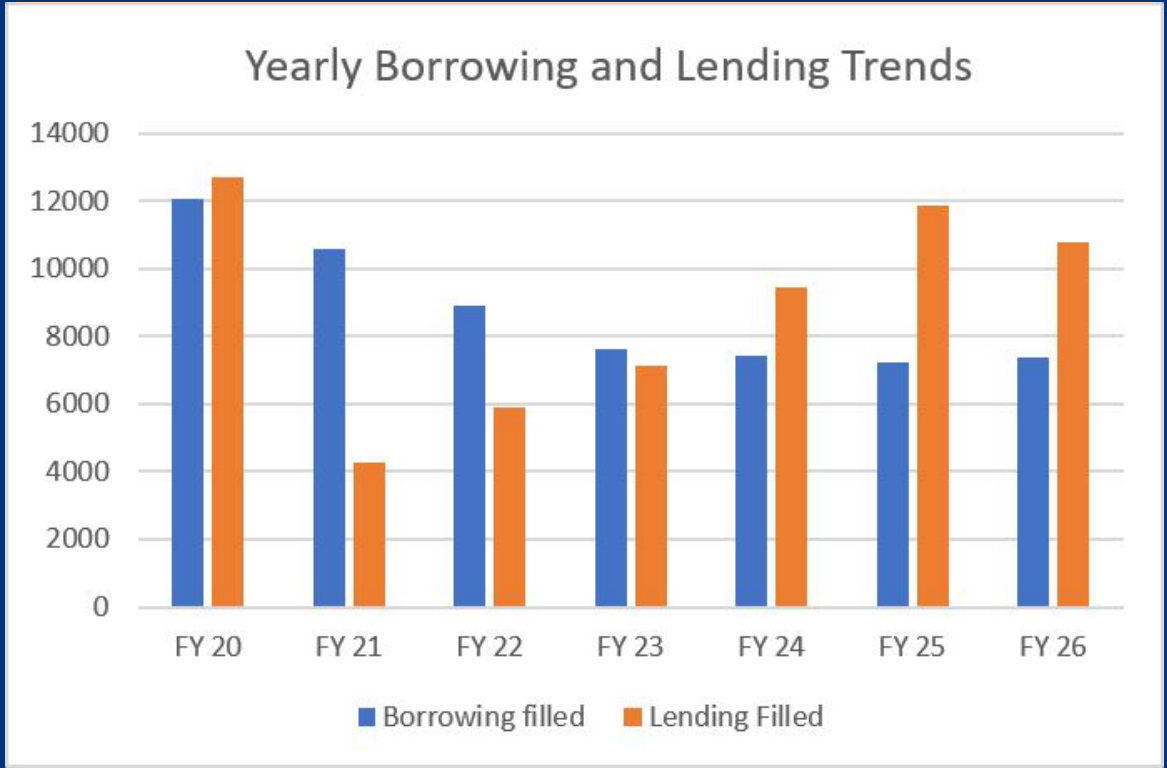
Rapido uses Oracle Analytics (in Alma)

FY 2026	Digital	Physical	Total
Borrowing filled	4,414	2,985	7,399
Lending filled	4,109	6,690	10,799
Document Delivery	1,477		1,477

Trends

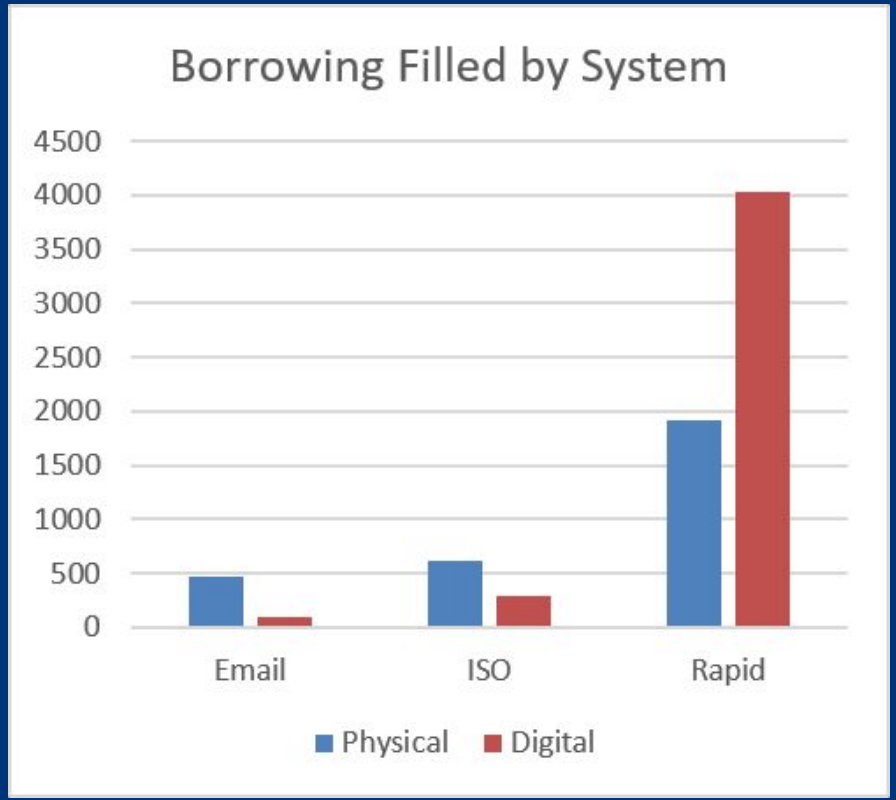
- Net Borrowers at first, but now...

- FY 21 - Covid
- FY 22 - first year of Rapido
- FY 24 - first year with ComCat

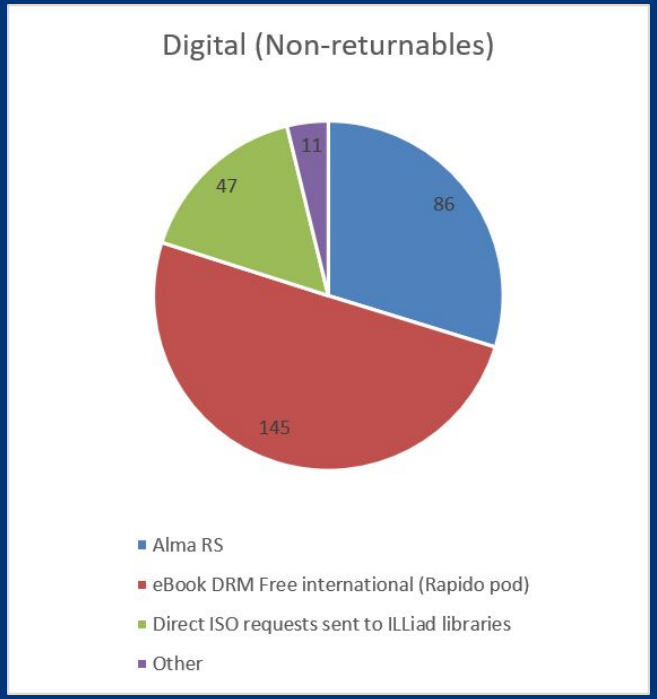


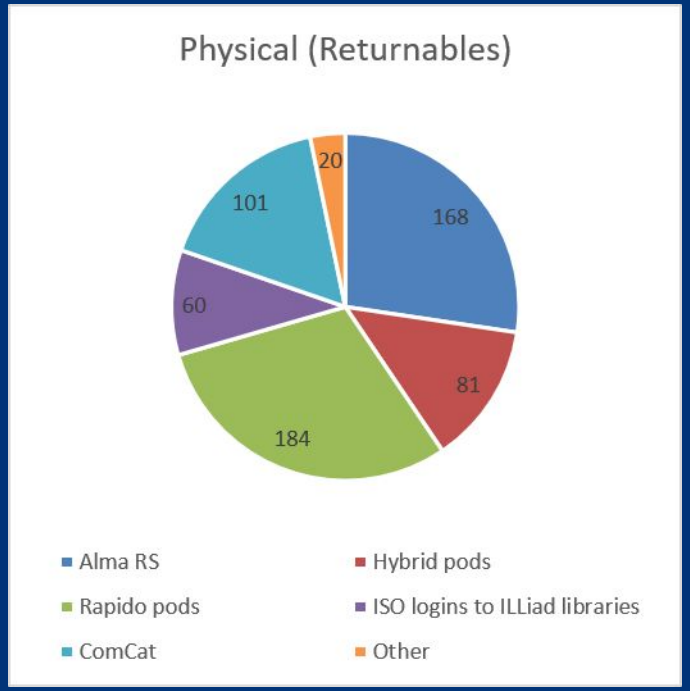
Filled by System
FY 2026

- Email = Off system requests (ILLiad logins, ALA Requests, RSCVD, etc)
- ISO = Rapido, Alma RS, Individual ISO partnerships
- Rapid = RapidILL and RapidR



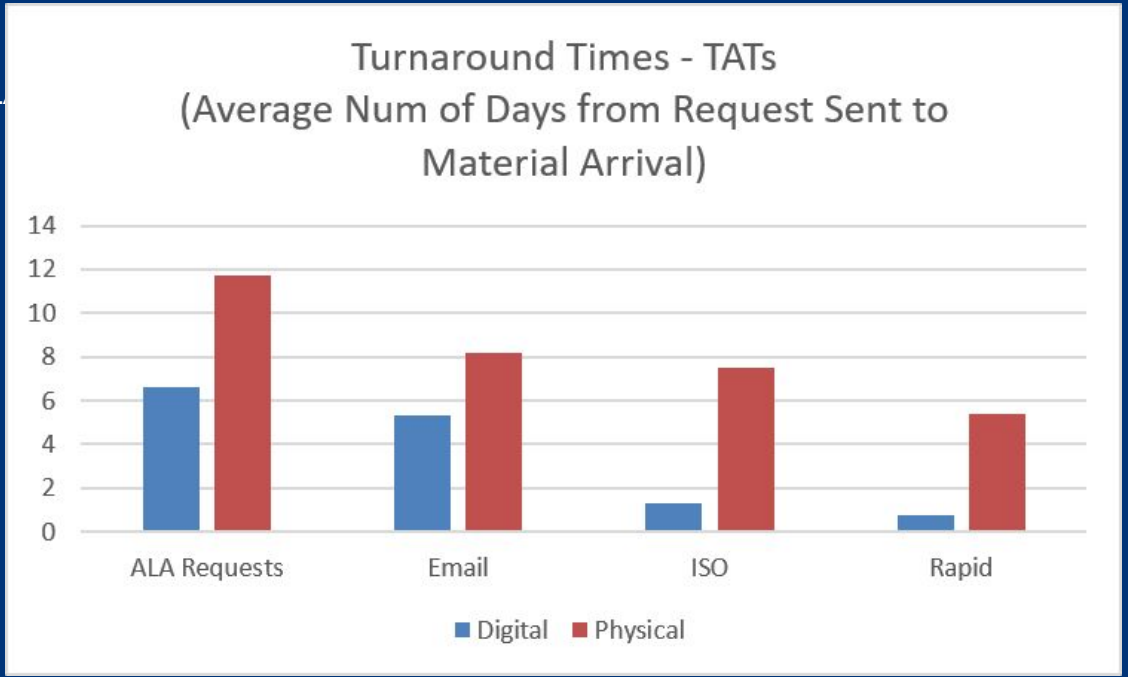
Borrowing filled by ISO System - detail
FY 2026





Turnaround Times - FY 2026

- ALA Requests = actual ALA requests
- Email = Off system requests (ILLiad logins, RSCVD, etc)
- ISO = Rapido, Alma RS, Individual ISO partnerships
- Rapid = RapidILL and RapidR



Off-system Requests - then and now

	Digital Filled	Physical Filled	Total	% of Total Borrowing
FY 2026	89	463	561*	7.5%
FY 2022	451	346	863	11.5%

*Only 55, or 0.7% were actual ALA requests

During last year of ILLiad use, FY 2020 – approx. 5%

We are eagerly awaiting CrossLink!

The Case of UMass Chan

- Medical library serving ~1,500 students, and ~5,000 faculty, researchers, and clinicians
- ILL requests are mainly articles
- Shared ILLiad server with UMass Amherst
- DOCLINE & Rapid run through ILLiad; no OCLC requesting
- Rarely used Article Galaxy Scholar

Final thoughts

Dropping OCLC isn't for everyone - it depends on your particular library's situation.

If you do drop OCLC, though, you can still meet all your patrons' needs!

Questions?

