What is New in ALEPH 500 - Version 17.01
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Web OPAC

My Library Card
The list of activities now shows all ADM libraries for which the patron has local records.

A new Summary column has been added to this list. This column summarizes the values of each row for all the ADM libraries.

Three elements have been removed from the Activities section to the Administrative Information section, as they are not ADM-specific:

- Proxies/Sponsor,
- ILL Total Requests,
- ILL Active Requests.

Clicking on any value takes the patron to a detailed screen (for example, loans). The patron can move within the page to the other ADM libraries.

The patron can return to the main Library Card screen by clicking My Library Card from the menu bar (provided that he has already signed in):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities (click to view more info, renew, delete, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan History List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold Requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booking Requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Transactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Bookings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Loans List - Renew Selected Loans
A new option has been added to the Web OPAC Loans list - Renew Selected.

A check box has been added next to each loan number in the list. The patron needs to click on the check box to mark selected items for renewal. Clicking on the "Renew Selected" link will renew only the selected loans. Note that up to 260 loans can be checked (selected) from the list.
The renew report page has been changed as follows: for both Renew All and Renew Selected, the report first lists items that have not been renewed, followed by those items which have been renewed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Item status</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Due hour</th>
<th>Sublibrary</th>
<th>Barcode</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>descrip</td>
<td>All library</td>
<td>06/03/06</td>
<td>24:00</td>
<td>Medicine Library 50071-50</td>
<td></td>
<td>An introduction to ADAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>descrip</td>
<td>Mail order</td>
<td>06/01/06</td>
<td>24:00</td>
<td>ILL unit WID 17 238710-1</td>
<td>ILL 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enhanced SDI Functionality**

SDI is now based on an SDI ready mechanism that builds or does not build an SDI record. This mechanism allows for:

- Sending SDI notification only when an item has no item process status, that is, it is available for the library’s readers. Previously, SDI notification was sent to a patron immediately after the record had appeared in the catalog but was not, in fact available (for example, a patron could have received an SDI notification about records that were “In Process” or were at the bindery, and so on).

- A patron can now define his SDI profile for a specific campus/sublibrary or for all locations.

New options on the SDI profile page:

- Expiry date: the patron can set the expiry date to his SDI profile.

- Alternative e-mail address: if empty, the system will send the notification to the address specified in the patron’s address record. If both fields (patron record and alternative e-mail) are defined, the system will send the notification to both the addresses.

- Zero results: the patron can define whether or not to receive reports of SDI searches that retrieve zero results.

- Suspend SDI from/to: the patron can decide to suspend his SDI searches for a certain period (for example, vacations).

- Encoding: the patron can select the character set in which he wants to receive his SDI results list.

The SDI profile can now originate in several areas of the OPAC including...
• current search results pages or
• previous search history page.

The SDI search results include a link to the Full view of each record retrieved, allowing the recipient to jump directly to the full bibliographic record in the catalog. The patron can also modify the existing search by using the **Refine** option from the list of his SDI profiles.

**SDI Record (new/update)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDI Name :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Format :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interval Count :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI Message :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI Request :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI Sub Library :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI Base List :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Subject :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expiry Date :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspend SDI from :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encoding :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Result Message :</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SDI batch procedures are now managed as part of Circulation Services. New SDI batch procedures include:

**SDI User Notify**
This new alerts patrons whose SDI profile will expire within a given time period. It postpones the expiry date of profiles that are due to expire during vacations.

**Delete Expired SDI Requests**
Deletes all SDI profiles, which expiry date is prior to the date defined by the library.

**My e-Shelf**
A new functionality for storing records in the Web OPAC, **My e-Shelf**, has been implemented. The newly designed My e-Shelf integrates the e-Shelf and Basket features that existed in previous versions.

This functionality supports both registered users and non-registered users (Guest). Non-registered users can access the stored records only during the active session.

Registered users can access stored records at any time. When records are added to My e-Shelf, all records are added to a folder called **Basket**. The user can then create other folders and move the records from the default Basket folder to any other existing folder and vice versa.
Logging OPAC Access

A new Oracle table records events related to Web OPAC usage. In this way it is possible to create statistical reports of WEB OPAC activities.

The possible events are:

- Search Command - Multi field (find-a)
- Search Command - Basic search (find-b)
- Search Command - CCL (find-c)
- Search Command - Advanced (find-d)
- Search Command - Multi base (find-m)
- Refine Search
- Cross sets
- My Library Card
- Help
- Scan
- SDI Profile

Filtering Available Items

When displaying OPAC holdings, a patron can now filter out loaned items. After activating the filter, only items currently not out on loan will display:
Web OPAC and GUI Search

Browse and Sort Long Headings

The long headings functionality has been enhanced. The browse field has been extended to 2000 characters. This enables the user to type the exact string to be retrieved. This is available in both the OPAC and in the Search tab of the GUI.

In addition, an Include Text field has been added in the Search tab of the GUI. This allows the user to enter the initial text for the heading and also to add a specific string that will enable efficient retrieval of the exact heading without having to type all the text. This is similar to existing functionality in the Cataloging module (when using the Jump to option from the Search Similar Headings window).

The Alphabetize Long Headings (manage-17) service is no longer required since the full heading is always used for alphabetization during indexing. This ensures that long headings will be correctly alphabetized immediately after cataloging.
GUI Search

Authority Recheck for Selected Headings.

It is possible to

- mark individual headings that were checked and marked as CHK
- or the headings that are already linked to an authority record

and set them to NEW in order to trigger the ‘Update Bib from Aut’ process to handle those headings again. This action is performed by clicking on the new AUT Recheck button.

Push to Cataloging from Browse

A Catalog button has been added to the Browse screen (in all GUIs). As long as the number of selected headings does not exceed 20, or the accumulative number of documents associated with the selected heading does not exceed 100, the documents are pushed through to the cataloging editor.

Cataloging

Inventory Marking

It is now possible to do online Inventory Marking (as well as by batch procedure) from the Cataloging Module (Items menu). The Inventory Marking Parameters dialog
box allows for the setting of the parameters for the online marking process. The following options are available:

- **Inventory (shelf report number).** The value can be entered manually or selected from a list.
- **Lost/Missing item process statuses** - if a marked item has one of these process statuses, its process status is cleared.
- **Whether or not to receive a pop-up message relating to a marked item.**
- **Whether or not to produce a printable report at the end of the Inventory Marking session.**

Note that whenever the *Inventory Marking Parameters* dialog box is opened, all parameters are given a default value, which is the value used in the last marking session.

After setting the parameters as described above, and clicking **OK**, a dialog box containing the following information is displayed:

- **Total items in Inventory** (numeric, read-only)
- **Items found** (numeric, read-only). The number is increased by one after an item barcode is submitted.
- **Items to be processed** (numeric, read-only). The number is actually the total number of items in the inventory, minus the number of found items. It is decreased by one after an item barcode is submitted.
- **Item barcode.** It can be entered manually or by using a barcode reader, and submitted to the server either by pressing **Enter** or by clicking the **Submit** button.
New Fix Routine

A new fix routine offers the option of converting records from UKMARC to MARC21.

Circulation

Incorporation of Payment Method for Cash Transactions

Payment Method for patron cash transactions (for example, cash, credit card, check) is now stored in the Cash Table field, and has been incorporated in a number of places:

- A Payment Method column has been added to the second Cash tab (Cash History) in Circulation.

- A Payment Method field has been added to the Cash Details tab in the lower pane).

- The Payment Method field has been added to various print templates (for example, cash receipt).

- In the Import Cash Transactions batch process.

- In the Payments Received Report batch process.
New Patron Tab in Loan and Return window

There are new options for displaying Global and Local patron notes fields in the upper pane of the Loan and Return windows.

The following can be displayed:

- Three global note fields
- Three local note fields
- Three local library notes with the sublibrary code that matches the code of the active library.
- Three local notes of the patron, where the local sublibrary matches the item's sublibrary. Because the system requires the item data for this, these fields can only display in the Loan Window after a successful loan transaction.

The fields can be displayed in a second (new) tab. Note that any of the fields in the user-details can be placed in either tab. Alternately, all fields can be placed in a single tab.

New Fields in Patron Record

There are a number of new fields in the global patron record:

- Two additional note fields – each 200 characters
- A salutation field of 100 characters (for example, Dear Sir John, Dear Mr. Brown)
• The lengths of the three existing note fields have been increased from 100 to 200 characters.

Changes in the patron's local information:

• New field - the date on which the patron joined the library.

Circulation Log

The Circulation Logger is a new tool that enables viewing and filtering a patron's circulation activities. Loan and cash activities are displayed as part of a transaction, starting from the time an item was loaned until it was returned, and from the time a cash charge was created until it was fully paid.

The library is able to define which actions create a log entry and to specify the log entry text for each type of action. The main entry of the log is the Patron ID. The log can be filtered so that, for example, the history of a circulation transaction can be displayed including where and when it was loaned/renewed, if an overdue notice was sent, if a cash record was created, and so on.
Sounds

It is now possible to define up to 100 different sounds for Circulation functions. A few examples from the list of functions where sounds are supported:

- ClaimReturn=N
- LostReturn=N
- LoanDenied=N
- ReturnDenied=N
- ItemTransfer=N
- ItemRequested=N
- LoanSuccess=N
- ReturnSuccess=N
- OnHold=N

The options for every sound are:

- SoundName=N (No sound)
- SoundName=Y,S, System sound name (sound name from Windows)
- SoundName=Y,F, Sound file name (Sound name from user defined file)

For example:

- NoBorrower=N
- NoBorrower=Y,S, Beep
NoBorrower=Y,F,RINGOUT.WAV

The sound file ('SoundName=Y,F,Sound file name' option) should be placed in the Alephcom\Sound directory.

**Advanced Booking**

It is now possible to loan Advanced Booking items through the regular Loan window. The Reserve Items window available in previous versions is still available for users wishing to continue with this option.

**Acquisitions**

**Tiered Vendor Records**

Vendor tiers linked to a specific ADM library no longer display in the vendor list of other ADM libraries.

If a global vendor record has either tiers or linked order/invoice/ILL records in other ADM libraries, a staff user from another ADM library cannot delete it.

**Order Record**

Two new fields have been added to the Order Record. The fields have been added in order to be able to handle the acquisition process of electronic resources in Verde, which will interact with ALEPH Acquisitions:

- ERM Type (or Material Format). This can be either
  - "PRN" (Print), or
  - "ELC" (Electronic)
- ERM ID - the Acquisition's ID in the Verde system.

**GUI - General**

It is now possible to disable the ILL icon and the Switch to ILL option in the GUI when using the external mode of the ILL. A new flag has been added to alephcom.ini. Setting it to 'Y' will disable the ‘internal’ ILL options.
Staff Privileges

Proxies

There is a new option on the Staff Privileges screen – to display the proxies linked to a user name. Clicking Display Proxies opens a list that includes all proxy staff users linked to the user name. It is possible to jump to one of the listed users by clicking the Select button.

LDAP Authentication Method for GUI Staff Users

It is now possible to allow server-side staff authentication via an LDAP server. The local record will not have a password.

Authentication will take place using an external program which resides in the Saleph_source/authen directory called aleph_staff_ldap.pl

A sample script is located in Salephm_source/authen. This can be used or a local version made and used by defining the aleph_authen variable.

Faster Indexing

The ‘Update Doc Index’ (UTIL E/1) has now been divided into three processes:

• ue_01_word_index - responsible for word index creation
• ue_01_z0102_index - responsible for z0102 creation

• ue_01_a - responsible for the rest of indexes (accesses, and so on).

This means that records are handled more efficiently and that record indexing is much faster.

For more details please refer to the Release Notes.

**ADAM (ALEPH Digital Asset Module)**

The ALEPH Digital Asset Module (ADAM) is an optional add-on module that enables libraries to manage digital assets and their associated metadata within the ALEPH 500 environment. Librarians, using the ALEPH 500 Cataloging Module, can now load the library’s full range of digital objects, create associated bibliographic data in the MARC format of their choice, and add technical metadata. Catalogers can indicate whether a thumbnail should be created and whether a textual file should undergo full-text indexing.

Patrons in the OPAC are able to browse metadata, perform full-text searches of textual material, and retrieve and view digital objects. Settings in the Object Management define whether the object is open to view, requires copyright agreement or is restricted to defined groups of users (linked to a course, patron status) or by IP address.
ADAM also offers the option of batch loading files of objects together with brief default metadata.

Materials Management

The new ALEPH 500 Materials Management functionality helps staff manage all facets of item and media booking, delivery, loan, and return. Patrons are able to request items for a specified length of time to be collected in a specific location. This functionality is available for all types of material: traditional library items, special media types, and equipment.
Booking requests can be placed either by:

A patron from the Web OPAC:

Select year [All] Select volume [All] Select sublibrary [All] □ Hide loaned items  □

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Item status</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Due hour</th>
<th>Sublibrary</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>No. of requests</th>
<th>Location 2</th>
<th>Barcode</th>
<th>OPAC note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>request</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>regular</td>
<td>on shelf</td>
<td>man library</td>
<td>general</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>700-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Item Booking**

- **From**: Day (yyyymmmdd) [ ] [ ] [ ] Hour (hhmm) [ ] [ ]
- **To**: Day (yyyymmmdd) [ ] [ ] [ ] Hour (hhmm) [ ] [ ]
- **Delivery Location**: Main Library [ ] Sub Location [ ]
- **Return Location**: Main Library [ ] Return Sub Location [ ]
- **Delivery Method**: Normal [ ]

**Availability**

- [Current Week 01/01/2021 to 01/01/2022] [ ]
or by a staff user in the Circulation GUI:

![Booking Request](image)

In the Circulation GUI, booking requests can be viewed from the Items Tab, the Patrons Tab, or from the new Administration tab.
Booking requests differ from hold requests in two ways:

- They have specific start and end dates and times,

- They take priority over all other requests.

- Permission to place booking requests is separate from the permission to place hold requests

Standard “head” and “tail” times are calculated into booking times. Requested items that are not picked up during the library-defined release period will automatically become available for loan to other patrons. When a booked item becomes unavailable for loan, a special “reallocation” process identifies an alternative item for loan or notifies the patron that the requested material cannot be supplied—if an alternative item is not found.

Media Management functionalities include reminders as to when specific items require servicing (based on time or usage). Maintenance profiles provide defaults regarding the length of time an item will be out of circulation due to servicing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patron Name</th>
<th>Sublibrary</th>
<th>Pickup Loc</th>
<th>Eff. Start Date</th>
<th>Eff. End Date</th>
<th>Eff. Start Hour</th>
<th>Eff. End Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAUGH SHELTON</td>
<td>Main Library</td>
<td>Law Library</td>
<td>03/11/04</td>
<td>03/11/04</td>
<td>09:10</td>
<td>11:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HATOUH ROBERT</td>
<td>Main Library</td>
<td>Main Library</td>
<td>01/12/04</td>
<td>01/12/04</td>
<td>10:25</td>
<td>13:25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
requirements, who provides the servicing, and when to follow up with the service provider, regarding the return of the item to the library.

**New Batch Services**

**Inventory (Shelf Report Number) Definition (item-01)**

Shelf report numbers are allocated by using the new ADM library parameter "last-shelf-rpt-num" (UTIL/G/2).

The batch service can be run either from the Cataloging or the Circulation GUIs.

It assigns a shelf report number and a shelf report date to a set of Item records, selected according to the batch parameters.

The procedure produces a report containing

- the shelf report number assigned,
- the batch parameters
- and a list of the shelf report numbers of the item records that were replaced by the new shelf report number, if any.

**Inventory Marking (item-08)**

Inventory Marking is a process whereby items belonging to a predefined inventory (shelf report number) are marked as "found", using the item barcode as key.

Whenever an item is marked as "found", it is possible to receive the following types of messages:

- whether the item is in the database (according to barcode)
- whether the item is on loan
- whether the item is in place (according to call number key, if there is a call number), or whether the item indeed belongs to the inventory used for the current marking
- whether the item is considered lost or missing (according to a list of "lost/missing" item process statuses)

Marking can be performed either online, via the GUI Cataloging module, or via the p-item-08 batch process, receiving an input file containing item barcodes.

**Inventory Summary (item-09)**

This service creates a summary report of the inventory status, and allows for the updating of inventory items according to the inventory check results.
Inventory Report (item-10)
This service produces a report of the inventory items, consisting of each item's details and whether the item was "found".

Delete Item Records (item-11)
In addition to the existing functionality for deleting items one-by-one in the Cataloging GUI, it is now possible to delete batches of items, based on library-defined criteria.
The objectives of this batch procedure are:

- Enable batch deletion of items.
- Protect from unintended deletion.
- Handle item deletion consequences, such as notifying patrons that a requested item is not available.

The items will be checked for having requests, (Holds, Bookings, or Photo requests.) If there is a request, the system will move the request to a like item (if it exists). If there is no item available, and

- the override flag is set to N, the item will not be deleted.
- If the override flag is set to Y, then the item will be deleted and a message will be sent to the patron. Note, a message will not be sent for photo requests.

Items that are loaned or claimed cannot be deleted under any circumstance.
The batch procedure can run with an Update Database flag set to N or Y.

- If set to N, a report giving the status of the of the items and related requests is produced.
- If set to Y, the database will be updated, and two reports will be issued:
  o Deleted items
  o Non-deleted items

In addition notices will be sent to all patrons that their requests have been canceled as the items have been removed from stock.

Bind Alert Report (bind-01)
The purpose of this service is to create two main outputs:

- A report that includes all the volumes that can be bound based on parameters inserted by the user. The report includes information regarding the subscription, title, information about the items to be bound and binding details (priority, type and binder) as they appear in new table - tab_binding.
- An output file which includes the groups to be bound and the keys of subscription and items that belong to the groups.
Serial Binding Slip (bind-02)
The purpose of this service is to create the main outputs:

- A report as is produced in the Bind Alert Report
- A Binding Slip per volume.
- Create Hold Requests on issues ready for binding (Optional).

Replace Vendor - Close and Open Orders and Subscriptions (acq-27)
This batch service changes the vendor for Standing Orders, Serial Orders, and related Subscriptions. The batch handles only yearly subscriptions; all orders handled must be associated with one vendor only.

The batch service closes orders and related subscriptions and opens new ones, by duplicating the closed orders and subscriptions, and taking new information from the batch's parameters.

Change Order Status and EDA in Order Records (acq-28)
This batch service updates the order status and/or EDA for a group of orders. The batch uses an input file of ADM number + Order sequence + ADM library.

X-Server Services
A number of enhancements have been made to increase the functionality of ALEPH 500 X-Server services, which enable products within the Ex Libris suite to integrate openly with third-party systems and amongst themselves. Updated services include “Sort Set,” which re-sorts a specific set of documents according to library-defined parameters; “Update Borrower,” which performs various update actions to patron information; and “Update Document,” which performs various update actions to a specific document. X-Server services also include the “Explain” function.

PDS Integration
The Patron Directory Service (PDS), which is now available in all Ex Libris products, includes a patron authentication feature that enables patrons to move between the Company’s products and those of third parties. An optional feature - which can be implemented at sites that have unified patron data - supports a Single Sign-On (SSO) environment. Patrons register only once during a session and then proceed to navigate freely among the different Ex Libris products.

PDS can be set up to interact with third-party applications enabling shared user authentication and Single Sign-On capabilities beyond the Ex Libris suite. Although not a patron database, PDS can be configured to work against an institution’s local authentication server and patron database.
Bibliographic Loaders for Multi-ADM Environments

The Bibliographic Record Loaders have been upgraded for large consortia, which run a single BIB/Multiple ADM Union View environment.

Integration with Verde

Verde, the new e-resource management tool from Ex Libris, is a new, complementary system that assists libraries and their staff in managing and providing access to electronic resources throughout their life cycle. The Verde ERM system offers a single point of administration for e-resources and a comprehensive solution for managing the complex and multi-dimensional relationships that characterize such resources.