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INTRODUCTION

For an understanding of the NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP), refer to the Committee AT links on the NISO web site. The standard, now in draft form for trial use, consists of two documents:

1) NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol
   http://www.niso.org/committees/at/ProtocolDraft-14.doc

2) Circulation Interchange Protocol Cross Application Profile
   http://www.niso.org/committees/at/CAPDraft-10.doc

The site also includes the corresponding DTD, which defines the schema for the protocol’s initiation and response messages:
   http://www.niso.org/committees/at/NCIP_v0_2.dtd

What has Ex Libris developed to date?

NCIP is a confirmed-service protocol. Each defined service consists of a pair of messages:

- Initiation Message
- Response Message

The work done to date by Ex Libris has been specifically designed to allow inter-operation with an epixtech product called URSA. In this inter-operation, ALEPH acts only as a responder, so in all cases it generates a Response Message upon receipt of an Initiation Message from the URSA system.

What messages does ALEPH currently support?

The following messages are currently supported:

- Accept Item Response
- Cancel Request Response
- Check In Item Response
- Check Out Item Response
- Create Item Response
- Lookup Item Response
- Lookup User Response
- Request Item Response
(Note: At the time of writing this document, Look up Item Response and Accept Item Response are still being developed. Create Item Response is being worked on, but this effort may cease if it is determined that Accept Item Response will accommodate the necessary behavior.)

How has NCIP been implemented in ALEPH?

NCIP is a continually running server, similar to the SC server. It receives and emits messages in XML.

How is the NCIP implementation configured in ALEPH?

NCIP is configured in a table. The default table is:

```bash
$alephe_tab/tab_ncip.conf
```

If a table is not specified at the time the NCIP Server is started, this default table will be used. If you need to allow different NCIP configurations (for consortia, testing, etc.) a different table may be specified. See below for instructions on starting the NCIP Server, including information on using specific tables. Note that this table is in constant flux as new demands are made on the configuration.

The current table structure is:

```
[Main]
BIB-LIBRARY     = EXU01
ADM-LIBRARY     = EXU50
HOL-LIBRARY     = EXU60
USER-NAME       = YOHANAN
USER-PASSWORD   = YOHANAN
USERS-AGENCY-ID = Exlibris Users Agency
ITEMS-AGENCY-ID = Exlibris Items Agency

[AuthenticationInputTypesScheme]
Barcode Id = 01
User Name  = 00
Secondary Confirmation String = 02

[Bibliographic Level]
Serial = SE
Monograph = BK

[Location Names]
Hold Shelf = $$bsub-library$$ccollection
default = $$bsub-library$$ccollection

[Create Item]
Z30-SUB-LIBRARY      = my default
Z30-MATERIAL         = my default
Z30-ITEM-STATUS      = my default
```
Z30-CATALOGER = my default
Z30-ALPHA = my default
Z30-COLLECTION = my default
Z30-CALL-NO-TYPE = my default
Z30-CALL-NO = my default
Z30-CALL-NO-2-TYPE = my default
Z30-CALL-NO-2 = my default
Z30-DESCRIPTION = my default
Z30-NOTE-OPAC = my default
Z30-NOTE-CIRCULATION = my default
Z30-NOTE-INTERNAL = my default
Z30-TEMP-LOCATION = my default

The specific table sections operate in the following manner:

[Main]
BIB-LIBRARY = EXU01
ADM-LIBRARY = EXU50
HOL-LIBRARY = EXU60
USER-NAME = YOHANAN
USER-PASSWORD = YOHANAN
USERS-AGENCY-ID = Exlibris Users Agency
ITEMS-AGENCY-ID = Exlibris Items Agency

The first three parameters are used to indicate which ALEPH libraries are associated with the NCIP Server.

USER-NAME and USER-PASSWORD are used to authorize interaction between the NCIP Server and the PC Server. These parameters, too, need to be re-situated to allow authorization for individual ALEPH libraries.

USERS-AGENCY-ID and ITEMS-AGENCY-ID are currently not being used. They will be used at a future time for Header construction if ALEPH is the message initiator.

[AuthenticationInputTypesScheme]
Barcode Id = 01
User Name = 00
Secondary Confirmation String = 02

This section of the table associates values from the NCIP Authentication Input Type Scheme with ALEPH ID codes (Type of Identification).

[Bibliographic Level]
Collection = CL
Monograph = BK

This section of the table associates values from the NCIP Bibliographic Level Scheme with ALEPH Bibliographic FMT codes. This is used when an NCIP service requires creation of a bibliographic record.
[Location Names]
Hold Shelf = $$bsub-library$$ccollection
default = $$bsub-library$$ccollection

This section of the table associates Location Name specified in a Create Item message with a specific ALEPH sub-library/collection. If Location Name is not specified, or if no match is found, ‘default’ is used.

[Create Item]
Z30-MATERIAL = my default
Z30-ITEM-STATUS = my default
Z30-CATALOGER = my default
Z30-ALPHA = my default
Z30-CALL-NO-TYPE = my default
Z30-CALL-NO = my default
Z30-CALL-NO-2-TYPE = my default
Z30-CALL-NO-2 = my default
Z30-DESCRIPTION = my default
Z30-NOTE-OPAC = my default
Z30-NOTE-CIRCULATION = my default
Z30-NOTE-INTERNAL = my default

This section of the table specifies default values to be used upon receipt of the Create Item message, if the message doesn’t provide specific values.

How to start the NCIP_server

The NCIP server can be started from a prompt on the Unix server using the appropriate command. In order to run the server on port 4500, for example, use:

> ncip_server 4500 &

By default, the NCIP server will log to $LOGDIR. If you want to log to your Unix session for testing purposes, use:

> ncip_server 4500 stdout

If you want to use a configuration table other than the default (tab_ncip.conf), you can specify a different configuration file. For example:

> ncip_server 4500 -f $alephe_tab/another_tab_ncip.conf &

How to test the NCIP server

You can test the NCIP server by sending an xml-structure message directly to the NCIP server. You can use the OCLC Passport process. For example:

> passport <server hostname> <port> <sample_xml_file>
On some platforms, the OCLC Passport process may have some problems because of the way it ends the transmission. Tsach Moshkovits has written a slightly different version of the process that will avoid this problem. He calls this process `ncip_passport`:

```bash
> ncip_passport <server hostname> <port> <sample_xml_file>
```