Aleph Update

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Agenda

- Aleph today
- Aleph roadmap
- V22.1 highlights



Agenda

- Aleph today
- Aleph roadmap
- V22 highlights



Aleph today

- 2609 institutions worldwide
- Current version V22



Agenda

- Aleph today
- Aleph roadmap
- V22 highlights



Aleph Roadmap

- V21.0 Major Release
 - Available January 2012
- V21.1 Minor Release
 - Available December 2013
- V22.0 Major Release
 - Available January 2014
- V22.1 Minor Release
 - Planned mid 2015 (*)
- V23.0 Major Release
 - Planned January 2017 (*)
- (*) under discussions



Agenda

- Aleph today
- Aleph roadmap
- V22.1 highlights



User Groups initiated enhancements



Publishing Daemon - Performance improvement

- Improving the performance of the publishing daemon job ue_21
- When a large file of bibliographic data is loaded into Aleph, the publishing daemon need handle large amount of data.
- It takes sometimes several days for the publishing daemon to handle all the new or modified records
- Adding the ability to run the daemon job in several parallel processes will enable to improve scalability and reduce the backlog



Publishing Daemon - Performance improvement

- In order to improve the performance of the publishing daemon job (ue_21), a new parameter
 number_ue_21_processes, will be introduced
- The new parameter will enable to divide the running of the job into several processes (up to 9) to be run in parallel
- The variable can be set in aleph_start OR in prof_library file of the publishing library
- Each process will have its own log file



- A lot of AUT records include URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) information in subfield u of various tags. For example: 856, 670, 678
- Current Aleph functionality enables displaying the URI field of an AUT record as an active link only when viewing the record in the authority library
- For example when browsing for heading in an AUT xxx10 library, the URI is displayed as a link.
- However, when browsing in a Bibliographic Library and clicking the associated AUT Record link, the URI field is displayed as a plain text (rather than a link)
- Displaying the AUT record's URI as a link, when accessing via the BIB library, will improve the service for the users



 In order to display URI, of an AUT record, as a link, when accessing via the BIB library, a new option will be added to column 10 of the BIB library's table: edit_doc_999_aut_library>.lng



- New Setup in edit_doc_999_aut_library>.lng
 (e.g. edit_doc_999_aut_xxx10.lng)
 - Current functionality:
 - In Web OPAC, clicking on the Authority Record reference allows the display of the linked AUT record
 - The BIB library table, edit_doc_999_aut_xxx10.lng, defines the display of AUT records for cross- reference display. Column 10 defines the displayed link type. There is no option for electronic resource link



- New Setup in edit_doc_999_aut_library>.lng
 (e.g. edit_doc_999_aut_xxx10.lng)
 - Enhanced functionality:
 - A new type, M, will be introduced in column 10 of edit_doc_999_aut_xxx10.lng
 - It will provide the option to display subfield u as an URI link
 - Type M will function similar to current type M option in column 10 of edit_doc_999.lng:

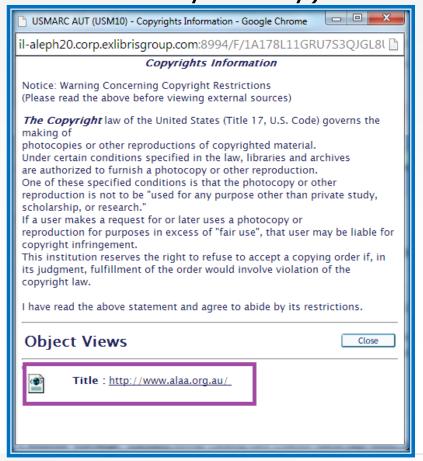


 Displaying the URI Link in OPAC – the new setup will result displaying the content of subfield u as an external link:

Cross-references - Authors - A	Applied Linguistics Association of Australia.
Click on the tag in the left column to jur Click on an underlined heading to create Click on the browser's back button to re	e a set of records related to it.
Sys. no.	000014721
Heading Electr. Resource	Applied Linguistics Association of Australia. http://www.alaa.org.au/
Seen trom Update Flag	ALAA Y



 Upon clicking the external link, the Copyright Information screen will pop-up containing the URI link (similar to current behavior when viewing the record in the authority library):





This link will provide an access to the relevant

site:





- Detecting a specific item barcode in the list of the Reading Room loans
- Wish to be able to move loaned items from shelf to the reading room and vice versa by scanning the barcode
- Today this is not possible, you have to manually select the item to be moved and then click on the appropriate button
- Some patrons have many loans so the list of loans can be very long making it difficult, time consuming and error prone to manually select the correct item(s).
- Scanning the barcode would make the procedure easier, safer and faster

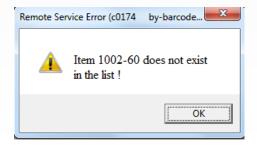


 In order to allow jumping to a particular item in the list, a new option, "Jump to Barcode", will be added to GUI-Circulation-List of Reading Room Loans





- The user will type/scan the item barcode into the edit-box field
- If item found: the system will highlight the line of the requested item barcode. The 'Jump to Barcode' field will be cleared-out.
- If item not found: The highlight line will not be changed. The 'Jump to Barcode' field will be cleared-out and a pop-up message will appear: Item <item-barcode> does not exist in the list!





 Upon exiting and re-entering the Reading-Room Loans list; the first line of the list will be highlighted (same functionality as is today). The cursor will be positioned at the 'Jump to Barcode' edit box



- Produce Hold Shelf reminder letters for hold requests which are not yet picked by the patrons.
- When hold requests are filled and placed on hold shelf, a letter is sent to the patron asking him to come and pick the requested material.
- Enhancing Aleph to produce additional letter/s (reminder) in case material is not picked up will streamline the hold request handling and circulation services

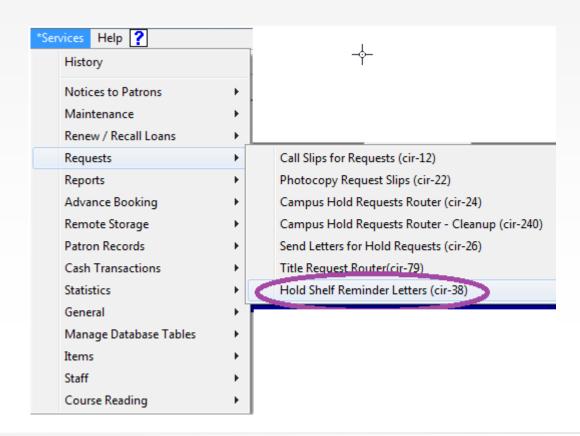


- A new circulation batch service will be introduced: Hold Shelf Reminder Letters (cir-38).
- The service will enable sending additional letter/s
 to a patron, informing of a request which is not yet
 picked up (although a notification was sent when
 the item was placed on Hold Shelf) and providing
 another chance to get the requested material
 before it is returned to stack.



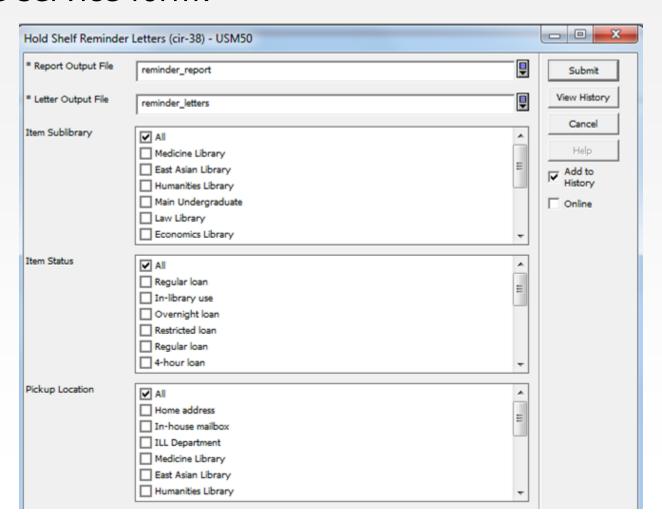
New Batch Service - Interface

 The new batch service, "Hold Shelf Reminder Letters (cir-38)" will be accessed via GUI-Circulation-Services-Requests:



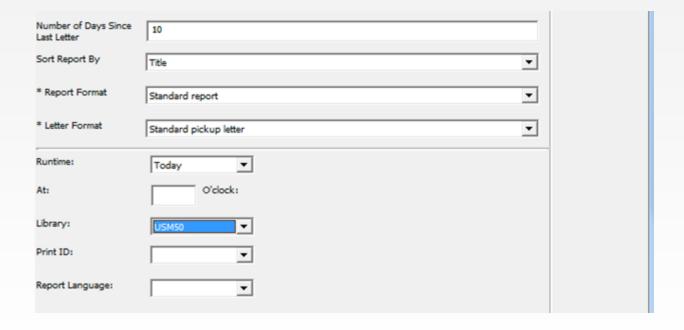


• The service form:





• The service form (cont.):





- The batch will include hold requests (Z37) which match <u>all</u> of the following criteria:
 - Requests which are currently on hold shelf (Z37-STATUS=S).
 - Requests which their pickup letter already sent to patron (Z37-PRINT-STATUS=P).
 - Requests which their hold period include current date (the date in which the batch is executed).
 The hold period defines the date range in which the item is kept at the hold shelf. (from Z37-HOLD-DATE to Z37- END-HOLD-DATE).
 - Request which match the batch input parameters: Item sublibrary and Item status – Request pickup location, Number of days since last letter (Z37-LETTER-DATE).



- Upon running the batch, the system will trace all hold requests that match the criteria and perform the following:
 - List the requests in the batch output report.
 - Produce pickup letters to patrons.
 - Update the requests' letter date to current date (Z37-LETTER-DATE).



- The batch output report includes information for each retrieved requests. This include: Item info (Z30), Hold request data (Z37), short BIB data (Z13) and Patron Info (Z303).
- The batch will use as default an already existing report template: hold-requestsreport.xsl.
- If library wants to have a special report format for cir-38, a new report format can be designed (e.g. hold-requests-report-05.xsl).



• Sample of an output report:

Hold Requests Report					
Bib Info	Patron ID	Patron Name	Item Barcode	Request Date	
try this	00000012	Aaberg, Oscar	238714-10	05/01/2014	



- A pickup reminder letter will be produced for each retrieved request.
- This includes information of: Item info (Z30), Hold request data (Z37), short BIB data (Z13) and Patron Info (Z302).
- The batch will use as default an already existing letter template: hold-requests-letter-01.xsl
- If library wants to have a special letter format for cir-38, a new letter format can be designed (e.g. hold-request-letter-01-05.xsl)



Sample of an output letter:

06/01/2014 hold-request-letter-01-00

Hold Request

Humanities University Libraries 222 Aleph Causeway Chicago, IL 60614 thechoice@exlibris.co.il Tel# 773.404.5527

Dustin Aadland Garden St. Boston MA 90917 90917

Patron ID: 00000036

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following item, which you requested on 06/01/2014, can be picked up at the Circulation Desk of Law Library:

Note that the item will be held for you until 15/01/2014.

Société verviétoise d'archéologie et d'histoire. .:

Bulletin.. [Dison: Imp. P. Féguenne, 1898-. v.: ill.; 24-25 cm..

Sublibrary: Humanities Library

Collection: General

Sincerely,

Circulation Department



 The batch execution summary (Z100) will include information about the number of hold requests included in the report/letters



A new user privilege will be added



ILL Lending: Enable Request Check-in when No Item is Linked

- The ISO ILL protocol allows for an item to be "Received" while it was never "Shipped".
- Occasionally ILL lending staff will skip the Ship action of an ILL request.
- The borrowing library can Receive the item and normal updating can occur.
- When the item is sent back to the lending library and the lending staff tries to "Check-in" the item an error message "Item Record not found" is displayed. The lending staff is unable to complete the request cycle even though they have the item.
- This enhancement would allow ILL lending staff to complete the ILL request cycle and closing the request



ILL Lending: Enable Request Check-in when No Item is Linked

- In order to allow checking-in requests that were never "shipped", the block message: "No item found for this request" will be replaced by the notification: "No item found for this request. Continue: Yes/No".
- This will be applied only for ISO ILL requests.



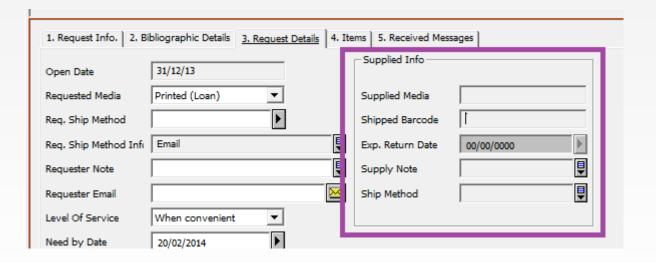
ILL Lending: Enable Request Check-in when No Item is Linked

Current Functionality:

- ISO ILL messages are sent and received by the ILL partners and enable a mutual updating of the both request statuses (borrowing and lending request).
- Forgetting to send the "shipped" message when lending library supply the requested material creates a gap in the ILL cycle.

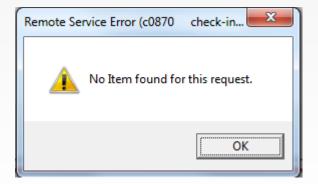


 The request is supplied but without updating the "Supplied Info" which is left empty:



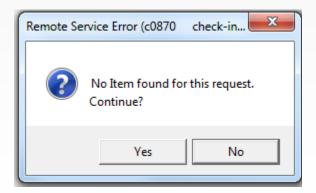


 When material is returned to the lending library, the system finds that no item is linked to the request (as a result of skipping the "ship" action) and a <u>block message</u>: "No item found for this request" appears.





 Functionality will be changed so that when checking-in ISO ILL lending request (Z416-PROTOCOL-TYPE=ISO) with no linked item (Z416-ITEM-INFO is null); a new message will appear -"No item found for this request. Continue: Yes/No".





- The user may select: Yes or No
 - No (default) This will abort the check-in action. Similar to current block functionality. No data update occurs.
 - Yes New functionality. Check-in actions are activated. This includes:
 - ISO message is sent to the borrowing library
 - Request status is set to "Closed" with no item associated
 - Action is recorded in the request log

Request cycle is completed. There is no attempt to look for a linked item.



- This functionality will be implemented for "checkin" action activated via the "request-Check-In button" and "bulk Check-In" action.
- Since no item is linked to the request, when activating bulk Check-In, the user will have to enter request number rather than item barcode.
- Non-ISO request flow will remain as is today.



- Circulation Log enables maintaining an audit-trail as for patron and item activities.
- When discussing entries with patrons staff users often have to go to the item record for more information. At present this requires copying and pasting barcode information in order to reach the item record.



- In order to provide a link from Circulation Log to items list, a new button will be introduced in the Circulation Log interface: Go to Item.
- The new button will be located on the Circulation Log interface:





- In GUI-Circ there are 2 alternative for accessing the Circulation Log:
 - From Patron tab (records the selected patron activities)
 - From item tab (records the selected item activities)
- The new button will be displayed in both interfaces.
- The 'Go to Item' button will be active for Circulation Log entries which are related to an item. In cases where the circulation log is not related to an item, the button will be disabled (grayed-out).

- Upon clicking the new button, the GUI-Circulation-Items List will be opened, focusing on the item which is related to the circulation log.
- The Circulation-Items List will be displayed only for authorized staff users. The current staff user privilege is required: Circulation-Items Management-Items List.



- Aleph enables recording all changes made for items. Over time, the list of changes might become very long.
- Enhancing the list functionality so that recent selected line will remain as long as document number is not changed will improve the user navigation when working with long lists.

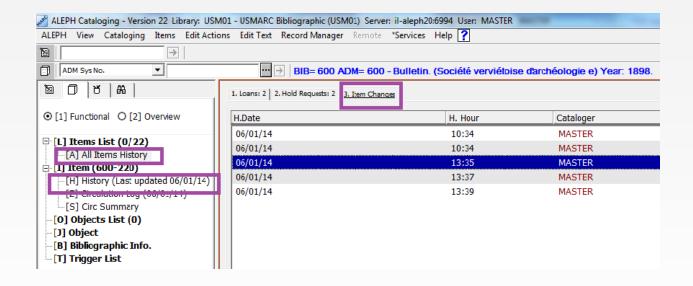


- The following GUI lists will be enhanced so that user's selected row will be kept (instead of returning back to the top of the list).
 - All Items History list/Item changes the recent selected row will be kept as long as referring to the same document number.
 - Specific Item History/Item changes the recent selected row will be kept as long
 as referring to the same item.



- When user initially loads doc number/item, the first row will be selected.
- User may select any other entry in the list. This selection will be kept until another doc number/item is loaded.
- The enhanced functionality will be implemented in the following:
 - GUI-Cataloging-Items tab
 - GUI-Circulation-Items tab
 - GUI-Acquisition/Serials-Serials tab







- The GetItemInfo RESTful-API returns information about the item, based on the Item BIB system number and Item number in the library (institution).
- This RESTful-API does exist in Aleph and return the item bibliographic information, including the current circulation status. The status varies according to the current item situation in the library whether it's on self, on hold, on loan, recalled etc.
- If item is on loan the function currently return the due date of the item.



- The GetItemInfo RESTful-API will be enhanced to return the due date and the due hour as item status in case the item is on loan.
- When item is not on loan the functionality will stay without any changes.
- The format of the time will be displayed at the discovery application will be based on Aleph configuration ('time_style_s' environment variable).
- When a specific format will not be indicated, Aleph will use its internal defaults.



- Specific Item this services accepts BIB Record number and ItemId and retrieves the item bibliographic information in details including the item circulation status.
- The status tag will include current due date and due hour in case the item is on loan.
- The time format will be displayed according to Aleph configuration.



 Following is an example of a call to the service when an item is on loan:

```
Url: http://server:port/rest-dlf/record/USM01000016325/items/USM50000016325000010
- <get-item>
  <reply-text>ok</reply-text>
  <reply-code>0000</reply-code>
- <item>
  <z30-sub-library-code>MUS</z30-sub-library-code>
  <z30-item-process-status-code />
  <z30-item-status-code>01</z30-item-status-code>
  <z30-collection-code>GEN</z30-collection-code>
  <aueue />
+ <z30>
+ < z13 >
  <status>29/01/14 12:02</status>
    </item>
  </get-item>
```



- Enhancing Aleph to enable integration with external payment system so that users will be able to pay their fines via Discovery Interfaces (Aleph OPAC/ PRIMO etc.);
- Allow patrons the ability to pay library fines and fees online
- Improve the user experience and ease library staff work, when dealing with fines/fees payment.



- The ability to enable internet payment solutions to get data from Aleph, perform payment and update Aleph with payment confirmation; will streamline the library payment workflow:
 - Payment can be done in real-time from anywhere
 - No specialized equipment needed in libraries
 - Increase patron satisfaction
 - More payment options credit card...
 - Reduced number of cash transactions for faster balancing, more security
 - Deposits made automatically to university financial system

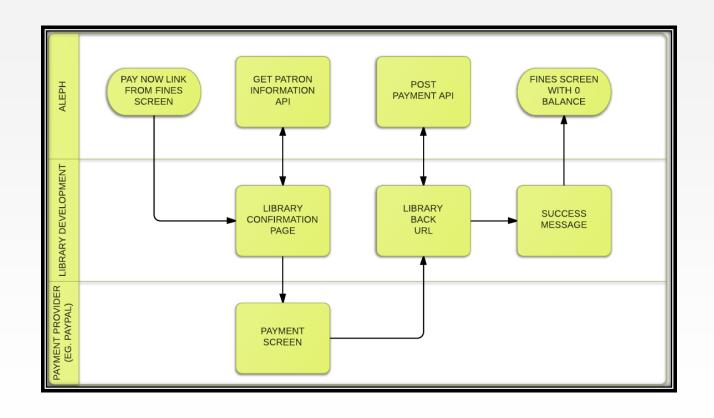


- There are many external payment systems (providers); each has its own methodology.
- In order to allow libraries integrate with any provider, Aleph will implement RESTful-API communication with the providers and a new workflow for:
 - Sending cash transaction payment details to the provider
 - Updating Aleph with payment details from the provider



Aleph integration with payment system

- Aleph will provide two RESTful-APIs, one for sending payment data to the provider and another for updating Aleph with payment details after action is completed.
- The library will be responsible for transferring payment data to the relevant provider (e.g. Pay-Pal, dibs, wpm, etc.) and getting payment approval/response from the provider.
- Upon moving to the provider interface, the relevant flow will be invoked (as designed by the internet payment solution provider).
- The library will need to open a payment receiving account at the provider site and transfer all details when applying to the provider (according to the provider's requirements).



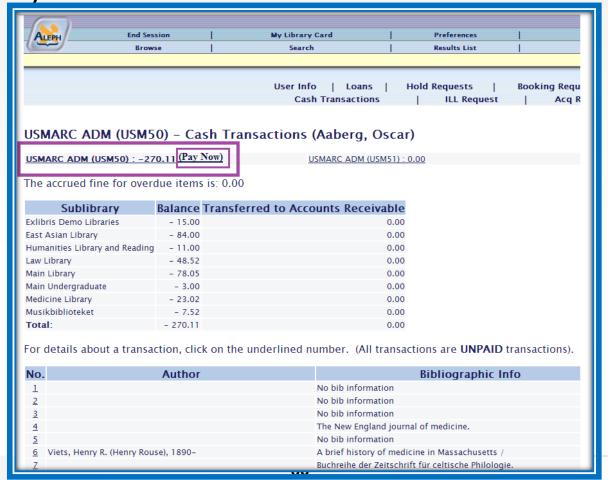


Pay fine link in OPAC

 In order to enable payment of library's fine via Discovery Interface (Aleph/Primo/etc.) the library will have to add a new link to the Library Card-Cash Transactions List.



- Pay fine link in OPAC
 - For example the new link, Pay Now, is placed next to the total amount of the user's fine in an ADM library.





- The Pay Now link will offer paying the total sum of patron's fine for a specific institution (ADM library).
- The library will design a HTML page (the Library Confirmation Page) to which user will be directed after the Pay Now link is clicked.
- Clicking the Pay Now link will load the 'Library Confirmation Page'. This page will call a RESTfull API for the user's circulation action (similar to the info show at OPAC-Library card), Including the total sum of the user's fine per ADM library.



 The format and content of the page will be decided by the library. For example:

Online Payment Notification
Dear user,
You are about to pay 121.13 EUR using
PayPal payment system.
Continue Cancel



 Successful payment – Success Message page (designed by the library) – example:





Successful payment – return to Aleph OPAC:

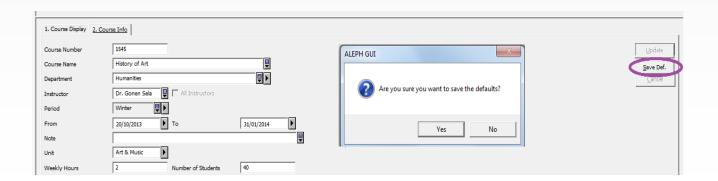




- Adding Save Defaults button on the Course Information form will reduce the manual typing and increase the efficiency of handling of course information when entering several courses for the semester.
- Save Defaults button will be added to GUI-Circ-Course Information Tab.
- Delete Course Defaults option will be added GUI-Circ-Upper bar ALEPH menu.



- A new Save Defaults button will be placed at Course Info form.
- The button will be enabled (when adding a new course and when updating an existing one).
- Upon clicking the Save Default button, a user's confirmation window wills pop-up: Are you sure you want to save the defaults? Yes/No.

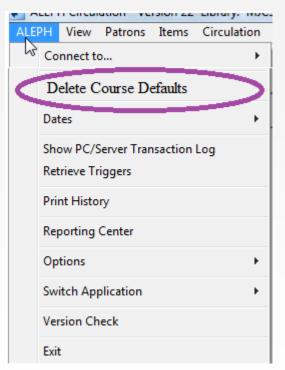




- If the user clicks the Save Default button and responded - Yes; the system will save the values the user entered and copy them to each new course form the user opens.
- The fields that are saved and copied are: Department, Instructor, Period, From and To date fields, Unit, Weekly hours
- Defaults are saved per workstation.
- The Save Defaults values will be pre-populated every time a new course is added; until the next time the "Save Defaults" button is used and new values are saved.



 A new option, Delete Course Defaults, will be added to GUI-Circ-Upper bar menu – ALEPH:



- The option will be enabled when there are course values saved as defaults.
- Use the Delete Course Defaults option to clear any default information that had been previously savedExLibris

Other enhancements



Support for 3M Staff Station

- Aleph currently supports communication with several RFID Vendors/devices
- The goal of this development is to add support for communication with an additional RFID vendor - 3M.
- The supported workflows will be the same as for the other vendors.



Support for 3M Staff Station

- Aleph should be configured to use the RFID tags/readers
- There are two main workflows in Aleph related to FDID tags readers:
 - Item information: Update RFID tag with item information upon item information change (e.g. update of item record, transfer, hold, booking)
 - Checkin and checkout: when an item is checked in or checked out, the RFID Reader will update the circulation status of the item. This information can be used by the security gate
- These workflows are already supported in Aleph for two RFID vendors and will be supported to 3M as well
- The workflow will be supported using web service (SOAP protocol)



RESTful-API: Informative Message when Renew is Denied

- Currently a generic message displays to the end user
- Enhancement Providing the specific reason as to why a renewal is not possible.
- Will be added to "Loans" service, "renew" action.



RESTful-API: Patron Warnings when Signing in

- "Get Patron Information" service
- Display of popup or alert message on logging in where fines, overdues, blocks, expired patron record, etc. exist.



Enhancement to Display Oracle tables data (UTIL F/4)

- When using UTIL F/4 to display Aleph doc(s), it is possible to add add data using expand_doc routine
- This option actually can be used to test an expand_doc
- The same functionality is required for fix_doc routines and will enable testing the routine
- A new view option will be added to Util F/4:

```
***** util_f_04 display Oracle tables data *****
Your active library is USM50
pw library: USR00
                     usr library: USR00
z00 related: z00/z00p/docp/z13/z13u/doc h/doc char_conv
[d] - doc
                    - z00 enriched with routines listed under U39-DOC in tab expand
[e] - doc expand - z00 enriched with programs under a specific section in tab expand
[n] - doc no expand - z00 as is, without any expand routines

    z00 enriched with programs under a specific section in tab_fix

[f] - doc fix

    z01/z02/z103/z11/z106

    z95/z97/z98/z980/word3

           - z101
           - z05/z110/z108/z112
           - z07/z07p/z105/z120/z127/z128
           - z12/z14/z16/z18/z20/z22
           - z30/z30h
           - z111/z104
```



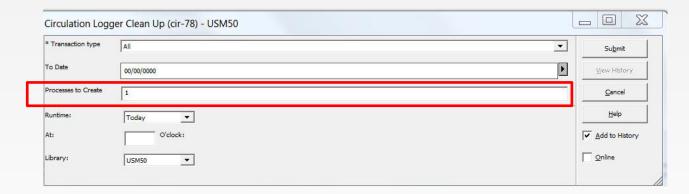
Performance improvement in p-cir-78

- Improve the performance of service p-cir-78 (cleanup of Circulation Logger table Z309).
- A very big Z309 table causes many Circulation activities to be slow, since a log is written to Z309 together with the ongoing activity
- Therefore it is recommended to clean up the Z309 table regularly
- This cleanup is a heavy task with many Oracle I/O in the ADM library, and is sometimes very slow (several hours).



Performance improvement in p-cir-78

 A new parameter enabling to divide the running of the service into several processes will be introduced



- The number of processes should be 1-50
- The choice depends on the number of CPU in the server, and also whether it is running at a busy time.
 The division into several parallel processes will enable the process to run faster.



Clean events and historic information tables

- Cleaning-up Z35, Z30H, Z36H, Z37H, Z38H and Z69 records
- These Oracle tables contain a large amount of historical information from either an ADM or BIB libraries
- The tables are automatically created and updated by the GUI and OPAC applications when user performs specific operations
- There is a need to clean those tables from time-totime (to avoid storing huge amount of old data)



Clean events and historic information tables

- A utility is required to clean the historic information from the following tables:
 - Z35 Information regarding the transactions of the Circulation and the Search functions
 - Z30H History of items (copies)
 - Z36H History of loan transactions.
 - Z37H History of request transactions.
 - Z38H History of photocopy request transactions.
 - Z69 Events that have occurred during use of the Web OPAC

Under design



Technical

• Windows 8.1 certification



ARC 4

- ARC 4 was released with V22.0
- What is new in ARC 4:
 - New/Enlarged fields
 - Option to save log files
 - New Cognos version Cognos 10.2



ARC 4.0 - New/Enlarged fields

- Patron global information:
 - Patron First Name
 - Patron Last Name
 - Birthplace
 - Note-3
 - Patron address enlarge to 200 characters.
 - Patron barcode and additional ID enlarge to 255 characters.
- Order information:
 - First Arrival Date
 - Last Arrival Date
- Request information:
 - Request Time Stamp



Option to save log files

- It is now possible to keep the ETL log files.
- When the following variable is defined in \$data_root/prof_library of the ADM library:

```
setenv keep_arc_log_files Y
```

 Log files of the ETL will be saved with timestamp suffix and won't be deleted. For example:

p_arc_01.log.**20140115.065049**



New Cognos version – Cognos 10.2

- ARC4 is released with Cognos 10.2 (The latest Cognos version).
- Cognos 10.2 new features:
 - 1. Cognos workspace
 - 2. Enhanced Charts
 - 3. Active report
 - 4. External Data source

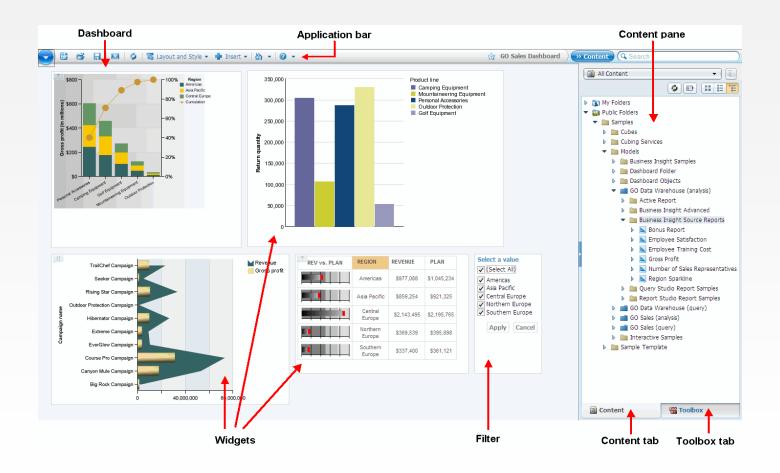


Cognos workspace

- A new tool to create dashboards in Cognos
- Each object in exiting reports can be included in the dashboard
- Dashboards can include also widgets
- Interactive User can enter prompt values or filters
- Dynamic User can add/remove objects from the dashboard
- Enables users to assemble and explore all types of data in any time

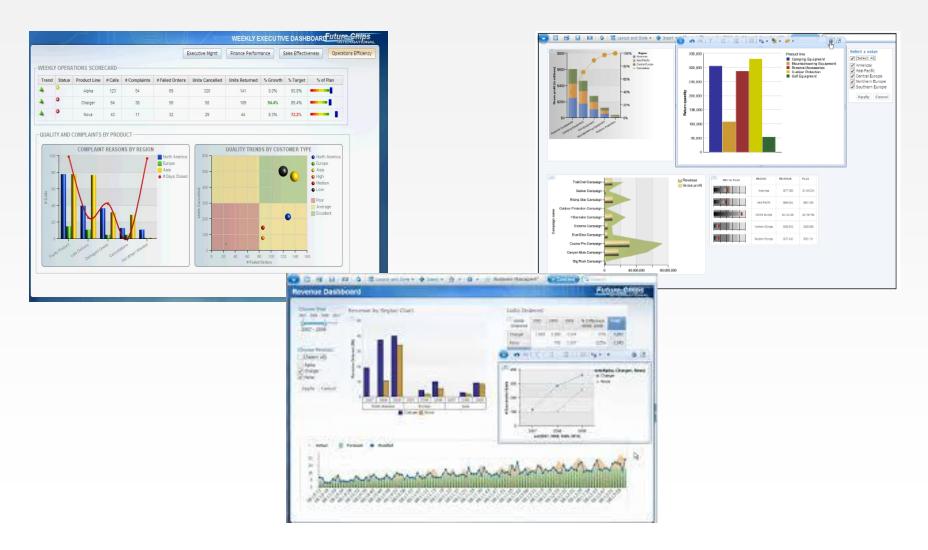


Cognos workspace screen





Cognos workspace - Examples



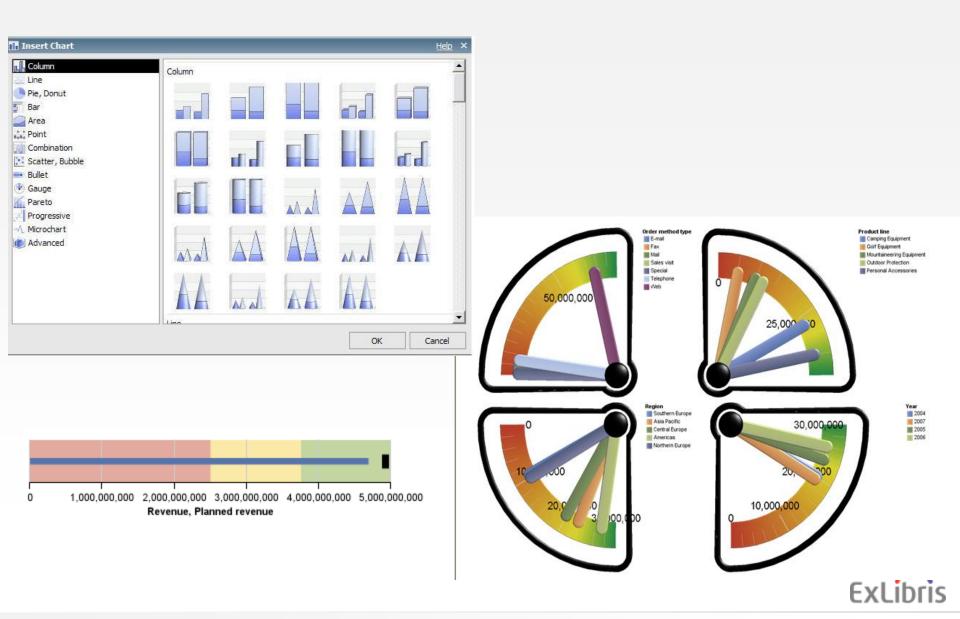


Enhanced Charts

- Report Studio is now using a new chart engine for any new chart create.
- The new charting engine will allow setting more properties to modify the appearance, and will give a preview of the chart at design time.
- New types of charts where added- bullet charts, spark lines etc



Enhanced Charts - New charts

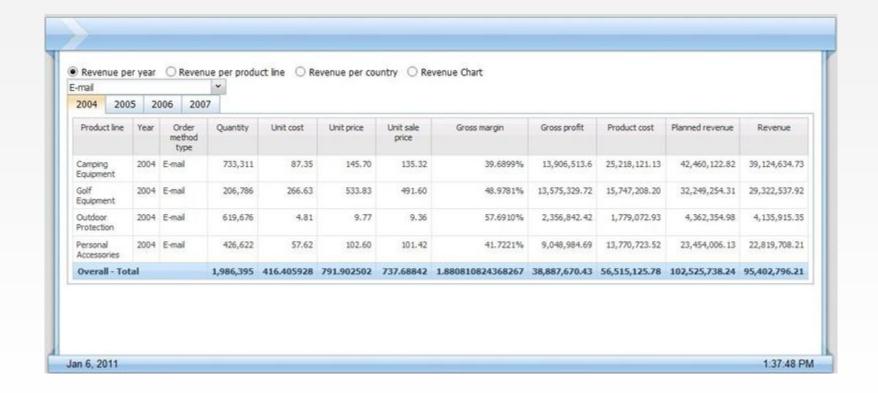


Active reports

- Active report is a stand-alone file that can run outside the ARC DB and show the data interactively
- This tool gives the ability to send reports to management without a real connection to ARC DB.



Active reports examples



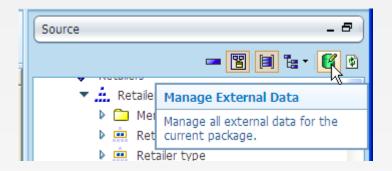


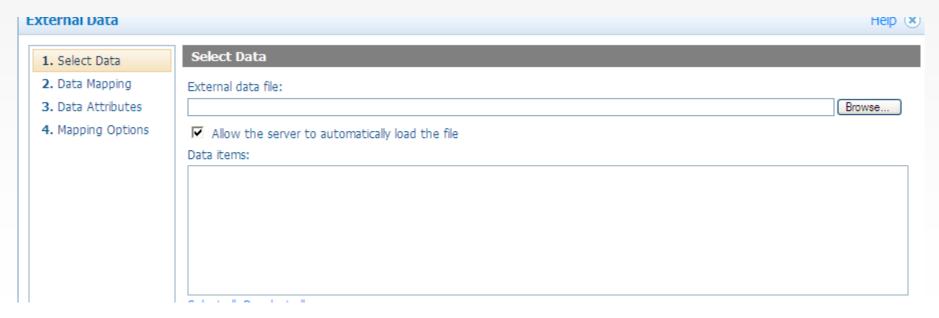
External Data source

- Ability to merge corporate information with external file-based data.
- Excel, tab-delimited text files, csv-files and XMLdata files can be imported as external data
- External data are available from the report studio tool
- When external data is imported, a new package is created
- Provide users with the flexibility to use additional data without impacting the BI system



External Data source - Example







Thank you

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