

What's New in Alexandria 7.18.6?

When we last met, we were looking at 7.18.2 with Textbooks and Clever. Now it's 7.18.6, and we're talking Self-Service, Researcher, Offline, and Accessibility.

1 - New Self-Service

Self-Service is new and improved. Go to [/selfservice](#) to access Check In or Check Out mode, or bookmark [/selfserviceout](#) or [/selfservicein](#) specifically.

So what's new? You can set up your Alexandria Network Printer at any Self-Service station, for printing receipts. Or your patrons could get their checkout receipts via email instead!

Remember that each browser or machine has its own self-service settings to require patrons to log in for checking out books.

Also, Self-Service now supports Styles. Change it up by going to Preferences > Researcher > Self-Service.

2 - Researcher

Researcher is the center of your patron experience, and this update means you can easily move between patron interfaces—with the same login.

Also, access Researcher on your phone! Go back and forth between Scout and Status from your mobile device. :)

Tired of new tabs or new windows? Well, in other interfaces when you click the Researcher icon, Researcher will now open in the same tab.

What about going to other interfaces from Researcher? That's up to you. Go to Explore Builder and locate your Researcher pane. For each icon, uncheck the box to open it in a new tab!

The Alexandria Researcher logo now shows in Researcher by default. You can replace it with your own logo or image in Preferences > Researcher > Researcher.

3 - Offline Mode

Offline Mode was released in .3 but in case you haven't seen it, here's a peek.

When your internet goes down, or servers are unresponsive, the new Offline Mode will kick in and allow you to continue simple circulation—that is, Check In, Check Out, and Inventory.

Offline Mode keeps a log of your transactions, and when you are back online, you can log in and upload those transactions to your site.

Or, if you are experiencing a long-term issue, you can Save your transactions to Files and import them later. Just make sure you name the files with site names and relevant information such as the date!

Offline Mode can be used on your phone too. While you may not want to perform regular circulation from the tiny screen, it's just the thing for doing inventory around your library or even around your school. All you need is your phone and a bluetooth scanner.

(In other words, you don't *have* to be offline to use Offline Mode!)

4 - Accessibility

You'll notice this in the new Researcher, and in Patron Status. We're working on making it easier for you to interact with these interfaces using your keyboard—the tab key specifically. This is great for normal users, it also helps those who can't use a mouse or who use voiceover.

The first thing you'll tab to is this 'skip to main content'; if you press enter, it will skip all the header and menu stuff to get right to the bacon. If you don't skip it, you can tab through all the header stuff. Look, Site Information.

Also, try increasing the size of your browser, for example with the keyboard shortcut command or control +. Notice how everything scales, so if you have trouble seeing small text, well, you can make it bigger!
[command/control-0 to return to normal size]

These accessibility benefits will continue as we move forward with new and redesigned interfaces!

5- Misc

There are also a few minor improvements from recent releases that I want to show you.

Avatars

Notice in the top left there is a patron picture. This is the new patron avatar, and it defaults to their picture in Patron Management, but patrons can change their avatar to any of several fun new avatars, from Patron Status, under the Account tab.

These avatars show in new interfaces which right now means Scout, Status, and Researcher.

Search

So you searched for "dino" and didn't get any results, but you know there are books about dinosaurs. Researcher searches for exact matches, but you can do a "begins with" search by adding quotes and an asterisk, like this "dino*" — or by clicking this button.

Do you share search results? How about saving them to a list and sharing that instead? A new button on the Share results window let's you do that quickly.

RUE

In Reports, Utilities, and Exports, you should now get some Authority Control autofill suggestions for your patron fields. No more guessing how that one homeroom teacher spells her name!

That's it for now!

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

