

Rapid Rocks!

Easy Lending Redux

On May 1st, 2012, Rapid Rocks! discussed the new Easy Lending enhancement and I think this is a good time for a five year review of the feature. To refresh your memory:

What is Easy Lending?

Easy Lending is a database that is comprised only of open access articles; that is, only articles that can be freely lent without copyright compliance concerns. The Easy Lending database is automatically checked against every incoming Rapid borrowing request and when a match is made, the open access article is grabbed by the Rapid system and is automatically sent to the borrower via their preferred delivery option. There is no lending staff involvement hence - Easy Lending

How can I tell if a request was filled via Easy Lending?

If the lender in your monthly statistical report displays "OPEN" - then that request was filled without any lending staff involvement.

All Rapid sites are automatically turned on for Easy Lending and there is no additional charge for the service. In addition, Easy Lending requests are usually filled within 2-5 minutes!

Then and Now

In late 2011, the Rapid team began searching seven open access databases. We looked for open access articles matching very specific criteria and it was a slow process.

Today, a more streamlined process allows our dedicated staff to inspect 80 sites resulting in 5,474 journal titles providing more than 17 million open access articles to Rapid's Easy Lending database. Our OA staff are continually refining their processes and looking for more open access portals.

You can see the over 5,000 journal titles that are currently in the database by: 1) Logging into your Rapid *Home* page, 2) scrolling down to the Document Suppliers listing and 3) clicking the "Open Access Journals" link next to the Easy Lending option.

Document Suppliers

(Anyone may participate with document supplier libraries)

- CAI - Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)
- CRL - Center for Research Libraries
- LHL - Linda Hall Library
- Easy Lending - Open Access Journals
- Reprints Desk (Reprints Information) (Reprints Sign-up)

Stay in touch with
RapidILL

Do you have ideas to improve
Rapid?

Is there a Rapid feature that
you do not understand or
would like a tutorial about?

Please ask!

Send your ideas, comments
and suggestions to the Rapid
team at:

Rapidstaff@RapidILL.org



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Clicking the Open Access Journals link displays the screen below. Basically, this is an informational sort of thing as I can't imagine why you would search the journal list as Rapid automatically does the searching for you.

Open Access Journal List

Journal Title	ISSN	Alt. ISSN	Article Count
ISSN 1749-1800. Crisis States Research Centre	1749-1800		1
IEEE Transactions on Magnetics	0018-9464		36
Journal of Educational Multimedia and Hypermedia	1055-8896		1
Proceedings of the ICE - Engineering Sustainability	1478-4637		2
Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society	0024-6115		7
(1956) Experiments on the burning of single drops of fuel. Jet Propulsion	0095-8751		15
(1965) Nonequilibrium electrical conductivity measurements in argon and helium seeded plasmas. AIAA Journal	0001-1452		95
(1974) Lateral Inhomogeneities in the Venus Atmosphere: Analysis of Thermal Infrared Maps. Icarus	0019-1035		42
(1974) Reduction of symplectic manifolds with symmetry. Reports on Mathematical Physics	0034-4877		6
(1976) Chemistry in International Affairs. Chemical and Engineering News	0009-2347		18

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As one would expect, as the Open Access database grew and the Rapid team fine-tuned the matching algorithm the number of items requested from and filled by Easy Lending increased exponentially.

The Easy Lending chart on the next page is a graphical representation of the fact that from fiscal year 2011 through fiscal year 2015 the number of queries made to the Easy Lending database increased from 160 to 3,340 or **1,998%** and the number of filled requests, in that same time period, grew from 124 to 2,775 or **2,138%**

You will see on the graph's legend a drop in both requested and filled requests during FY12. Easy Lending was operational only part of that year as the Rapid staff did a major rewrite of the matching algorithm to ensure more accurate matches in addition to beefing up the database itself. Looking at the numbers for FY13 it is obvious that this work was successful.

The chart below shows the growth in the number of request queried against the Easy Lending database and the number of requests filled in its first five years.



Though this five year analysis of Rapid’s Easy Lending ends with FY15, I would like you to notice the “FY16 (to date)” column. With three more months remaining in FY16, the numbers already surpass those of the previous fiscal year!

As stated earlier, Rapid staff work almost continually on adding new journals or other open access material to the database and we expect the requested/filled numbers to continue their upward climb.

That’s about it for Easy Lending, Rapid’s Open Access database. If you have questions about this or any other Rapid feature, please ask.

This great Rapid Rocks idea was suggested by Lars at KKU. Thanks, Lars!

Do you have an idea or a question that you would like to see addressed in Rapid Rocks? Would you like to guest write an issue? Just let us know.

Contact the Rapid team at: rapidstaff@rapidill.org