

# Licensing and Interlibrary Lending of Ebooks



Forum for Interlending (FIL)  
8 February 2023

# Speakers



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# Overview

- Whole ebook lending = single merged PDF securely transmitted to borrower without end-user DRM restrictions
- UConn Library has been lending whole ebooks via RapidILL since 2019
- Publisher partners: Brill, Cambridge, De Gruyter, Elgar, Elsevier, Sage, Springer
- Transforming expectations



# Core Principles

- Shareability and portability of print
  - No DRM
  - One-click download (only 3 big publishers currently enable)
  - PDF as well as other formats
- Inspiring precedents and parallels
  - [VIVA pilot](#)
  - [ProQuest pilot](#)





# Licensing

- Contracts still supersede copyright in the USA; ILL rights interpreted narrowly; license negotiations often necessary
- Find leverage (e.g., time ILL negotiations to coincide with large-scale new acquisitions)
- Introduce ILL early with new partners
- Document authorization in writing
- Advocate at all publisher meetings



# Language

- “Licensee [may] send an insignificant amount of content, including full eBooks or portions thereof, via noncommercial interlibrary loan services.” –De Gruyter
- “Requests for whole electronic books may be fulfilled under this Section 4” Interlibrary Loan Clause. –Brill
- “Whole ebooks published by Cengage are subject to this Section 2.2f.” –Gale



# Negotiation

- Highlight benefits for the publishers
  - Little market impact, same as print
  - Improved sales and reputation
- Explain why this is a priority for you
- Describe your ILL lending process
- Invoke other publisher partners
- Point to copyright protections
- Cite parallel industry shifts



# Scalability

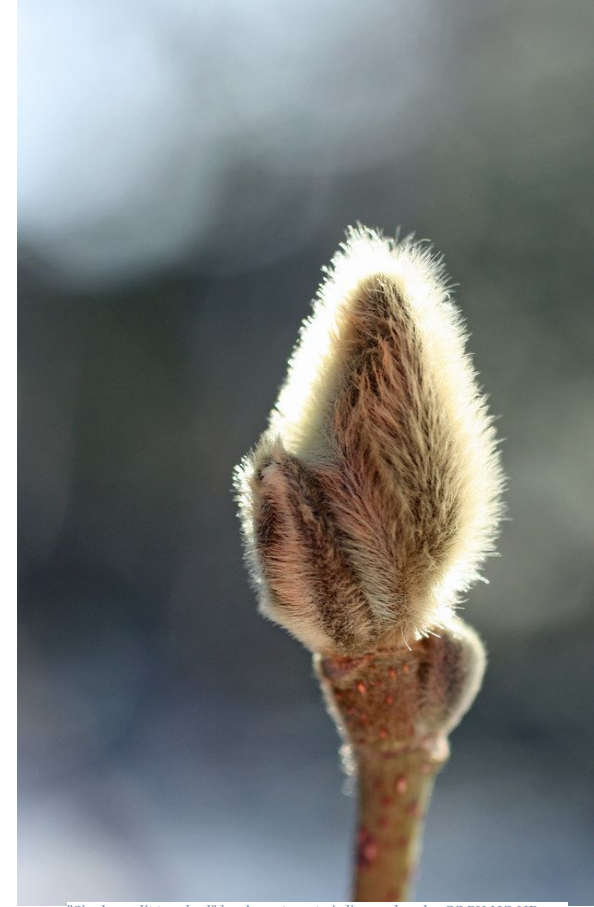
- Critical to scale ebook ILL via library consortia and ebook aggregators
- NERL recently negotiated whole ebook ILL provisions with Elsevier, Springer, and other major publishers
- Lyris recently negotiated whole ebook ILL permissions with Project Muse, De Gruyter, Cambridge, and others





# Benefits

- Sometimes the only way you can provide a book
- Ability to provide books to distance ed or remote students . . . newer publications
- Ebooks are non-returnables
  - No shipping costs
  - Less staff and student employee time
  - No risk of loss or damage like with print items
  - Environmentally friendly
  - Borrowing libraries receive them faster



"Single sunlit tree bud" by cheerytomato is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

# Rapid

Moved from manual spreadsheet (problematic) to Alma  
Automatically updates your holdings weekly

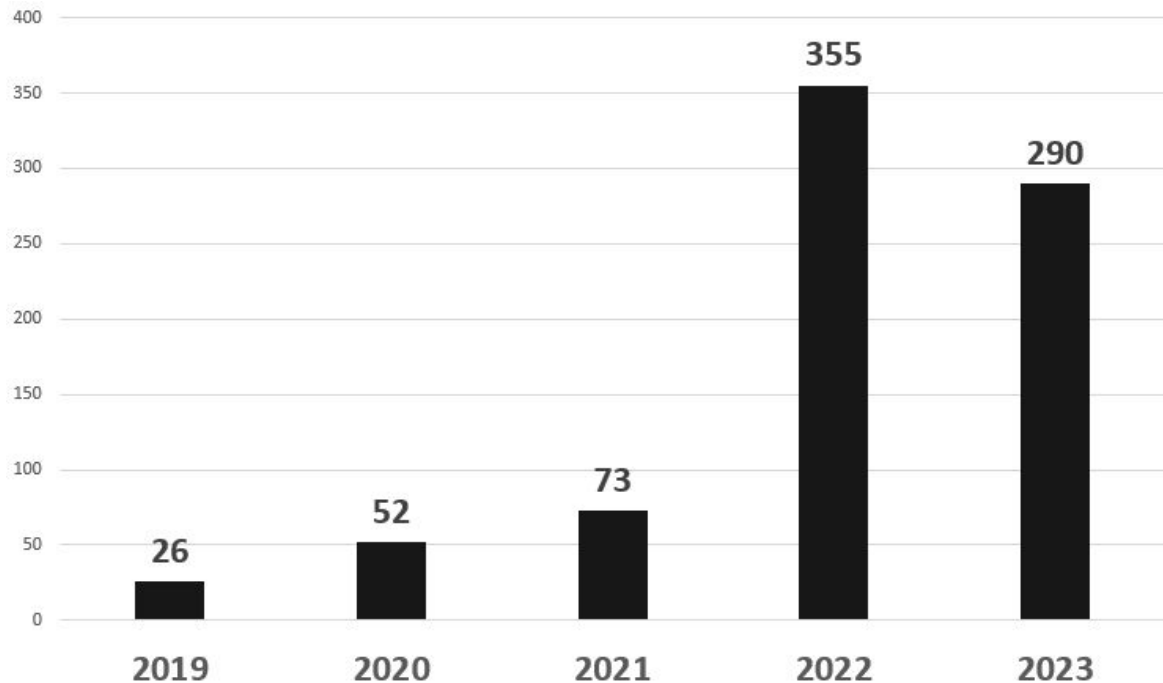
- Create your profile
- Define your sets to indicate lendable status
- Create your publishing profiles for each set

[https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/RapidILL/Implementation Guides/010Alma Holdings Harvest for RapidILL - Overview](https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/RapidILL/Implementation%20Guides/010Alma%20Holdings%20Harvest%20for%20RapidILL%20-%20Overview)



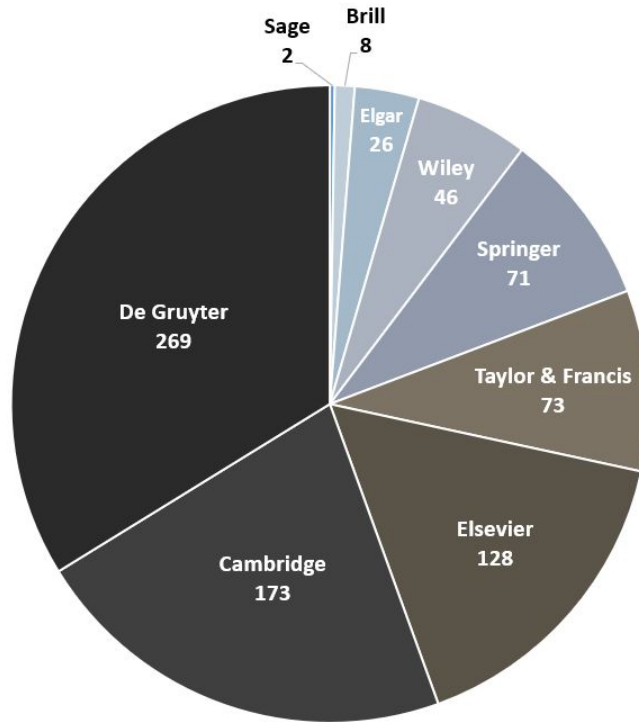
"Fast train" by <http://www.romainclement.format.com> -RomZ- is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

# Lending Activity by Fiscal Year



Nicolas Alejandro Street Photography

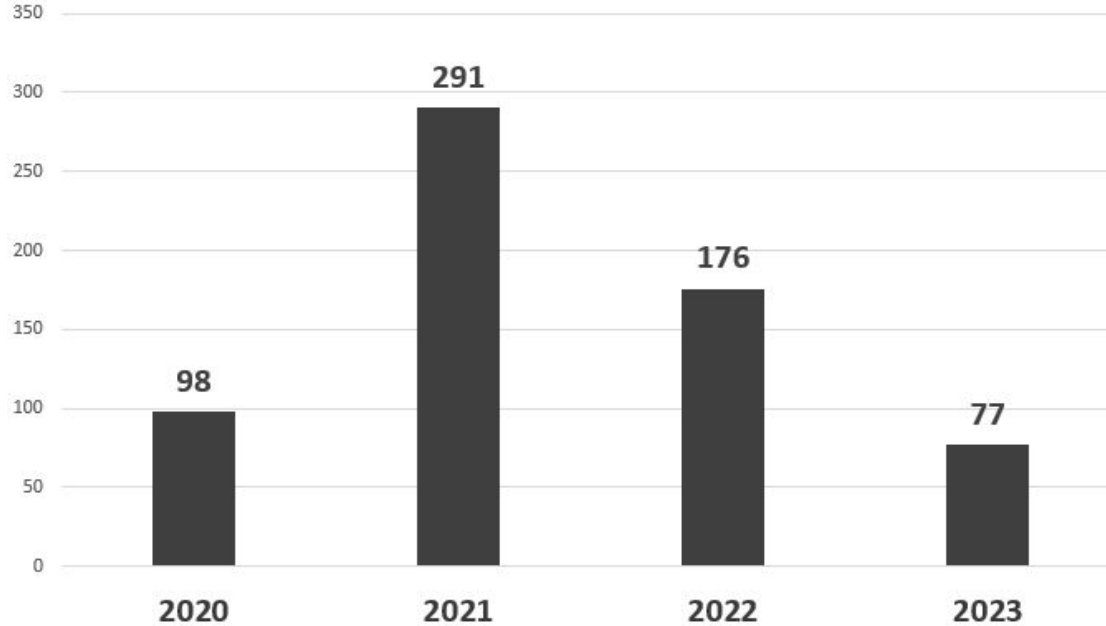
# By Publisher Over 5 Years





# Ebook Borrowing

Fiscal Year Totals



# Ebook Group

## [OCLC Resource Sharing Groups](#)

- **BCOV (decommissioned March 2022)**  
Libraries supplying electronic books during the COVID-19 crisis (75)
- **EBOK**  
Libraries supplying whole ebooks (25)



# Discoverability

Our ebooks are in OCLC with the exception of:

- Oxford
- Cambridge
- EBA and DDA



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# ILL Workflow

- Indicate lendable ebook collections in Alma
- Rapid imports URL into ILLiad request  
Call Number field
- Rapid imports collection name into ILLiad  
Location and Notes fields
- [IDS Project logic](#) searches the fields and  
routes requests to ebook queue





# Mediation

- Change request type to Article
- Change document type to E-Book
- Remove due date
- Download ebook
- Deliver file via Odyssey

etail OCLC AE

Req Type (change to Article for e-books) ☒ Article ☐ Loan

Service Type

Not Wanted After

Site

Shipping Options Mail

Doc Type (change for e-books) E-Book

Choice Additional Item Information

Call Number <http://rapid.exlibrisgroup.com/red>

Location Taylor & Francis E-Books

Due Date (BLANK if e-resource)

Reason For Cancellation

Barcode

ISxN 9781848725775

Special Instructions

Max Cost/Pieces 1

	Type	Added By
on [electronic resource] James J Gibson]. [TN Title] = [The ability was unknown.	System	System
ed	System	System

# Considerations

- Remove ebook deflection = requests for lendable and *non-lendable* content = more cancellations
- Ebook files may need to be assembled and compressed
- Requests often appear in Staff Review queue

University of Connecticut (UCW)

Profile Collections Policies (10) Schedule Contacts

Last updated Monday, July 1, 2019 2:30:06 PM EDT

Deflections

E-Books

SERVICE	FEES	BORROWERS	ITEMS
Request: Loan Deflection Type: Enable Real Time Deflection			
Note:			



Item Information

Call Number	<a href="http://rapid.exlibrisgroup.com/redirect?hid=ItZjdmN">http://rapid.exlibrisgroup.com/redirect?hid=ItZjdmN</a>
Location	Safari Books Online from O'Reilly Media
Due Date (BLANK if e-resource)	
Reason For Cancellation	Non-circulating
Barcode	
ISxN	9781491962268

# Additional Considerations

- Workarounds for system limitations
- Training of student employees
- Chapter-level OA ebooks



# Call to Action

- Make whole ebook ILL a central goal in publisher negotiations
- Start practicing whole ebook ILL at a scale that works for you
- Advocate with technology vendors to improve infrastructure
- Advocate for and invest in truly DRM-free content





# Questions?

