

What's New in Alexandria 7.17.12?

The school year may be winding down, but Alexandria is heating up! Let's take a look at Patron Status, Series cleanup, and more.

1 - Patron Status

Where do your patrons go to scan their library barcode from their phone, search their reading history, pay their fines with available credits, cancel in-stock holds, and see any of their account information on a mobile device?

...Um, is that even possible?

Well, yes—with the new Patron Status in 7.17.12, they can do all that and more.

Using just the Status tab, your patrons can see the most important information: items they have checked out, which they can renew from here; any owed charges; and in-stock holds. Click any of these quick-information labels to jump straight to the related tab. Also, see this little barcode icon? Click that to get a scannable library card. That's right—your patrons can use Patron Status on their smartphones!

Let's look under Returned. Here, your patrons can view their entire reading history, and even search it to figure out if they read that book already.

Move to holds. All in-stock and on-shelf holds show in green. Before 7.17.8, Alexandria didn't allow patrons (or even librarians) to remove in-stock holds. However, the alternative is letting a possibly-super-popular item sit around in the holds area when the patron it's on hold for has already bought a copy and read it and can't cancel their in-stock hold. So now they can. When they do so, the hold shows (for you) as Expired and will be listed in your Expired In-Stock hold reports, so you know to pull it.

Look under Charges to see everything you owe, and for the option to Pay with Credit—this means patrons can take care of overdue fines right from home, as long as they have credit on their account. If this doesn't fit with your library's policies, you can disable the option in Security > Account > Charges.

Note that Styles apply to Patron Status :)

2 - Series Improvements

Do you have some series volumes entered as Book 1, others as Bk1, or Volume 1, or just 1? We've added a way for you to clean up your series volume, so that series sort properly in Researcher search results.

It's a new utility called Change Series Volume. As the help text explains:

“This utility takes *only* the volume number from Series 830_v, converts it to a three digit number, and adds the prefix entered in the Options tab. Thus volume “bk1” gets converted to “Prefix 001”, volume “two” to “Prefix 002” etc, making Series Volumes uniform and easy to sort.”

For example, if you come to the Options tab and enter “#” in the Prefix field, Alexandria will look for all volume numbers of titles in your selection, and for those it finds numbers for, it will keep the number, get rid of any other things like commas or ‘v’ or ‘bk’, and the series will show as “# 001” “# 002” “# 003” and so on. If you don’t want any prefix, leave that field blank.

Be sure to check the summary file to see which titles were changed, and which weren’t, so you can go check on those in Item Management.

3 - Misc

...And we have several minor improvements as well.

1 - If you are part of a Centralized Catalog, you may have been confused a few times with the Title Lookup window in Circulation, when it showed titles *not* at your site. Now by default Title Lookup will show titles from your site, and you can use the dropdown menu at the bottom to look at a different site or any site.

2 - In Researcher, when you go to share a list, search results, or a single title, just clicking in the field will copy the URL or Search String to your clipboard.

3 - Scout has gained movement. Check it out on desktop and mobile devices!

That’s it for now—see the [Release Notes](#) and the [Support Center](#) for more, and look forward to more good stuff next time!

Questions? Feedback? Contact Support at any time.
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