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About the Alma Release Notes

Alma release notes provide you with information regarding what you need to get up and running with the new features and enhancements in the latest Alma release.

These release notes include:

- [Alma March 2013 Release Highlights](#)
- [Access to March 2013 Features](#)
- Feature/enhancement descriptions for the respective Alma components and functional areas
 - [Data Services](#)
 - [Alma Show Me How](#)
 - [Resource Management](#)
 - [Fulfillment](#)
 - [System Enhancements](#)
 - [Other Enhancements](#)

Alma March 2013 Release Highlights

Alma, as a cloud-based SaaS system, occasionally requires some important maintenance and background infrastructure tasks. Such tasks are as important as functional developments ensuring that Alma meets the highest standards of stability and high availability. The March release is devoted to this effort.

The top focus areas are:

- Improving the user experience

We have invested efforts to focus on user experience issues such as application errors, third-party integrations, and overall system performance. As part of this focus, we have added meaningful Java error codes to simplify the reporting and tracking for users of these errors.

- Proactive Alma monitoring

A great deal of attention and effort has been invested in improving the proactive monitoring of Alma. This helps the Alma team to more quickly and effectively identify errors that may occur, from time to time, without the need for input from customers. Initial tests show great promise for improving the level of service in this area. Related to this, improved monitoring capabilities allow for quicker and proactive identification and efficient handling of service-level events.

- Improving the Alma search engine

SOLR is the search engine powering Alma (for repository search). Efforts have been made, and will continue to be made, in improving failover and high availability of this very important component.

- Enhanced Alma Analytics performance

The Alma Analytics infrastructure will be improved to allow for more frequent Alma Analytics data updates and, additionally, to prepare the infrastructure for new and advanced developments ahead.

- Expanded Alma infrastructure

Since the Alma customer base is growing at a fast pace, we have devoted efforts to ensuring that the Alma infrastructure can accommodate this growth. We have added another Alma instance in each of our data centers and opened a new data center in Singapore.

Access to March 2013 Features

Note: Refer to the Technical Instructions section for each feature in these release notes for information that describes the roles needed.

Feature	No Activation/ Setup Required	Activation/ Setup Required	Visible to Administrator Only	Contact Ex Libris to Activate This Feature
	(Note: Automatically Visible to All Users with the Appropriate User Role/ Permission)			
Resource Management: Upload Holdings Information to Libraries Australia				
Fulfillment: Lost Loan Enhancement				
System Enhancements: Error Messaging Enhanced with Unique Tracking ID				

Data Services

The Alma March Central KnowledgeBase and Community Zone package has been applied to the Alma production environment.

New Electronic Packages Added to the Alma CKB

The following packages were added to the Alma CZ during the period 11-February-2013 through 13-March-2013:

- Academic Journals
- AIAA Aerospace Research Central Books
- CAIRN Monographs
- Cambridge University Press Shakespeare Survey Online
- Classiques Sciences Sociales
- EBSCOhost Applied Science & Technology Source
- EBSCOhost Education Source
- EBSCOhost Humanities Source
- EBSCOhost Legal Source
- EBSCOhost Library & Information Science Source
- EBSCOhost Literary Reference Center Plus
- EBSCOhost MasterFILE Complete
- Gale Business Insights: Global
- Highwire Press Association College Research Libraries
- Highwire Press Tikkun
- International Monetary Fund eLibrary
- Medknow Open Access Journals
- MetaPress Abbaye de Maredsous
- MetaPress National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.
- MetaPress Romanian Society for Phenomenology
- MetaPress Scrivener Publishing
- MetaPress Whiting & Birch

- MetaPress Zeta Books
- National Research Council of Canada Books
- Oxford Medicine Online
- SAGE Reference Online 2012 Encyclopedia Collection
- SpringerLink Journals Adis Collection

Alma Show Me How

The following sections describe Alma Show Me How for the March 2013 release of Alma.

Alma Show Me How – March

Description

Alma Show Me How provides a menu-driven interface to prompt you through the steps of new or common tasks, or to point out new options such as a check box and direct you to the documentation that describes it in further detail.

Technical Instructions

Each Show Me How scenario may address different areas of Alma. The authorizations required to access the Show Me How scenarios are specific to the functional areas of the scenario.

To access Show Me How:

- 1 From the Alma home page, click the **Show Me How** button.
The How Can We Assist You? pop-up window displays.
- 2 Select one of the processes in order to start the prompted step-by-step instructions.
For the March release, the following Show Me How scenarios are available:
 - Parsing Call Numbers for Spine Labels
 - Reassign a Record or Release Assignment
 - Schedule Patron Activity Report
 - Search for Items with No Barcode
 - New Features in Alma Developers
 - What's New Videos
 - New Year Field in Article Borrowing Requests
 - Filter PO Lines with Patron Requests
 - View PO Lines for a Vendor
 - Delivery and Claim Information in Vendor Account
 - Send Invoice to ERP Without Payment Notification

- Manage VAT/GST in Invoice
- Global Change of Physical Items

Resource Management

The following section describes the functions provided for the Resource Management component in the March 2013 release of Alma.

Upload Holdings Information to Libraries Australia

Description

The purpose of this enhancement is to provide the capability for institutions to submit/export bibliographic records with embedded holdings information to the Libraries Australia (LA). Alma supports the NUC (National Union Catalogue) symbols issued by the LA.

In Alma, each institution that synchronizes its bibliographic/holdings records with the LA must have a NUC Code (symbol). Also, specific libraries may have a NUC symbol that overrides the institution's NUC Code. For additional information and configuration instructions for publishing to the LA, refer to the **Publishing to the Libraries Australia** section in the Alma online help or the *Alma Integrations with External Systems Guide* (Alma > Technical Documentation > Integrations).

Fulfillment

The following sections describe the functions provided for the Fulfillment component in the March 2013 release of Alma.

Lost Loan Enhancement

Description

The purpose of this enhancement is to provide additional capabilities related to lost loans. With this enhancement, you are able to create lost loan notification profiles and, separately, customize letters to communicate to the patron an anticipated lost loan status change prior to the status change in the Alma system designating the item as lost with any associated fees, fines, and/or charges.

Technical Instructions

The Fulfillment Administrator role can access the configuration options for this new capability.

To add a lost loan notification profile:

- 1 From the Alma main menu > Fulfillment > Fulfillment Configuration, click **Configuration Menu**.
- 2 From the Physical Fulfillment section, click **Lost Loan Profile**.
The Lost Loan Profile List page displays.
- 3 Click **Add Lost Loan Profile**.
- 4 Complete the lost loan profile (similar to your existing lost loan profiles) and select the **Notification Only** option.

Lost Loan Profile Record

Cancel Save

Lost Loan Profile

Name * CC_Lost_Loan_Notification_Example

Description Notify patron prior to changing the status of an item to lost

Active ☒

Days After Due Date 15

Loan Status

Automatic Renewed

Claimed Returned

Normal

Recalled

Renewed

Library Main Library

Item policy

One Hour Loan

One Day Loan

One Week Loan

ILL Pickup

Three Hour Loan

Two Week Loan

Letter send format Both

Notification Only ☒

Days After Status Date 15

User Group

26Law Carrel

27College Bound

28Presidential Scholar

29Bindery Shelf

30Bindery Commercial

01BC Undergraduate

Locations

Archive

Asian Collection

Bound Serials

General

Material Type

Art Original

Art Reproduction

Audiobook

Audio cassette

Bachelor Thesis

Book

Printer Main Campus - Main Desk

Figure 1 - Notification Only Lost Loan Profile

5 Click Save.

The new notification only lost loan profile displays in the lost loan profile list and is identified as a notification type of profile by a check mark in the Notification Only column.

Lost Loan Profile List

Back

Lost Loan Profile List

Find : in : Name Go

Add Lost Loan Profile

1 - 5 of 5 Records Tools

Enabled	Notification Only	Name	Description	Actions
☒	☒	CC_Lost_Loan_Notification_Example	Notify patron prior to changing the status of an item to lost	

Figure 2 - Notification Only Column Check Mark

To configure a lost loan notification letter:

- 1 From the Alma main menu > General > General Configuration, click **Configuration Menu**.
- 2 From the General Configuration section, click **Letter emails**.
- 3 Click **Actions > Customize** for the **Ful Lost Loan Notification Letter** row.

The **Ful Lost Loan Notification Letter** customization options display.

- 4 For the options you want to change, click **Customize** in that row and edit the description.

Ful Lost Loan Notification Letter						
Language French 						
						 Tools
Enabled	Code	Description	Updated By	Last Updated	Language	
	by	Author	-	-	English	Restore
	barcode	Barcode	-	-	English	Customize
	call_number	Call Number	-	-	English	Customize
	department	Circulation Department	-	-	English	Customize
	dear	Dear Sir/Madam	-	-	English	Customize
	description	Description	-	-	English	Customize
	due_date	Due date	-	-	English	Customize

Figure 3 - Lost Loan Notification Letter

- When you have completed making your changes, click the page **Customize** button.

System Enhancements

The following section describes Alma system enhancements provided in the March 2013 release.

Error Messaging Enhanced with Unique Tracking ID

Description

The purpose of this enhancement is to provide a more meaningful error messaging capability in Alma. When an unknown error occurs, an error message is displayed with a unique tracking ID that can be used for reporting the error to Ex Libris support.

This new error messaging enhancement is provided throughout Alma and is viewable to all user roles.

The text of the error message is *Oops, there was a problem performing the last action. Please use this unique tracking ID when reporting an issue: <ID>*. Refer to the figure below for an example.

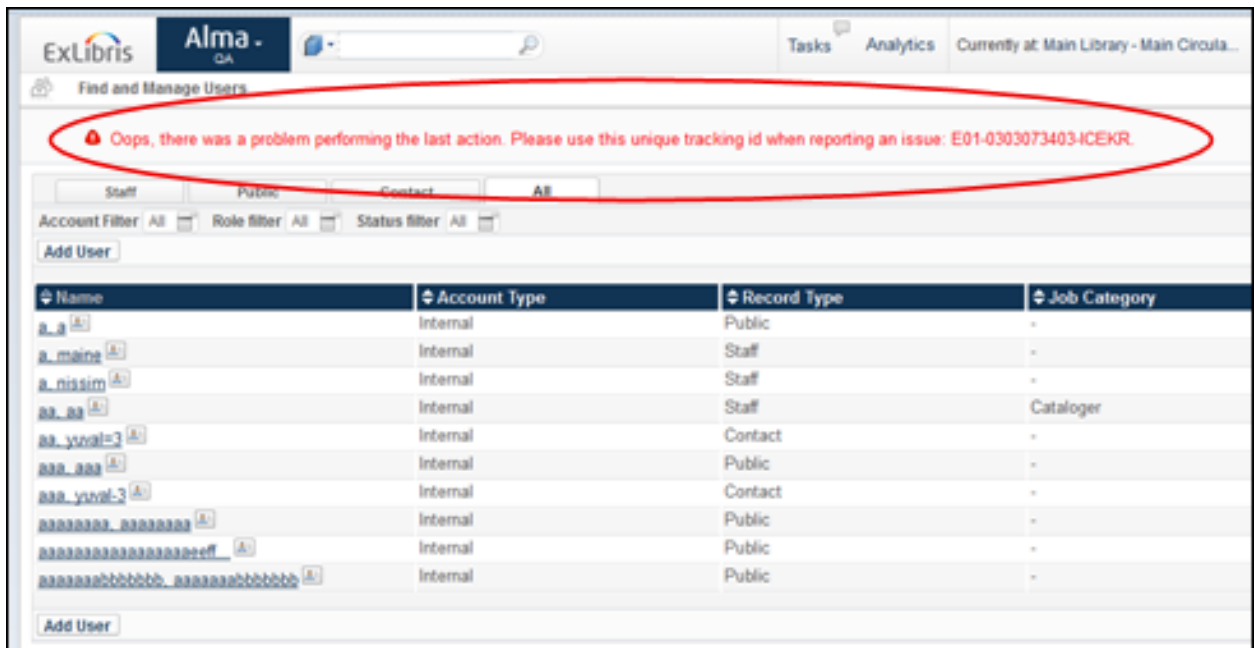


Figure 4 - Error Messaging Enhancement

Other Enhancements

The following sections describe other Alma system enhancements provided in the March 2013 release.

Acquisitions

- Notifications are no longer sent to interested users when the PO lines with which they are associated are canceled or deleted.

User Management

- The SDK Label Printing role name has changed to API Label Printing. The user that previously had the SDK Label Printing role remains the same.

General

- External Systems – The Z39.50 search attributes that are supported by Alma are now documented in the Alma online help/user guides.
- External Systems – The Allowed Web Service IPs mapping table has been removed from the Alma user interface (General > General Configuration > Configuration Menu > External Systems > Allowed Web Service IPs) because the IP restriction of Web service calls is centrally managed by Ex Libris.