RFID Support

To configure an RFID integration profile, you must have the following role:

• General System Administrator

You can use RFID readers for scanning item barcodes and for registering their check-out and check-in. After the RFID integration profile is added, a connection icon appears in the main menu bar as long as a location is selected from the Currently At drop-down.

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**Note**

The RFID icon appears only if an RFID integration profile is defined and set as active, and you have selected a location.

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For more information about RFID Support, see the [RFID support video](#) (1:51 mins).

**Supported RFID Devices**

For a list of supported RFID devices, see [https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/rfid](https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/rfid).

For information for other vendors on how they can integrate with Alma (development may be needed on the vendor’s side), see [https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/rfid/information_for_rfid_vendor/](https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/rfid/information_for_rfid_vendor/)

**Using RFID to Read Item Barcode**

If the RFID connection is not currently active, it appears as grayed out:

To user RFID to read item barcode:

1. Select the connection icon to open an RFID communication pop-up window. This enables the communication with the reader and must be left open in order to read from or write to the reader.

This window is needed for communication with the RFID reader.

Please keep it open.

The connection icon on the menu bar changes to activated

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Ex Libris, Part of Clarivate
When switching to a new desk, you must activate the connection again by selecting the connection icon.

2. Select the blue icon next to the search bar to activate the RFID reader to read the barcode of the item that is currently at the counter, and display the item.
All input boxes that accept a barcode show the blue icon as long as the RFID connection is active. These boxes are found in the following locations: Scan In, Return Items, Patron Services, Repository Search, Receive New Material, Physical Item Editor, Quick Cataloging, and Persistent Search (throughout Alma). Additionally, while on a screen that has the icon to read a barcode, the keyboard shortcut Alt+A, activates the reader to display the listing.

When searching for physical items, the search result will display the RFID Security Status.

When scanning a multi-part item using RFID, if some of the resources have not been scanned, a message will be displayed indicating that not all of the item resources were scanned.

Using the RFID reader to scan and loan an item disables the security bit on the RFID tag. Returning the item re-enables the security tag.

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**Configuring RFID Integration Profile**

**To configure the RFID integration profile:**

1. On the Integration Profiles List page (Configuration Menu > General > External Systems > Integration Profiles), select Add Integration Profile.
2. Enter Code and Name of the profile.
3. Select RFID from the Integration Type drop down list.
4. Select the RFID system that you are using from the System dropdown list, and select Next.

Supported systems are (see RFID Support):

- Bibliotecha - Liber8Connect Link
- 3M - 896
- Seret
- Nedap
- Other

**Note**

If you select Other from the list of systems, the System Description field appears for further system details.
5. Select the **Active** checkbox to make this an active RFID definition. **Note: the profile is inactive by default.**

6. Enter the URL for the RFID system to which your RFID device is attached.

7. For 3M - 896 only, the **Tag Format value** field appears. Contact your RFID supplier for the relevant tag format for the device and enter it in this field.

8. Select **Handle Multiple Items** to accept multiple items on the RFID reader.

9. Configure and/or review the following definitions:
   - RFID Material Type Definition (see the [Configuring the RFID Material Type Definition](#) section below)
   - RFID Item Policy Definition (see the [Configuring the RFID Item Policy Definition](#) section below)
   - Mapping of RFID Fields to Alma Fields (see the [Mapping the RFID Fields to Alma Fields](#) section below)

**Note**

- The Nedap system is used only for check in and check out and does not allow updating the tag itself. Therefore, the mapping definitions are unavailable for Nedap RFID profiles.
- When **Other** is selected in the **System** field on page 1 of the integration profile, the **Item Information Update** field appears. In this case, the definitions appear only after selecting the check box.
- If IPs need to be configured for the RFID readers, the reader IPs need to be configured on the circulation desk configuration as well, for example when working with Nedap, or with some RFID vendors that integrate with the Alma Other RFID Integration profile type. See [Adding a Circulation Desk](#).

10. Select **Save**.

For more information on configuring RFID, see [https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/rfid](https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/RFID).

### Configuring the RFID Material Type Definition

Since the RFID reader requires numeric content (that varies among RFID vendor implementations), the RFID Material Type Code Table provides you the ability to map alphabetic material type codes that you currently have defined in Alma to numeric values. The RFID Material Type Code Table uses the Physical Material Type Code Table definitions. See [Configuring Physical Item Material Type Descriptions](#) for more information.
To configure the RFID Material Type Code Table:

1. On the Integration Profiles List page (Configuration Menu > General > External Systems > Integration Profiles), open your RFID Integration Profile and select the RFID Material Type Definition link. The RFID Material Type code table page appears. In a Network environment, the Manage Table in Network options appear.

2. In the Create a New Code Table Row section, select one of the existing material type codes from the Code dropdown list, enter a numeric value for the Description (mandatory), and select Add Row. Continue adding rows for each Alma material type to which you want to assign a numeric value for the RFID reader.

3. Select Customize (or Save if you have previously edited this code table).

Configuring the RFID Item Policy Definition

Since the RFID reader requires numeric content (that varies among RFID vendor implementations), the RFID Item Policy code table provides you the ability to map alphabetic item policy codes that you currently have defined in the system to numeric values.

To configure the RFID Item Policy code table:

1. On the Integration Profiles List page (Configuration Menu > General > External Systems > Integration Profiles), open your RFID Integration Profile and select the RFID Item Policy Definition link. The RFID Item Policy code table page appears. In a Network environment, the Manage Table in Network options appear.
2. In the Create a New Code Table Row section, select one of the existing item policy codes from the Code drop-down list, enter a numeric value for the Description (mandatory), and select Add Row. Continue adding rows for each Alma item policy to which you want to assign a numeric value for the RFID reader.

3. Select Customize (or Save if you have previously edited this code table).

Mapping the RFID Fields to Alma Fields

The Mapping of RFID Fields to Alma Fields link displays the RFID Fields mapping table settings. The settings on this page determine what information is written to the RFID tag. From this page, you can see which fields are enabled to be written to the RFID tag. In addition, you can see one of the following Alma field settings that has been mapped to each of the RFID tag fields:

- Barcode
- Call number
- ISSN / ISBN
- Is magnetic
- Item policy
- Library code
- Location
- Material type
- N/A
- Pieces
- Title

Alma Fields that can be Mapped

If you need to customize the field mapping or which fields are enabled to be written to the RFID tag, contact Support for assistance.
Configuring Library Codes for RFID

Since the RFID reader requires numeric content (that varies among RFID vendor implementations), the Alma library configuration (Configuration Menu > General > Libraries section > Add a Library or Edit Library Information) provides a field for specifying a numeric code value in addition to the alphanumeric code used within Alma. For example, the 3M LibraryID parameter requires a numeric (integer) value.

Note

The Code for RFID field needs to be configured in order to write RFID content.

This field is only visible when the RFID connection is active.

Configuring Location Codes for RFID

Since the RFID reader requires numeric content (that varies among RFID vendor implementations), the Alma location configuration (Configuration Menu > Fulfillment > Locations > Physical Locations when configuring a specific library) provides a field for specifying a numeric code value in addition to the alphanumeric code used within Alma. The Location Code for RFID field needs to be configured in order to write RFID content. This field is only visible when the RFID connection is active.
RFID Location Code (Numeric)

For more information, see Configuring Physical Locations.

Transaction Log

The RFID Communication window that opens when you select the connection icon can be expanded to display a list of request and response RFID transaction activity. Use this log to help resolve any failed transaction with your RFID communication. Include a copy of this log with any RFID Salesforce issue that you may submit.

RFID Communication Window Transaction Log

For more information, see https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/rfid.

Scanning Multiple Items

Once the "Handle Multiple Items" checkbox is selected in the integration profile, RFID can process scans, either as a
single item, or with multiple item as follows:

When the RFID button is pressed, the items on the RFID pad will be processed. When processing is complete, a summary confirmation popup will appear, detailing how many items were handled successfully, and presenting any alerts that came up during the scan. If all items are successfully processed, a success message is displayed. If an item requires action, the process is paused until you select Confirm or Cancel. Selecting Cancel only stops processing for the specific item. When multi-scan processing is completed, a summary of the processing is provided. Items that require an action appear under Failed/Canceled Items. Items that do not need action appear under Items Requiring Attention.

Multi-scan Summary

You can use the RFID button on the following pages when there is either a single item or multiple items on the RFID pad:

- Scan in items
- Scan in items > change item information - On this tab, multiple items can be processed as stated above with the exception of the following circumstances;
  - When a new barcode is created.
  - When the RFID integration profile is configured to update items and Update RFID is selected on the tab.
- Manage patron services > Loans tab
- Manage patron services > Returns tab
- Return Items

For Bibliotecha, this is only supported when using staffConnect Link (using the Other type in the integration profile) or D-Tech. For additional assistance with StaffConnect link, contact support-ch@bibliotheca.com. For a list of supported RFID vendors, see Alma - RFID Integration on the Developer Network.

The multi-scan function applies only to reading, not updating. Additionally, please note the circumstances on the Scan In Items Change Information tab where multi-scan is not supported.