# Rapido Systemwide Adoption – Pros & Cons

Submitted by John Wenzler, ULMS Steering Committee Chair, March 17, 2021

## Question

Should COLD agree to Ex Libris’s Systemwide adoption proposal for Rapido?

## Background

Rapido is a new Resource Sharing product developed by Ex Libris. Three CSU Libraries (Humboldt, Fullerton, Los Angeles) participated in development process. Mallory DeBartolo, the Resource Sharing Manager at the CO, served as the project manager for the CSU. In October 2020, the CSU Development Team submitted a Rapido Assessment to COLD and gave a favorable review of Rapido.

## Current Spend of the CSU Libraries

Ex Libris will integrate Rapido with RapidILL and sell them as a joint project. It still will be possible to license RapidILL without Rapido, but it will not be possible to get Rapido without RapidILL. RapidILL has been popular with the CSU libraries. Currently, 18 CSUs have RapidILL and are not likely to cancel it.

The total current CSU spend on RapidILL for 18 campuses is **$80,453**.

## Early Adoption Rapido Price for the CSU Libraries

If the CSU Libraries agree to adopt Rapido & RapidILL systemwide in 20/21, Ex Libris will charge us $132,000. That is an increase of **$51,547** systemwide or an average of **$2,241** per campus. For that price, the six campuses that currently don’t have RapidILL (Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, and Monterey Bay) will get RapidILL, and all 23 campuses will receive Rapido.

This price would be integrated into our annual systemwide Alma/Primo contract subject to the same annual increase of our Alma contract with a maximum annual increase of 3.5%.

## Chancellor’s Office Support

If COLD agrees to the Early Adoption Proposal, the CO (Leslie & David) can commit to a one-time contribution of $52k to support Rapido adoption -- on the assumption we can structure the deal with Ex Libris in such a way so as to pay the CO portion using this-year's funds.

Although they cannot make a hard commitment to do so, they may be able to subsidize Rapido for a couple of years after that until the libraries are ready to switch off of ILLIAD.

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## Pros & Cons of the Ex Libris’s Offer

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| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| Locks in discounted price for the CSUs. Ex Libris is willing to make a deal now because they want to build their network for Rapido. If Rapido is successful, Ex Libris is unlikely to offer discounted prices in the future. Individual campuses are unlikely to get deals like this b/c they have less value in building the Rapido network. | As long as the Rapido network is small, the choice is between running both Rapido and ILLIAD, which increases cost and staff workload, or reducing patron access to content by using only the smaller Rapido network. |
| Improves the experience for patrons by integrating book and article requesting into Primo rather than sending them off into another system to make ILL requests. The Rapido Assessment document notes other improvements achieved through Rapido. | Due to COVID fatigue, many campuses who may be interested in Rapido in the future are reluctant to take on the project of implementing a new system in 20/21. |
| Rapido is consistent with COLD’s strategic goal of expanding unmediated ILL requesting beyond the CSU | A few campuses are not interested in expanding ILL and would not want to be forced into it by a decision of other CSUs. |
| If Rapido is successful and the network builds, there is a potential for cost savings if/when libraries cancel ILLIAD subscriptions | Previous communications from Ex Libris had indicated that an all-in agreement would not be required for the special price. It seems like they are going back on a promise. |
| Having a shared ILL system across the CSUs will facilitate support and collaboration. The CO Resource Sharing Manager would be able to provide systemwide support in troubleshooting and implementing new initiatives. | Rapido depends on Primo VE. We are not sure yet if we will adopt Primo VE. |