

fill

The next evolution of Maplin

Interlibrary loan life-cycle
management system

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fILL-osophy

For the last decade, Manitoba public libraries have been using a PLSB-developed resource discovery tool ("Maplin") to find Interlibrary Loan sources within the Manitoba public library community. The earliest version of Maplin was simply a union catalogue; as technology progressed and individual libraries' ILS systems gained Z39.50 server capabilities, Maplin became a Z39.50-based "distributed virtual union catalogue" - a single front-end which can find titles in any Manitoba public library and initiate an ILL request, via email.

This has worked well enough for resource discovery, but - as confirmed by a recent PLSB survey on ILL procedures - has led to each library (and sometimes each branch) developing their own procedures and workflows for handling the rest of the ILL life cycle. These run the gamut from custom-developed database systems to paper files; there is little consistency in procedures, the tracking of statistics is error-prone, and workloads can be heavy. One of Manitoba's unique challenges is balancing the capabilities of various ILS systems in the province to realize an effective discovery layer.

PLSB has developed the next evolution of Maplin - fILL - which incorporates full ILL life cycle management, following the structure set out in ISO 10161 (Interlibrary Loan Application Protocol Specification). This application, like Maplin-3, is a centrally-hosted system that requires nothing more than a Javascript-enabled web browser to use.

A key element in the design of fILL is simplicity. We want to make things as easy as possible on the beleaguered ILL staff of the libraries. All of the common functions necessary for dealing with the life cycle of an interlibrary loan - shipping, receiving, marking as unfilled, returning, requesting extensions, and finally marking an item as checked-in - can be done with a simple mouse click. Pull lists are sorted in call # order by default. Active or historical requests can be looked up by patron barcode, borrowing or lending library, title or author, date, or the status of the request. Requests can be easily (eventually automatically) forwarded to the next available source if a given library cannot fill it.

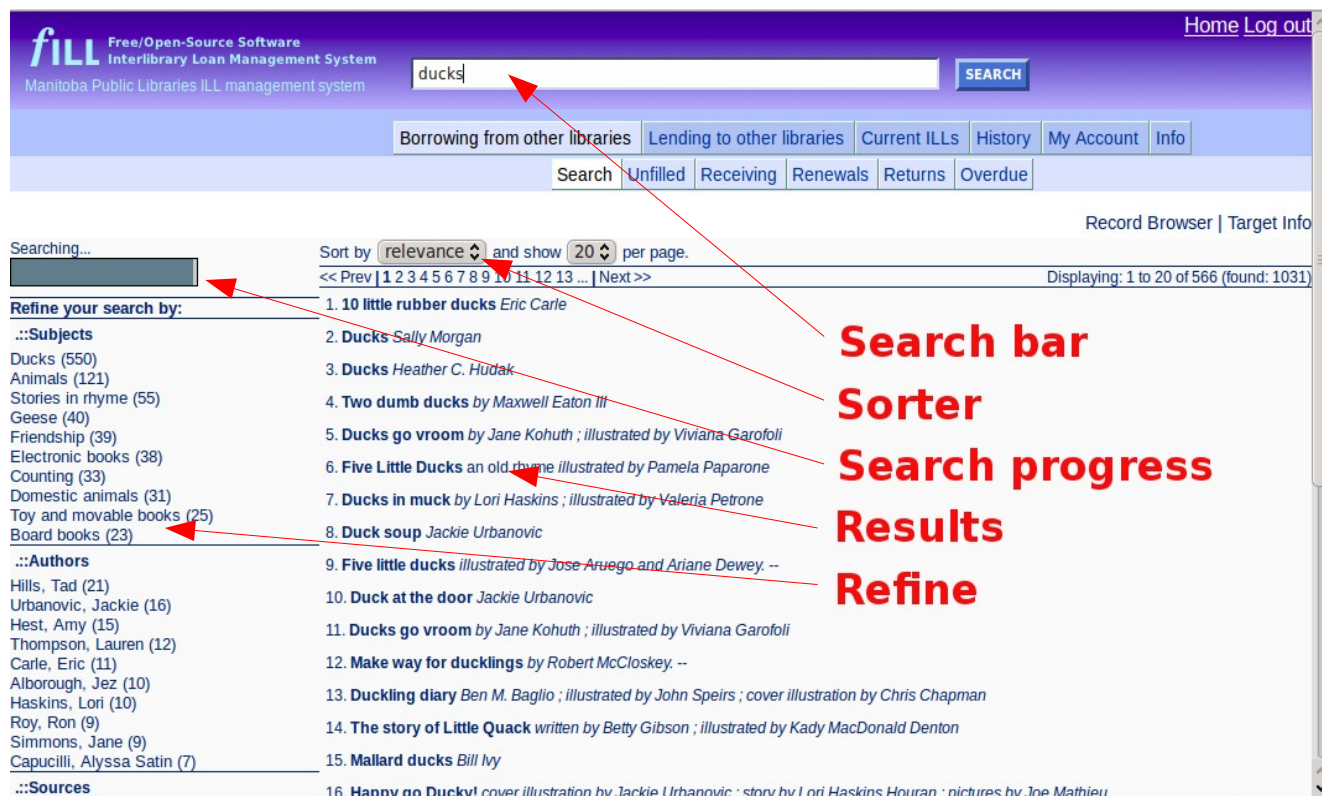
A second key element is adaptability. The system should be able fit relatively seamlessly into most existing workflows. And though most benefit will come from fully using fILL to manage all aspects of ILL, the system is not be dependent on every library fully participating.

The third key element is extensibility. The fILL prototype implements a subset of the ISO 10161 transactions; as need arises, this can be fleshed out to include more of the ISO standard. The system itself is Linux-based, uses common FOSS subsystems (Apache, PostgreSQL, the YAZ Z39.50 toolkit from Index Data), and is written in Perl and Javascript / jQuery. Because it is designed around the standard message types from ISO 10161, it should be relatively easy to have fILL emit and consume protocol messages to easily interact with any existing ILL management system that a library may have in place.

Our vision is smoother workflows, better statistics, reduced work load for the libraries, and an Interlibrary Loan system more responsive to the needs of our ultimate clients, the patrons.

Searching (a.k.a. “Resource Discovery”)

The layout of the Search screen (don't worry about the text on the screen here... we're just looking at how the screen is organized):



Search bar

You'll only see the search bar when you are in the “Borrowing from other libraries” -> “Search” area. It's up at the top so it doesn't take valuable screen real estate from the search results.

Keyword	The search bar gives you a simple, Google-like keyword search.
Title	To search for a specific title, use the following format: ti=" 10 little rubber ducks"
Author	To search for a specific author, use the following format: au=" Carle, Eric"
Subject	To search for a specific subject, use the following format: su=" ducks"

If you want to get really specific, you can combine any of the above as follows:

`au="Carle, Eric" and su="Ducks"`

...or even:

`ducks and au="Carle, Eric"`

(this one combines a keyword and an author search)

In general, though, you'll probably want to stick to the keyword search (it is not dependent on particular cataloguing practices of the various libraries, nor the capabilities of individual z39.50 servers).

If you only enter a few keywords, you'll get a long list of results... but you can always shorten that by refining the search (it's very fast).

Sorter

Search results are ordered by relevance. The underlying search technology has a complex relevance-ranking system that looks at the frequency of your search terms and the “importance” of the parts of the MARC record where those terms were found.

You can also sort in title order, or by publication date (ascending or descending).

Search progress bar

FILL begins displaying results as soon as they start coming in. You can start working with the results right away, but the results list will keep adding new results as long as libraries keep responding to the search.

As a rule-of-thumb, by the time the search progress bar is about 3/4 filled, most titles will already be in the results.

Results

Click on a title in the results list to show a button to request, as well as details about the title.

The top of the information shows the title, publication date, author, and # locations which report having it.

1. 10 little rubber ducks *Eric Carle*

Request 10 little rubber ducks

Title	: 10 little rubber ducks <i>Eric Carle</i>
Date	: 2005
Author	: Carle, Eric
# locations	: 6
Medium	: Book
Subject	: Toys,Ducks,Animals,Sound effects books,Toy and movable books
Location	: Southwestern Manitoba Regional Library (Insignia) (216.130.92.141:210/Melita_ILS)
Holding	: MAIN J E Car 36376000302978 1-New In
Library symbol	: MESM
Medium	: Book
Location	: Thompson Public Library (Insignia) (catalogue.thompsonlibrary.com:210/ILS)
Holding	: Thompson Public Library EASY BOARD BOOK E Car T0000001034463 New In
Library symbol	: MTH
Medium	: Book
Location	: Pinawa Public Library (Insignia) (206.45.117.102:210/Pinawa_ILS)
Holding	: MWPL E C 3746200039358 0.00 main Junior Fiction JF
Library symbol	: MP

Below that is information specific to each holding library (the 'holding' line may or may not display item availability, depending on the what that library's z39.50 server returns).

You just need to click the button in order to make the request – all of the rest is just information if you're curious. (See the section of this guide on Making Requests for more information)

Refine

You can refine your search by selecting a term from the column along the left-hand side. These terms are collected from the results as they come in.

Clicking one of the terms will quickly re-do the search with the additional term added.

Requesting an ILL

We've already looked at the first steps:

1. Go into “Requesting from another library” -> “Search”, and do your search.
2. Click on the title in the results list.
3. Click on the request button.

Here's what happens next:

4. **Enter your patron's barcode**(or some other text that will identify, to you, who you are requesting for).

Patron barcode

Enter the barcode number of your patron:

[Complete the request](#)

Interlibrary Loan request details

Requesting user: MSTOS

Request # : 469

Title : 10 little rubber ducks

Author : Carle, Eric

The title was found at these locations:

Maplin will automatically determine which lender to try first, to minimize lender workloads.

symbol/location	holding	callno
MESM Southwestern Manitoba Regional Library (Insignia)	MAIN J E Car 36376000302978 1-New In	J E Car
MTH Thompson Public Library (Insignia)	Thompson Public Library EASY BOARD BOOK E Car T0000001034463 New In	E Car
MP Pinawa Public Library (Insignia)	MWPL E C 3746200039358 0.00 main Junior Fiction JF	undefined
MHH Headingley Municipal Library (Follet)	hmm 36440000257130 [E] CAR Available 1699 HML	[E] CAR
MDB Bren Del Win Centennial Library	Bren Del Win Centennial Library Main E Carle 36320000107169 New In	E Carle
MBW Western Manitoba Regional Library (Horizon)	undefined	undefined

Again, the rest of the information displayed is just to satisfy your curiosity.

fILL will automatically choose the appropriate lender based on net-borrower/net-lender status. (We can adjust how fILL chooses, down the road, to take into consideration things like a library's open days, distance, etc., as was suggested at the Manitoba Libraries conference... for now, it's simply net-borrower/net-lender status).

Your request has been placed

Requesting user: MSTOS

Request # : 469

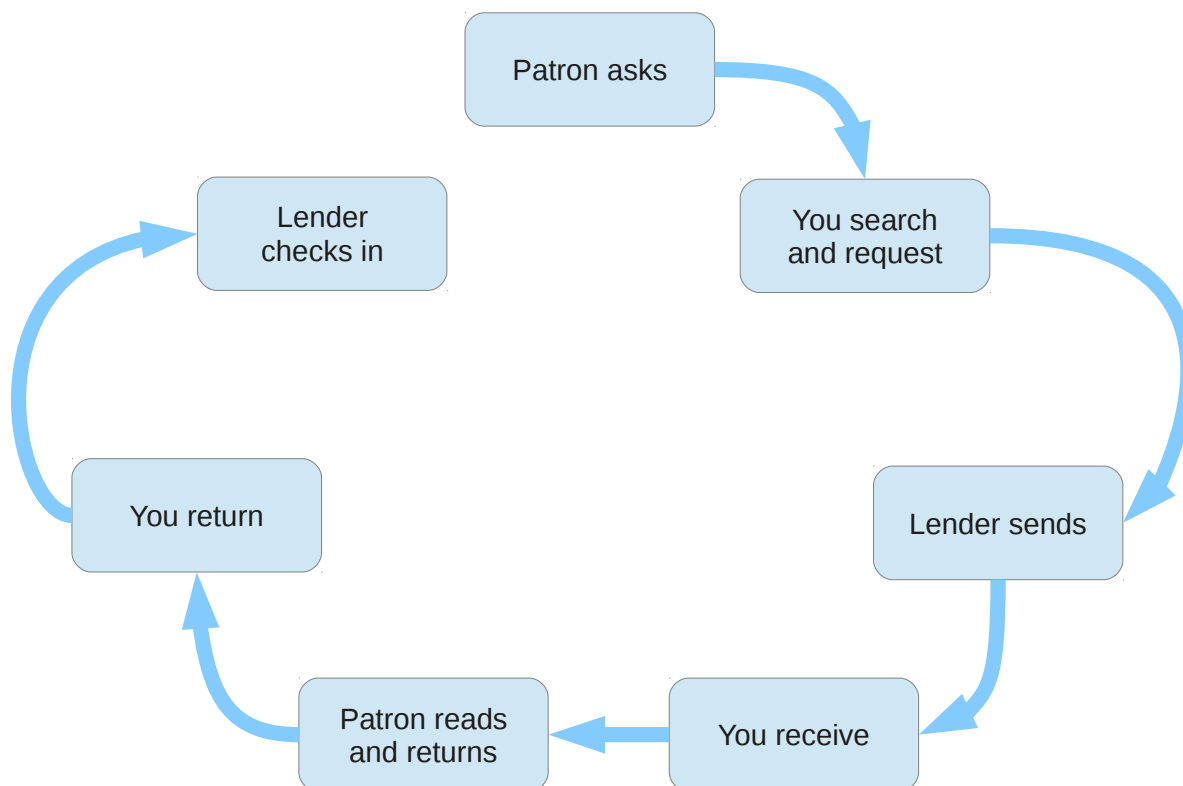
Your request has been added to the first lender's pending list.

That's it. You'll see that the request has been placed. The request is now handled by fILL's ILL life-cycle management.

ILL Life-cycle Management

Every library already manages the ILL life-cycle, whether that's through email folders, printing and filing, custom spreadsheets, or something completely different.

fILL will simplify this for you by tracking each request through each stage, with only a mouse-click or two from the lender and the borrower at each stage.



Suggested daily processes

1. Check for new requests from other libraries. You can do this at any time, as often as you want, by going to “Lending to other libraries” => “Pull list”. Print the list and pull the books, check them out in your ILS, and handle them in fILL (“Lending to other libraries” => “Respond”)
2. Check for unfilled requests (requests which you have made that a lender could not fill), by going to “Borrowing from other libraries” => “Unfilled”
3. Make requests of other libraries (however it suits your workflow – as the patron asks, during slower times, end of the day, first thing next morning,)
4. When you ship, receive, return, or check in an ILL book, mark it in fILL.

The following pages give detailed, step-by-step instructions for each of the fILL menu options.

Requesting an Interlibrary Loan

Making a request

Search for the book	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Search Unfilled Receiving Renewals Returns Overdue </div>
Request the book.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click on the title to show the locations. 2. Click the Request button. 3. Enter your patron's barcode. 4. Click the Complete the Request button.

Unfilled requests

Check for unfilled requests	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Search Unfilled: 1 Receiving Renewals Returns Overdue: 2 </div>
Try next lender	If more potential lenders are available, there will be a Try next lender button.
Cancel request	If there are no further potential lenders (or you simply want to cancel the request), click the Cancel request button.

When the books come in

Receiving	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Search Unfilled: 1 Receiving Renewals Returns Overdue: 2 </div>
Choose slip printing	Click on one of Individual slips (default), Multiple slips on a page, or Do not print slips. These are the date-due slips you can put in the book for your patron.
Receive the books	Click the Receive button for that book. If you have selected Individual slips, a date-due slip will be printed. If you have selected Multiple slips on a page, a button called Print now will appear under Printing of Date-Due Slips; you can click it at any time to print any accumulated slips (shown below the Receiving table).
Note	You do not need to create any kind of cataloguing record in your ILS. You will have access to your ILL request statistics through fILL.

Requesting a renewal / Checking status of Renewal requests

Renewals	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Search Unfilled: 1 Receiving Renewals Returns Overdue: 2 </div>
Find the request	In the Search box (upper right), enter the patron's barcode number or some keywords from the title of the book you would like to renew. You can also sort the list by status, by clicking on the Status heading.
Ask for renewal	Click the Ask for renewal button. Your request will be added to the lending library's Renewal requests list.
Status of renewal request	<p>The status column will show one of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received (with an Ask for renewal button), Renew-Answer Ok (with a new due date), or Renew-Answer No-renewal (possibly with a message from the lender).

Returning the book to the lending library

As part of your ILL returns procedure	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Search Unfilled: 1 Receiving Renewals Returns Overdue: 2 </div>
If you have a lot of ILLs to return	Enter some keywords from the title into the Search box (upper right)
Mark it as returned	Click the Return button.

Overdue items

Check for overdue items	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Search Unfilled: 1 Receiving Renewals Returns Overdue: 2 </div>
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Overrides

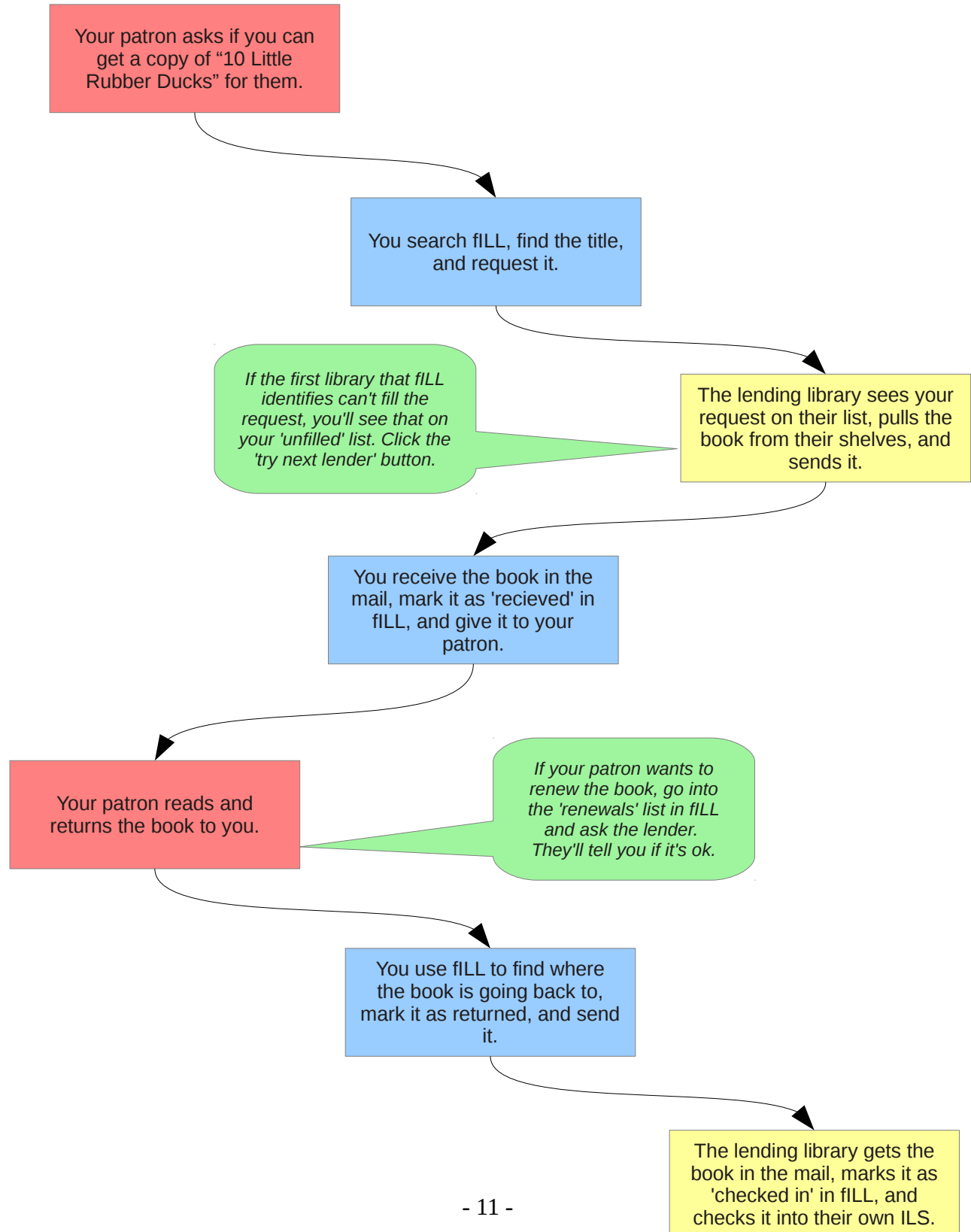
If you receive a book but it is not in your Receiving list

The lender did not mark it as Shipped.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Override this by going into Current ILLs => Current Borrowing. 2. Click the + button in the Overrides column (right side) for that ILL. 3. Click the Receive button. 4. Proceed with When the book comes in, above.
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If you get an overdue for a book you have returned

The lender did not mark it as Checked-in.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Override this by going into Current ILLs => Current Borrowing. 2. Click the + button in the Overrides column (right side) for that ILL. 3. Click the Close button to close the ILL transaction. (The ILL gets moved to History)
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Borrowing a book from another library



Filling interlibrary loan requests from other libraries

Pulling items from your shelves

Show new requests	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Pull list Respond: 25 Shipping: 1 Renewal requests: 1 Check-ins </div>
Suggested procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Print entire pull list: click the Print button at the top of the list (formats the screen for printing), and then use your web browser's print function. 2. Press the ESC (escape) key to exit the screen-printing format. 3. As you pull books from the shelves, mark on the printed sheet any items you will not loan (and why). Standard reasons include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>in use / on loan</i> • <i>in process</i> • <i>lost</i> • <i>non-circulating</i> • <i>not owned</i> • <i>not on shelf</i> • <i>on reserve</i> • <i>poor condition</i> • <i>charges (i.e. You are willing to loan it, but will charge a fee)</i> • <i>on hold</i> • <i>policy problem (e.g. too new, or don't loan this type of material, etc)</i> • <i>other</i> 4. Proceed to Responding to interlibrary loan requests, below.
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can check / print this list at any time. Any requests that you have not yet responded to will show up here. • The list is in call # order by default. You can change the sort order by clicking on the various column headings. • The list includes scannable patron barcodes for the requesting libraries (if you have entered these barcode numbers, taken from your ILS).

Responding to interlibrary loan requests

Send a response to the requesting library	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Pull list Respond: 25 Shipping: 1 Renewal requests: 1 Check-ins </div>
Indicate whether you will fill the request or not	<p>Click on either the Will-Supply button or the Unfilled button for each request.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you click Will-Supply, that request gets added to your Shipping list. 2. If you click Unfilled, select a reason and click Submit.

Shipping

Shipping the item to the requestor	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Pull list Respond: 25 Shipping: 1 Renewal requests: 1 Check-ins </div>
Check out in your ILS	Check out the items to the requesting libraries; note the due date.
Set a default due date	This will set the due date for all requests that you send. Set it to match the due date from your ILS. If you have different due dates for different types of items, set the default due date for one type and respond to all of those. Then change the default due date and respond to the rest.
Mark as sent	Find the item in the list, and click the Sent button
Canada Post	Use the Canada Post library book shipping tool as usual.

Responding to renewal requests

List of renewal requests	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Pull list Respond: 25 Shipping: 1 Renewal requests: 1 Check-ins </div>
Set a default due date	As in Responding to interlibrary loan requests, above.
Requests for which you will allow a renewal	1. Click the Renew OK button.
Requests for which you will not allow a renewal	1. Click the Can't renew button. 2. [Optional] Enter a note to the requesting library. 3. Click the Submit button.

When the book comes back

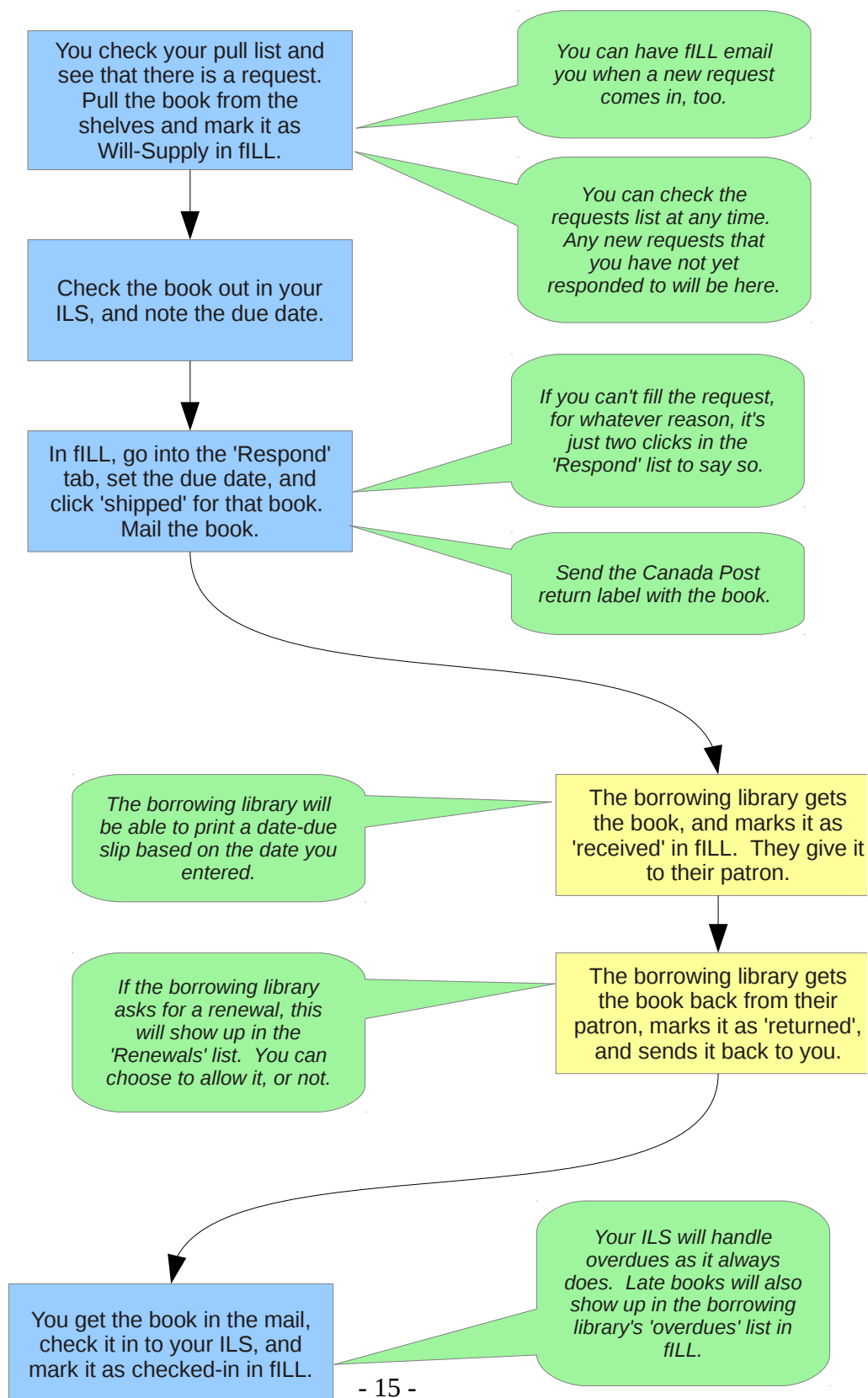
Close the ILL transaction	<div> Borrowing from other libraries Lending to other libraries Current ILLs History My Account Info </div> <div> Pull list Respond: 25 Shipping: 1 Renewal requests: 1 Check-ins </div> <div> 1. Find the request and click the Check-in button. (The ILL gets moved to History) 2. Then check the item in in your ILS. </div>
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Overrides

If the borrower has returned the book, but it is not in your Check-in list

The borrower did not mark it as Returned.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Override this by going into Current ILLs => Current Lending.2. Click the + button in the Overrides column (right side) for that ILL.3. Click the Returned button.4. Proceed with When the book comes back, above.
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Lending a book to another library



Working with lists

fILL uses interactive data tables to present interlibrary loan information to you. These data tables enable you to sort and search through the data quickly and easily, save the data to your own computer, or format it for printing. Here's how:

Example data table

This example is taken from the Lending to other libraries => Respond section; other data tables will present different fields and actions that you can perform on a row (such as marking a requested item as Will-supply (or Unfilled) in this example).

Respond to requests

<div> <div>Copy CSV Excel PDF Print Save</div> <div>Search: <input type="text"/></div> </div>									
ID	From	From (ID)	Call #	Author	Title	Note	Timestamp	Response	
26	MFF	32	Westlake 1972	Westlake, Donald E	Bank shot		2011-12-12 13:02:06	Will-supply	Unfilled
47	MCB	24	Siddons 1992	Siddons, Anne Rivers	Colony		2011-12-12 13:16:44	Will-supply	Unfilled
85	MRIP	71	SciFi McIntyre 1981	McIntyre, Vonda N	The entropy effect		2011-12-12 13:41:56	Will-supply	Unfilled
137	MBW	94	J 551 Blo 1999	Blöbaum, Cindy	Geology rocks!		2011-12-12 14:18:23	Will-supply	Unfilled
140	MBW	94	DVD 791.436 IMAX Galapagos		Galapagos		2011-12-12 14:20:42	Will-supply	Unfilled
195	MWOW	84	J Leitch 1992	Leitch, Patricia	Jumping Lessons		2011-12-12 15:11:24	Will-supply	Unfilled
201	MMOW	83	Smith 1994	Smith, Mitchell	Karma		2011-12-12 15:16:11	Will-supply	Unfilled
218	MMOW	83	DVD Kirk 2002		Kirk Douglas		2011-12-12 15:26:30	Will-supply	Unfilled

“Disappearing” rows

A quick note about the action buttons (usually in the right-most column): As you take actions, the rows may disappear from the table.

This is normal.

In the above example, if you click the Will-supply button for the title “Colony”, that request gets added to your shipping list, and is removed from the table of requests that are waiting for your response.

You will always be able to find the request in the Current ILLs section (or History, after it's life cycle is complete), regardless of it's status.

Sorting the data

You can sort a data table by clicking on the column heading for a column.

The example data table is sorted by timestamp. To sort by call #, click the word “Call #” in the heading:

Respond to requests

Copy

CSV

Excel

PDF

Print

Save

Search:

ID	From	From (ID)	Call #	Author	Title	Note	Timestamp	Response
282	MAB	30	267 All 2005	Allen, John L	Opus Dei		2011-12-12 16:21:02	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
385	MSA	18	759.11 Ter		A Terrible beauty		2011-12-14 10:31:48	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
408	MVE	21	ChrFic Lacy 2002	Lacy, Al	Undying love		2011-12-14 10:49:12	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
321	MESM	87	Churchill 1993	Churchill, Jill	A quiche before dying		2011-12-14 09:38:57	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
368	MSOG	34	Conant 2005	Conant, Susan	Scratch the Surface		2011-12-14 10:20:32	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
140	MBW	94	DVD 791.436 IMAX Galapagos		Galapagos		2011-12-12 14:20:42	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
218	MMOW	83	DVD Kirk 2002		Kirk Douglas		2011-12-12 15:26:30	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>
377	MSOG	34	E Nielsen 1992	Nielsen, Shelly	Sharing		2011-12-14 10:24:53	<div>Will-supply</div> <div>Unfilled</div>

- Clicking it again will reverse the sort (in this case, reverse alphabetical order).
- You can sort by any column (some will make more sense than others), as often as you want.
- One current limitation is that you cannot sort by multiple columns at once.
- Sorting is very fast – the data table already has all of the data, and does not need to talk to the fILL server each time.

Searching within the data

The search box, in the upper right corner of the data table, is fast and powerful. It enables you to do a keyword search across all of the data in the table, and display only those rows that match.

For example, if you wanted to see which requests are from Border Regional's Virden branch (MVE), just enter 'mve' in the search box:

Respond to requests

Copy CSV Excel PDF Print Save						Search: mve			
ID	From	From (ID)	Call #	Author	Title	Note	Timestamp	Response	
405	MVE	21	G 289.70947 Kla 1997	Klassen, Peter P	Und ob ich schon wanderte --		2011-12-14 10:47:07	Will-supply	Unfilled
408	MVE	21	ChrFic Lacy 2002	Lacy, Al	Undying love		2011-12-14 10:49:12	Will-supply	Unfilled

As requests are handled, they are removed from this list. You can see the status of all of your active ILLs in the "Current ILLs" screen.

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries (filtered from 25 total entries)

First Previous 1 Next Last

- The data table begins filtering as soon as you begin typing.
- Searching is not case sensitive (e.g. Searching for 'mmiow' will also match 'MMIOW')
- To get back to the complete table, just delete the text you've entered in the search box.
- Searching is very fast – the data table already has all of the data, and does not need to talk to the fILL server each time.
- You can combine searching and sorting. For example, if you typically handle ILL requests library-by-library, you could use 'search' to display the requests from a specific library, and then sort in call # order to make it easy to pull books from the shelves.

Some experimentation should let you figure out what works best with your workflows.

You can keep copies of the data locally... if you really want to

In the upper left corner of the data table is a set of buttons that enable you copy, save, and print the entire contents of the data table, if that suits your workflow.

Copy CSV Excel PDF Print Save

- Copy: lets you paste the data into a document
- CSV: save the data as a comma-separated-value text file.
- Excel: save the data in Excel format.
- PDF: saves the data as a PDF (Adobe Acrobat) file

- **Print:** formats the data table for printing. Use the browser's print function to print it. Press ESC (escape) to return to the current view. (Note that while in the formatted-for-printing view, you can still sort by column, etc.)

fILL should handle all of the ILL tracking, statistics gathering work that makes up the bulk of the “ILL overhead” in terms of staff time. If you keep copies of the data locally for some ILL-management reason that fILL doesn't handle, let us know – if it makes ILL workflows easier for all libraries, we'll see about adding that functionality directly in fILL.