
Alma April 2017 Release Notes



The Soul of Alma Analytics Driven



Download a PDF of the Release Notes

The April 2017 release is primarily devoted to maintenance, cloud infrastructure and other important tasks that periodically need to be handled in order to ensure that Alma meets the highest standards of performance and high availability. The release notes include several updates for April, a description of some of our current focus areas, and a few sneak previews of good things to come.

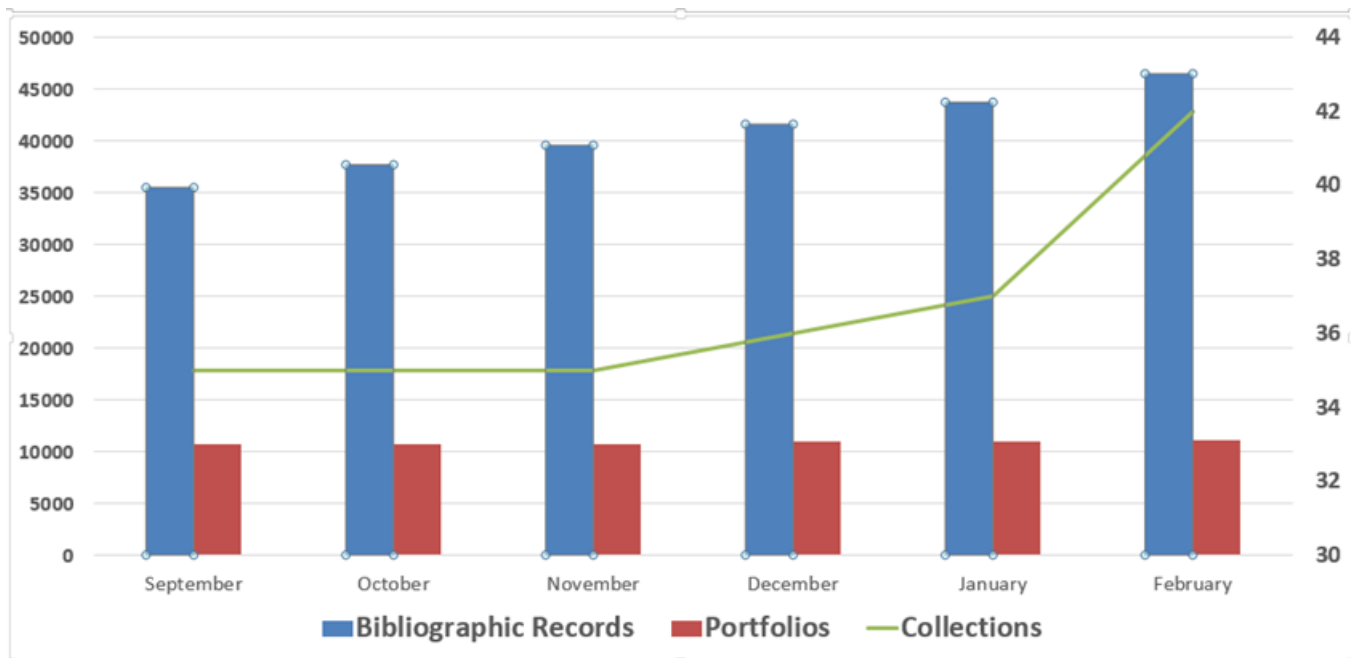
Benchmark Analytics

The new Benchmark subject area was added to Alma Analytics. With this subject area, you can create Analytics reports comparing the performance of your institution to similar institutions. For more information, see [Benchmark](#).

Community Zone Updates

- In the past six months, the Community Zone KnowledgeBase was updated as follows:
 - 856 electronic collections were added.
 - 19 electronic collections were withdrawn.
 - Portfolios from 3161 electronic collections were added, updated, or deleted.
- As part of Ex Libris' efforts to incorporate 360KB content into the Alma Community Zone:
 - 9,092 collections representing databases (zero title databases) were added.

- 46 full text collections were added.
- Community Zone bibliographic records were enriched from different providers as follows:
 - ProQuest: 1.2 million records
 - IEEE: 320 records
 - Cambridge University Press: 31250 records
 - Credo Reference: 700 records
 - Springer: 195000 records
 - Oxford University Press: 25000 records
- Click [here](#) for authority record Community Zone updates and new electronic collections added to the Alma CKB in the past month.
- Alma's community continues to contribute to the Community Zone. The following graph displays a breakdown of Alma community contributions:



New Projects and Enhancements

- The UX redesign project is underway and the Alma team is working hard on the infrastructure changes in Alma in order to ensure a smooth rollout of the early access release in June. As part of this important project, Ex

Libris recently hosted a UX design workshop to test the new UI against real day-to-day tasks and workflows. Read the blog about the workshop [here](#). See the UX rollout plan [here](#).

- As a result of input from the Authentication Focus Group, we are working on new authentication options. A new feature—Sign In with Email—will be released for early access customers as part of the June release.
- Ex Libris continues to extend the real-time ordering and auto holdings update integration with additional vendor systems. Stay tuned for more updates.
- Effective with the April release, Alma customers with bX installed will automatically be activated in a gradual manner to contribute Alma link resolver statistics to the bX database.

Regional Updates

- New Data Centers were recently opened in Canada and China.
- We are improving and enhancing Alma's support of CNMARC for the Chinese market.
- For German-speaking countries, we are providing enhanced Community Zone-level support for RVK and GND.
- For Italian institutions, we are in the certification process for integration with SBN.

APIs

- The order of the fields returned by Ex Libris' REST APIs is not guaranteed and should not be assumed to remain constant. With this release, the order of the fields within the JSON objects returned by some REST APIs will differ from previous results.

Sneak Preview of Future Releases

- **Merge and Combine** – Alma currently supplies the option to identify duplicate bibliographic records in the repository using the Duplicate Title Analysis batch job. This job creates a report of the duplicates found according to a certain identifier. To remove the redundant records from the repository, a new batch job is being developed, Merge Records and Combine Inventory. This job uses the report created by the Duplicate Title Analysis job to merge the duplicate records and combine the inventory of those records under one bibliographic record. This functionality is currently being tested by the Orbis Cascade Alliance and will be available to all Alma users in a future release.
- **Automated Fulfillment Network** – With this feature, institutions working with a fulfillment network will be able to let their patrons request items held at any one of the fulfillment network member institutions, without having

to manually select the supplier and without having to manage the request status. This new feature is currently being tested and will be available to all Alma users within a few months.

- [View a list of the features](#) that are planned for the May Alma release.



Content Operations - April 2017 Enhancements

Authority Record Community Zone Updates

The following are the Library of Congress subject authority updates for the period of February 17th through March 15th:

- Number of records updated: 60
- Number of records added: 137
- Number of records deleted: 14

The following are the Library of Congress name authority updates for the period of February 17th through March 15th:

- Number of records updated: 16499
- Number of records added: 22979
- Number of records deleted: 401

The following are the Canadian name authority updates for the period of February 17th through March 15th:

- Number of records updated: 68
- Number of records added: 465
- Number of records deleted: 7

The following are the Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms (LCGFT) updates for the period of February 17th through March 15th:

- Number of records updated: 1
- Number of records added: 2

New Electronic Collections Added to the Alma CKB

The following collections were added to the Alma Community Zone from February 20th through March 19th:

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- American Mental Health Counselors Association Publications
- American Occupational Therapy Association Publications
- American School Counselor Association
- Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
- Chicago Manual of Style Online
- Cochrane Library
- College Art Association (CAA) Reviews
- De Gruyter Journals HSS All Languages 2017
- De Gruyter Journals HSS English 2017
- De Gruyter Journals STM All Languages 2017
- De Gruyter Journals STM English 2017
- EBSCOhost Academic Search Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Academic Search Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Applied Science & Technology Source Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Applied Science & Technology Source Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Humanities Source Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Humanities Source Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Sociology Source Ultimate
- EBSCOhost Sociology Source Ultimate
- Education Week
- eLibrary
- Elsevier ScienceDirect eBook - Elsevier Masson French Health Sciences Collection 2016
- EStatement Studies
- European Commission - Economic and Financial Affairs
- European Commission Environment Publications
- European Commission Research Publications
- European Commission-European Economy-Occasional Papers
- Future Science Books
- GeoScienceWorld eBooks Collection
- Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs
- JUSTICE SAGE Journal Premier 2015
- Karger Books Archive

- MetPublications
- Morgan & Claypool General Engineering, Technology & Mathematics Collection Three
- Morgan & Claypool Colloquium Collection 3
- Morgan & Claypool Colloquium Collection 4
- MPublishing Journals
- National Academies Press Paid Publications
- National Bureau of Economic Research Publications
- National Principals Resource Center (NPRC)
- National Science Teachers Association
- NCSS Members Only Publication Archive
- Old City Publishing
- Ovid Lippincott Williams and Wilkins Total Access Collection 2017
- Oxford Art Online
- Project Muse eBooks 2017
- ProQuest ABI/INFORM Collection (Alumni)
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers - Boston Globe
- Sagamore Publishing Journals
- Scientific Research Publishing (SCIRP) Journals
- Society of American Archivists Publications
- Specialist Nursing Journals
- SpringerLink Books Humanities, Social Science German Archive
- SpringerLink Protocols 2017
- Teachers College Record
- UpToDate
- Women's Wear Daily

New External Search Resources

No new external search resources were added for the April release.

Next Release Sneak Preview

Acquisitions

- With the May release, all Alma institutions will be able to import COUNTER data directly to Alma and use all COUNTER features. For Alma customers already using UStat, all previously loaded COUNTER data and defined subscribers in UStat will be imported to Alma with the May release. As of the May release, all live Alma institutions should no longer use UStat.

Resource Management



- **A NERS Enhancement:** Publishing Enhancements – Publishing to OCLC and to Libraries Australia will be enhanced.
- Authorities Update Redirection Support – Alma will automatically redirect authorities that use ID-based linkage.
- Enhancements to RVK Support – RVK support in the Community Zone will be enhanced with a new structure. Additional search indexes will be added.

Digital Resource Management

- End User Deposit – The May Release will see the first part of built-in end user deposit, including the relevant forms and workflows to support this functionality.
- Enhancements to File Delivery – Alma will provide open, file-based delivery in addition to today's representation-level delivery.



- **Idea Exchange:** Obtrusive Copyrights – Alma will support the option for obtrusive copyrights, meaning the viewer will display the copyrights page by default.

Fulfillment



- **A NERS Enhancement:** Enhance Lists with MMS ID – A number of fulfillment lists will now include a column for the MMS ID.

Resource Sharing

- **Locate Profiles for Items that Can Be Loaned and Requested** – It will be possible to define separate locate profiles for items that can be requested and loaned.

Analytics

- **Enhancements to the Course Reserve Subject Area** – The Course Reserves subject area will be enhanced with improved copyright information. In addition, there will be enhancements to Leganto-specific information.
- **Licenses** – The license dimension will be expanded in those subject areas in which there is information about licensing—for example, in the E-Inventory and Funds Expenditure subject areas.
- **Enhancements to the Link Resolver Subject Area** – The January 2017 release of Alma allowed for the reporting of digital usage as part of the Link Resolver subject area. New measures will be added to this subject area in the May release, allowing not only for aggregated reports of E and D, but also for a separation of the two.
- **Enhancements to the Usage Data Subject Area** – There will be a number of enhancements to the managing of COUNTER usage reports in Alma that will allow—for example, for filtering by reports that have or have not been loaded by the SUSHI scheduler. Additionally, several new COUNTER report formats will be supported.

Administration



- **Idea Exchange:** Email Attachment Retention and Purge – It will now be possible to define the retention period for email attachments, as well as whether you want to purge them. The configuration will depend on the type of message (such as the monthly summary statement and the ‘on hold shelf’ notice).

APIs

- There will be a new Collection API.
- Enhancements to the Electronic Inventory APIs – There will be improvements to the GET APIs for retrieving electronic services, and the GET API for electronic portfolios.

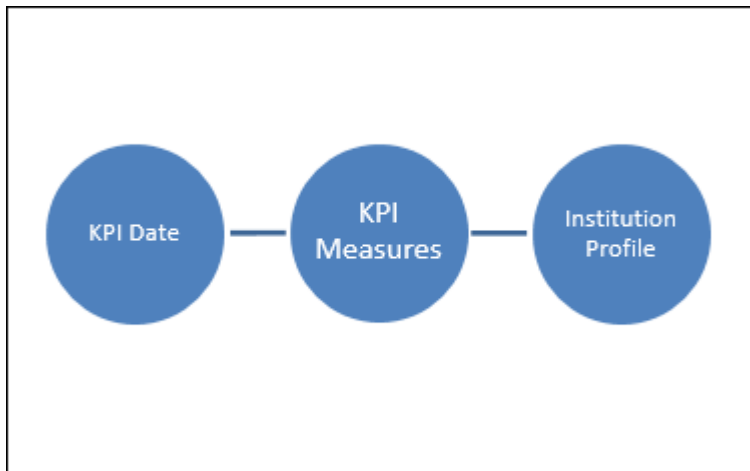
Benchmark

New for April!

Using the Benchmark subject area, you can create analytics reports comparing the performance of your institution to similar institutions. These reports can help you identify places in your workflow that can be improved.

The following are some example of business questions that can be investigated with this subject area:

- What is the average time in my institution (compared to other institutions) from when the order is sent until the electronic resource is activated?
- What is the average time in my institution (compared to other institutions) from when the order is sent until the physical item arrives?
- What is the average time in my institution (compared to other institutions) for a physical item hold request to be processed?
- What is the percentage of loans in my institution (compared to other institutions) that were returned late?

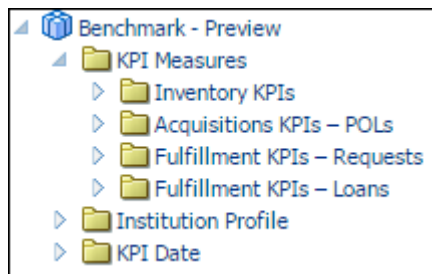


Star Diagram – Benchmark

NOTE: The Benchmark subject area is available for customer preview and may undergo changes in the future.

Field Descriptions

The following fields are available in Benchmark:



Benchmark - Field Descriptions

KPI Measures

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) table is a fact table that stores all measures relating to KPIs. It is divided into four areas:

- Inventory KPIs
 - Acquisition KPIs - POLs
 - Fulfillment KPIs - Requests
 - Fulfillment KPIs - Loans
-

Inventory KPIs

Field	Description	Additional Information
Total		
Number of bibliographic records in repository (total)	The total number of bibliographic records in the repository	
Number of physical items in repository (total)	The total number of physical items in the repository	
Number of electronic portfolios in repository (total)	The total number of electronic portfolios in the repository	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Number of electronic collections in repository (total)	The total number of electronic collections in the repository	
Monthly		
Number of bibliographic records in repository added (by month)	The number of bibliographic records added to the repository per month	
Number of physical items in repository added (by month)	The number of physical items added to the repository per month	
Number of electronic portfolios in repository added (by month)	The number of electronic portfolios added to the repository per month	
Number of electronic collections in repository added (by month)	The number of electronic collections added to the repository per month	

Acquisition KPIs - POLs

Field	Description	Additional Information
Physical - Average days from POL sent to item arrival	The average number of days that passed from the sending of the PO line for physical items until they arrived	
Physical - Average days from POL creation to sent	The average number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for physical items until they were sent	
Physical - Average days from POL creation to item arrival	The average number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for physical items until they arrived	
Physical - Med days from POL sent to item arrival	The median number of days that passed from the sending of the PO line for physical items until they arrived	
Physical - Med from POL creation to sent	The median number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for physical items until they were sent	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Physical - Med from POL creation to item arrival	The median number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for physical items until they arrived	
Physical - 95% days from POL sent to item arrival	The number of days after the PO line was sent by which 95% of the physical items arrived	
Physical - 95% days from POL creation to sent	The number of days by which 95% of the items were sent after the PO line was created	
Physical - 95% days from POL creation to item arrival	The number of days by which 95% of the items were received after the PO line was created	
Electronic Portfolio - Average days from POL sent to portfolio activation	The average number of days that passed from the sending of the PO line for electronic portfolios until they were activated	
Electronic Portfolio - Average days from POL creation to sent	The average number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for electronic portfolios until they were sent	
Electronic Portfolio - Average days from POL creation to portfolio activation	The average number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for electronic portfolios until they were activated	
Electronic Portfolio - Med days from POL sent to portfolio activation	The median number of days that passed from the sending of the PO line for electronic portfolios until they were activated	
Electronic Portfolio - Med days from POL creation to sent	The median number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for electronic portfolios until they were sent	
Electronic Portfolio - Med days from POL creation to portfolio activation	The median number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for electronic portfolios until they were activated	
Electronic Portfolio - 95% days from POL sent to portfolio activation	The number of days by which 95% of the sent portfolios were activated	
Electronic Portfolio - 95% days from POL creation to sent	The number of days by which 95% of the created PO lines were sent	
Electronic Portfolio - 95% days from POL creation to portfolio activation	The number of days by which 95% of the created PO lines were activated	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Electronic Collection - Average days from POL sent to collection activation	The average number of days that passed from the sending of the PO line for an electronic collection until it was activated	
Electronic Collection - Average days from POL creation to sent	The average number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for an electronic collection until it was sent	
Electronic Collection - Average days from POL creation to collection activation	The average number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for an electronic collection until it was activated	
Electronic Collection - Med days from POL sent to collection activation	The median number of days that passed from the sending of the PO line for an electronic collection until it was activated	
Electronic Collection - Med days from POL creation to sent	The median number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for an electronic collection until it was sent	
Electronic Collection - Med days from POL creation to collection activation	The median number of days that passed from the creation of the PO line for an electronic collection until it was activated	
Electronic Collection - 95% days from POL sent to collection activation	The number of days by which 95% of the sent PO lines for electronic collections were activated	
Electronic Collection - 95% days from POL creation to sent	The number of days by which 95% of the created PO lines for electronic collections were sent	
Electronic Collection - 95% days from POL creation to collection activation	The number of days by which 95% of the created PO lines for electronic collections were activated	

Fulfillment KPIs - Requests

Field	Description	Additional Information
Number of patron physical item requests created (by month)	The number of patron physical item requests created per month	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Number of booking requests created (by month)	The number of booking requests created per month	
Number of digitization requests created (by month)	The number of digitization requests created per month	
Number of patron physical item requests rejected (by month)	The number of patron physical item requests rejected per month	
Number of patron physical item requests rejected by library (by month)	The number of patron physical item requests rejected by a library per month	
Number of patron physical item requests rejected by patron (by month)	The number of patron physical item requests rejected by a patron library per month	
Number of physical item requests that involved transits (by month)	The number of physical item requests that involved transits per month	
Average processing time physical item requests (date on hold shelf - date created) (last 365 days)	The average processing time for physical item requests for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the date the physical item request was created and the date the item was placed on the hold shelf.)	
Med processing time physical item requests (date on hold shelf - date created) (last 365 days)	The median processing time for physical item requests for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the date the physical item request was created and the date the item was placed on the hold shelf.)	
95% processing time physical item requests (date on hold shelf - date created) (last 365 days)	The amount of processing time by which 95% of physical item requests were processed in the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the date the item request was created and the date the physical item was put on the hold shelf.)	

Fulfillment KPIs - Loans

Field	Description	Additional Information
Number of loans (In House+ Not In House) (by month)	The number of loans including in house and not in house loans per month	
Number of loans (In House) (by month)	The number of in house loans per month	
Number of loans (Not In House) (by month)	The number of not in house loans per month	
Number of returns (In House+ Not In House) (by month)	The number of returns including in house and not in house loans per month	
Number of returns (In House) (by month)	The number of in house returns per month	
Number of returns (Not In House) (by month)	The number of not in house returns per month	
Number of late returns (Not In House) (by month)	The number of not in house late returns per month	
Number of on time returns (Not In House) (by month)	The number of not in house on time returns per month	
% of late returns (by month)	The percent of late returns per month	
% of on time returns (by month)	The percent of on time returns per month	
Number of returns at non-owning library (Not In House) (by month)	The number of not in house returns at a non-owning library per month	
Number of returns at owning library (Not In House) (by month)	The number of not in house returns at an owning library per month	
% of returns at non-owning library (by month)	The percent of returns at a non-owning library per month	
% of returns at owning library (by month)	The percent of returns at an owning library per month	
Average expected loan period (due date - loan date) (last 365 days)	The average expected loan period for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the due date and the loan date.)	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Average actual loan period (return date - loan date) (last 365 days)	The average actual loan period for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the return date and the loan date.)	
Average loan days deviation from due date (average expected loan period - average actual loan period (last 365 days)	The average loan days deviation from due date for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the average expected loan period and the average actual loan period.)	
Med expected loan period (due date - loan date) (last 365 days)	The median expected loan period for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the due date and the loan date.)	
Med actual loan period (due date - loan date) (last 365 days)	The median actual loan period for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the due date and the loan date.)	
Med loan days deviation from due date (med expected loan period - med actual loan period (last 365 days)	The median loan days deviation from due date for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the median expected loan period and the median actual loan period.)	
95% expected loan period (due date - loan date) (last 365 days)	The expected loan period for 95% of the loans for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the loan date and the due date.)	
95% actual loan period (due date - loan date) (last 365 days)	The actual loan period for 95% of the loans for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the loan date and the due date.)	
95% loan days deviation from due date (P95 expected loan period - P95 actual loan period (last 365 days)	The number of loan days deviation from the due date for 95% of the loans for the last 365 days. (Calculated by the number of days between the actual loan period and the expected loan period.)	

Institution Profile

Field	Description	Additional Information
Primary areas of study that the institution serves		
Serves Humanities	Indicates if the institution serves humanities	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Serves Social Sciences	Indicates if the institution serves social sciences	
Serves Sciences	Indicates if the institution serves sciences	
Serves Engineering	Indicates if the institution serves engineering	
Serves Multidisciplinary	Indicates if the institution serves multidisciplinary areas	
Serves Other	Indicates if the institution serves other areas	
Professional graduate schools of the institution		
Has Medical School	Indicates if the institution has a medical school	
Has Dental School	Indicates if the institution has a dental school	
Has Public Health School	Indicates if the institution has a public health school	
Has Business School	Indicates if the institution has a business school	
Has Law School	Indicates if the institution has a law school	
Has Other School	Indicates if the institution has other graduate schools	
Organizations to which the institution belongs		
Belongs to American Library Association (ALA)	Indicates if the institution belongs to the American Library Association (ALA)	
Belongs to American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)	Indicates if the institution belongs to the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)	
Belongs to Association of Research Libraries (ARL)	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)	
Belongs to Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)	
Belongs to Canadian Library Association	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Canadian Library Association	
Belongs to Canadian Association of Law Libraries	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Canadian Association of Law Libraries	

Field	Description	Additional Information
Belongs to Australian Library and Information Association	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Australian Library and Information Association	
Belongs to Library and Information Association of New Zealand	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Library and Information Association of New Zealand	
Belongs to Association of European Research Libraries	Indicates if the institution belongs to the Association of European Research Libraries	
Belongs to German Library Association	Indicates if the institution belongs to the German Library Association	
Belongs to Other	Indicates if the institution belongs to other organizations	
Total annual amount spent		
Total annual amount spent on all materials	The total amount spent on all materials	
Total annual amount spent on electronic materials	The total amount spent on electronic materials	
Total annual amount spent on physical materials	The total amount spent on physical materials	
Student body size		
Total undergraduate student body size	The total undergraduate student body size	
Total graduate student body size	The total graduate student body size	
Institution type	The institution type	
Main source of library funding	The main source of library funding	
Is my institution	Indicates your institution	
Is network institution	Indicates a network institution	
Is consortia member institution	Indicates a consortia member institution	
Institution	Your intuition	

KPI Date

Field	Description	Additional Information
KPI date	Stores the KPI date in the date format 2/29/2012	
KPI month key	Stores the month of the date in number format such as 2 for February	
KPI month	Stores the month of the date in month description format such as February	
KPI full month	Stores the month and the year of the date in a display format such as Feb 12	
KPI quarter	Stores the quarter of the date in a display format such as Q1	
KPI year	Stores the year of the date in string format such as 2012	
KPI date	Stores the Hierarchy column that allows the user to drill down from the year to the month to the specific loan date. Using this column provides the user with the option to view the accumulative measures in each level of the hierarchy.	