What's New in Alexandria 7.16.2?

Wow! Have we got some great updates for you. We're talking Holds, Money, Passwords, and more. Keep watching to find out what's new in Alexandria 7.16.2!

Holds

One of the biggest changes you will see in the new version is in how holds are handled, and the new options that come with that.

When placing a hold, through Search or Explore or Circulation, you get a new window. If you are in a Central Union, these Place Hold options let you (and your patrons) specify if they want a copy from their own library or any in the district. We've also introduced the Pickup Location, so your patrons can choose which library they will pick their hold up at.

The other big addition for your patrons is the concept of Suspend. If you are #136 in line for the latest Potter-Twilight-Hunger-Wimpy-Lunar book, but you don't want the hold to come in until you've re-read the entire series again, there's a simple solution: Suspend the hold for a few weeks. When a hold is 'suspended' it acts like a normal hold until you reach #1. Then, at #1, you *stay* #1 until the Suspend Until date is reached, whereupon you get the next returned copy. This is especially useful if you're going on vacation!

We've also made things better for you, the librarian, by introducing On-Shelf vs. In-Stock holds. A hold placed on an item that is Available becomes an 'On-Shelf' hold… meaning it's on your shelf. Run (Reports > Circulation >) **On-Shelf Holds** reports to know which books to pull from your shelves; bookdrop these books to change their status to In-Stock, and you can print hold receipts and put them in the hold area of your library. When a hold expires, it becomes an In-Stock Expired hold, and you can run a report for those (**Expired In-Stock Holds**) so you can grab the expired

holds, bookdrop them, and prepare them for the next patron in the queue or reshelve them.

Charges & History

In Circulation, go to the Charges tab. Notice there are no longer four but two subtabs: **Charges** are for current charges, either ongoing overdue fines or charges that haven't been paid,
whereas **History** shows all past transactions such as Payments, Refunds, Credits added, and Credit refunds. Select any item here to view the full Details.

Charge and payment windows have been rearranged, showing charge details at the top and Payment details on the bottom. There's also a new option to Email Receipt, if your account email is configured.
Score!!

Remember, access to Charges, and permission to charge, pay, or refund are controlled by the user's Security Group.
Security > Circulation > Charges

In Patron Status, Patrons can now view their Financial History, as separate from their Items Returned history.

Passwords

Keep your data safe!
You can now set password requirements for your staff and patrons. Go to Security, and the Account tab. (This used to be the Researcher tab.) There is now an option for Password Strength.

When set, patron passwords entered in **Patron Management** or **Patron Status** are required to fit the following guidelines:

None — meaning no password requirements.
Weak Passwords: Minimum length of 6 characters.
Regular Passwords: Minimum length of 8 characters, with at least one letter (a-z) and one number (0-9).
Strong Passwords: Minimum length of 10 characters, with at least one letter (a-z), one number (0-9), and one symbol (!@#$%^&*-=+.,).

This means you can require your patrons to have basic password security (of a weak strength), but require your librarians and administrators to have stronger passwords.

Misc
There are oodles of little improvements that are just cool.

Titles without copies can now come current in Circulation;

Circulation icons are all sparkling new, and Command Help has been tidied up;

Item Details now shows the Due Date of checked out copies;

All date fields through the program show the format the dates should be entered in;

This next one will blow your socks off—tabs or windows that are already open in your browser will not reopen. In other words, when you run a report and click the Operations Management icon, you'll see the operations queue. Then you go back to the tab with Reports, to run another report, and click Operations icon again… and it takes you to the ALREADY-OPEN tab!!!! Is that great or what.

In Policy Preferences, the Exceptions tab border will be orange when you are viewing a patron and item policy that have an Exception set between them.

Speaking of site preferences — you can switch sites in Preferences.

In Item Management, click your 'x of x copies available' to view The Copy List for that title.

Also… try typing ZZLIBRARYREBELS in the command line. Go on. See what happens.

See the Release Notes and the Support Center for more!

Questions? Feedback? Contact Support at any time.
1.800.347.4942 or support@goalexandria.com