
Repository Search - Enhanced UX



Alma Repository Search

Alma's Repository Search gives the Alma staff user a single point of access to all forms of resources in a wide variety of business workflow contexts.

The Alma Search capabilities provide for quick searching from a number of different access points (e.g. physical titles, portfolios, digital files); searching across all types of material – print, electronic and digital, as well as advanced searching across a wide variety of indexed fields. When searching the repository it is possible to set a pre-search filter e.g. by electronic collections, digital titles, physical items, and more. Search results display with brief metadata as well as item information, and/or e-resource and digital information where relevant. In addition, facets related to the search allow for drilling down to a more specific result set.

Enhanced UX with New UI Concepts



[User Experience and Accessibility](#)

Alma is designed as a modern and intuitive interface. We aim to allow the user to be efficient and to ensure that workflows are as simple as possible. We also take into consideration accessibility, allowing people with disabilities to easily use the software.

In June 2016 Ex Libris started a long-term journey for improving the Alma User Experience. Initially, we aimed to improve the stratification of users in the UI. We focused on visual design, most used workflows, navigation, screen layout, system-wide tools, and messages. Following this first phase, we started a second phase in 2018 focusing on the Metadata Editor, workflow pain points, and system-wide tools. Through 2019 and 2020 we started to introduce new UI concepts, with the intention of implementing them in Alma throughout different areas of the system. We've already implemented a New Layout and our intention is to implement a new Repository Search for all resource types.

Every library has its own workflows, and staff users work in numerous different ways:

- Some libraries are big, some small
- Users have different roles in the library, with different work habits
- Some staff users prefer working with a keyboard, some prefer the mouse

We will ensure that the enhanced new search options will address the different needs and workflows of staff users.

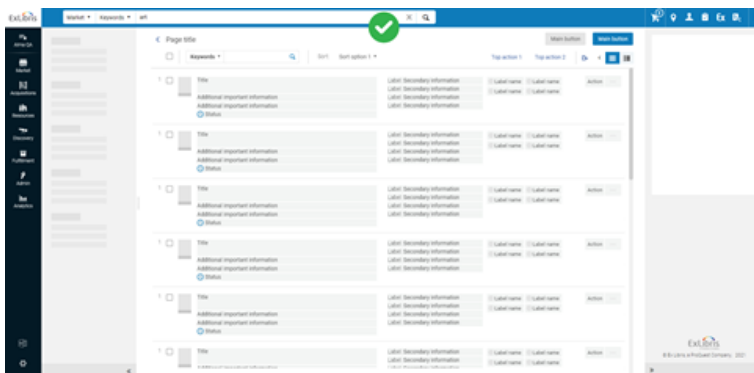
The following new UI concepts are based upon numerous user studies that we conducted with a number of customer groups and continuous feedback from many users. These new UI concepts will provide improved efficiency and easier ways to use the repository search tool.

Performance

The first pillar of a good user experience is greater performance. As part of moving to the new Repository Search, Ex Libris has invested in a major technology improvement which results in a significant improvement in the performance of the UI.

Details display gradually

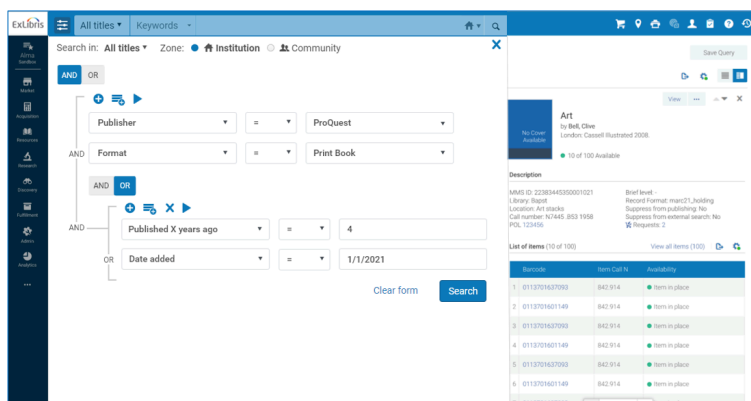
- **Dividing** the information on the page into different parts
- **Loading** information according to priority (Lazy Loading)
- **Displaying** information according to the user's needs



More control over filtering

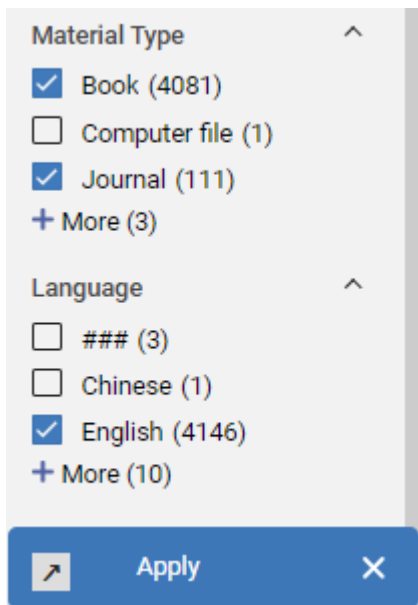
- Advanced search powered by a query builder

The new advanced search will provide the user with an easier way of building complex nested queries together with a modern and accessible UI. It will utilize a new query builder which will allow for creating nested logical conditions of 'And', 'Or'.



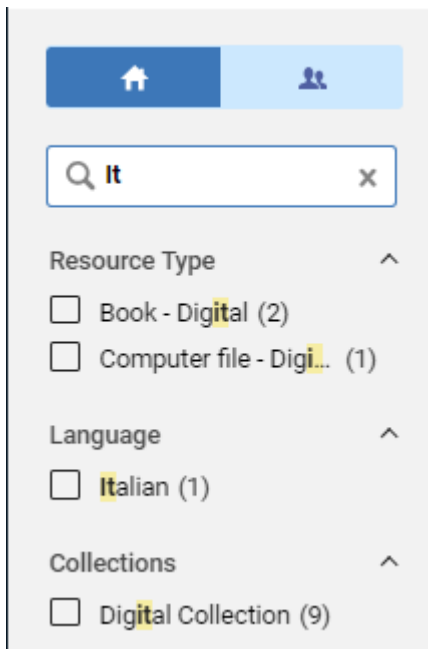
- Facets with multiple values

There are use cases where a staff user would like to look jointly at several groups of data. For example, looking at Holdings from four different libraries. The new facet option will allow the staff user to choose more than one value for each facet.



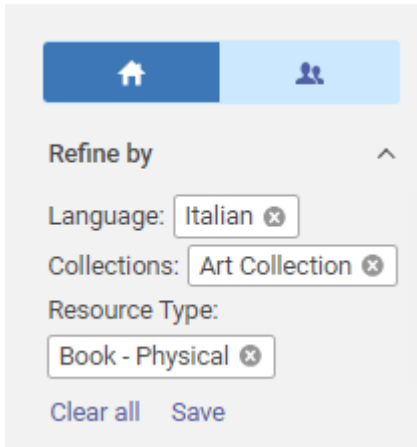
- Searching in facet values

In large searches, there may be many facet values to scan through to get to the one needed - searching within the facet values allows the staff user to easily locate the facet to be applied.



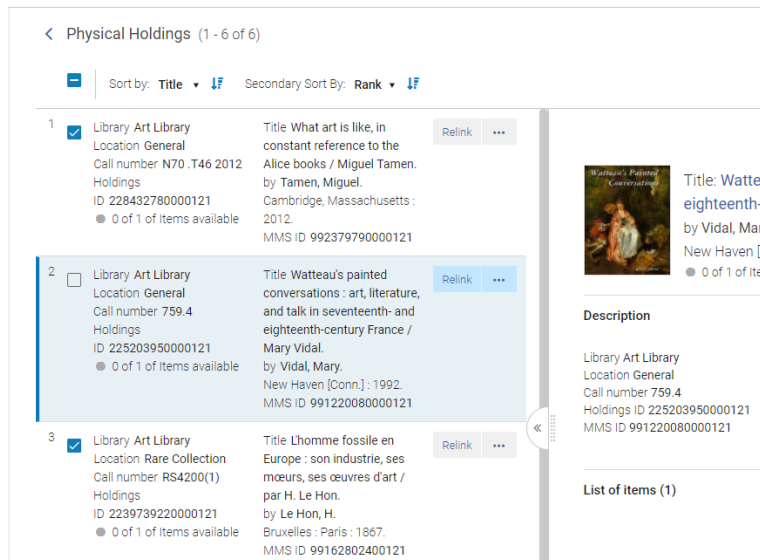
- Save facets

Some staff members work largely with a sub-section of materials in the library - instead of re-applying the facets they need to narrow searches to suit their needs, they will be able to save their faceting so it will apply to all their future searches. This saved facet can be easily changed or cleared when no longer relevant.



Repetitive tasks using bulk operations

There might be situations where a user would like to perform the same operation on several resources; for example, suppressing specific resources. Using checkboxes and predefined operations will allow performing such updates efficiently. In the new search UX, users can run jobs and create itemized sets directly from the search.



More information a click away

We are aiming to keep the user in context and reduce the need to 'leave' the screen to check for information or to perform other tasks. It will be possible to switch between different views, selecting the view most convenient for the user and the task being performed:

- List View
- Split View
- Full Page View
- Table View

When in Split or Full Page View the user will be able to see more information and perform certain actions. The side pane is

divided into sections that can be navigated through easily. The sections can be collapsed and the user can choose to show or hide specific sections.

Physical Holdings (1 - 6 of 6)

Sort by Title Secondary Sort By Rank

1	Library Art Library Location: General Call number: N70 .T46 2012 Holdings ID: 228432780000121	Title: What art is like, in constant reference to the Alice books / Miguel Tamen. by Tamen, Miguel. Cambridge, Massachusetts: 2012. MMS ID: 992379790000121	0 of 1 of items available	View
2	Library Art Library Location: General Call number: 759.4 Holdings ID: 225203950000121	Title: Watteau's painted conversations : art, literature, and talk in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century France / Mary Vidal. by Vidal, Mary. New Haven [Conn.] : 1992. MMS ID: 991220080000121	0 of 1 of items available	View
3	Library Art Library Location: Rare Collection Call number: RS4200(1) Holdings ID: 2299799220000121	Title: L'homme fossile en Europe : son industrie, ses mœurs, ses œuvres d'art / par H. Le Hon. by Le Hon, H. Bruxelles : Paris : 1867. MMS ID: 99162802400121	0 of 1 of items available	View
4	Library Art Library Location: General Call number: 745 Holdings ID: 221735000000121	Title: The cult of beauty : the aesthetic movement 1860-1900. / Stephen Calloway ; Lynn Fedele Orr. by Calloway, Stephen.	0 of 1 of items available	View

Physical Holdings (1 - 6 of 6)

Sort by Title Secondary Sort By Rank

1	Library Art Library Location: General Call number: N70 .T46 2012 Holdings ID: 228432780000121 MMS ID: 992379790000121	Title: What art is like, in constant reference to the Alice books / Miguel Tamen. by Tamen, Miguel. Cambridge, Massachusetts : 2012. MMS ID: 992379790000121	0 of 1 of items available	View
2	Library Art Library Location: General Call number: 759.4 Holdings ID: 225203950000121 MMS ID: 991220080000121	Title: Watteau's painted conversations : art, literature, and talk in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century France / Mary Vidal. by Vidal, Mary. New Haven [Conn.] : 1992. MMS ID: 991220080000121	0 of 1 of items available	View
3	Library Art Library Location: Rare Collection Call number: RS4200(1) Holdings ID: 2299799220000121	Title: L'homme fossile en Europe : son industrie, ses mœurs, ses œuvres d'art / par H. Le Hon. by Le Hon, H. Bruxelles : Paris : 1867. MMS ID: 99162802400121	0 of 1 of items available	View

Title: What art is like, in constant reference to the Alice books / Miguel Tamen.
by Tamen, Miguel.
Cambridge, Massachusetts : Harvard University Press, 2012.
0 of 1 of items available

Description

Library: Art Library
Location: General
Call number: N70 .T46 2012
Holdings ID: 228432780000121
MMS ID: 992379790000121

List of items (1)

Barcode	Item Call N	Description	Availability
1 AU2101	N70 .T46	Item not in place	

Back to list

Title: What art is like, in constant reference to the Alice books / Miguel Tamen.
by Tamen, Miguel.
Cambridge, Massachusetts : Harvard University Press, 2012.
0 of 1 of items available

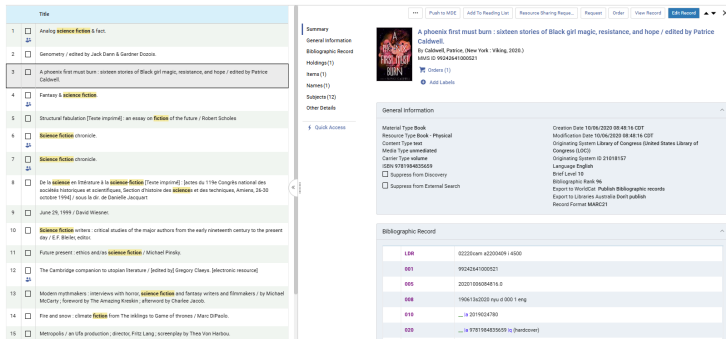
Description

Library: Art Library
Location: General
Call number: N70 .T46 2012
Holdings ID: 228432780000121
MMS ID: 992379790000121

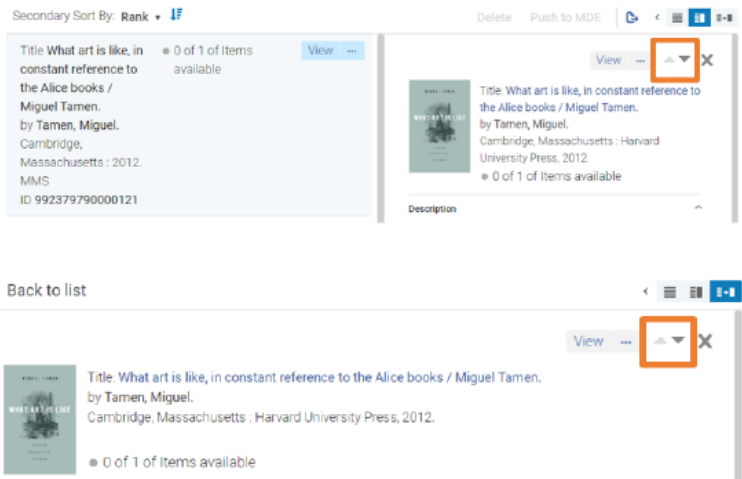
List of items (1)

Barcode	Item Call N	Description	Availability
1 AU2101	N70 .T46 2012	Item not in place	

Title	Creator / Imprint	MMS ID	Physical Availability	Electronic Availability	Digital Availability	Badges and icons
1 Analytic science fiction 1. Fact.	(Newark, N.J. : Analytic Science Fiction Series, 1971)	910451980000121		Electronic version at ProQuest Research Library Full Text, Available. ISBN119380000121		Electronic Portfolios (1)
2 Geometry / authored by Jack Deane & Gordon Deane.	By Deane, Jack. (New York : Ace Books, 1951)	911491300000541	Physical version at eLibrary, BIC, OPL (no no. 101746.3, [a])			Holdings (1) Items (1 of 1 available)
3 A physics that must burn : sixteen years of black physics, resistance, and hope / edited by Patricia Caldwell.	By Caldwell, Patricia. (New York : Viking, 2002)	910450410000021	Physical version at eLibrary, MARC, P4, [a])			Holdings (1) Items (1 of 1 available) Series (1)
4 Fantasy & science fiction	(Cornwall, Conn. : Mercury Press, 1987)	910451771000021		Electronic version at ProQuest Research Library Full Text, Available. ISBN141030000121		Electronic Portfolios (1)
5 Structural education [Texte imprimé] : et autres études de la future / Robert Scherer.	By Scherer, Robert E. (Deser Dame [Pa.] : L'Union : Université de la Seine-Denis, 1964, 1975)	910379187000021				
6 Science fiction chronicle	(Brooklyn, N.Y. : Science Fiction Chronicle, 1960)	910451420000021		Electronic version at ProQuest Research Library Full Text, Available. ISBN112910000121		Electronic Portfolios (1)
7 Science fiction chronicle	(Brooklyn, N.Y. : Science Fiction Chronicle, 1960)	910451420000021		Electronic version at ProQuest Research Library Full Text, Available. ISBN059800000121		Electronic Portfolios (1)
8 Do is science fiction? A study in the complex national and associative structure of science fiction. Section chronicle and science fiction.	By Congdon, Ronald. (New York : New York University Press, 1964)	910379040000021	Physical version at MARC, MARC			Holdings (1) Items (1 of 1 available)
9 June 21, 1959 / David Weber.	By Weber, David. (New York : Orion Books, c1982)	999399100000541	Physical version at eLibrary, MARC, P4, MARC, [a] 1982 [a])			Holdings (1) Items (1 of 1 available)
10 Science fiction writers : critical studies of the major authors from the early nineteenth century to the present day / J.P. Bédou.	By Bédou, Joazeff Franklin. (New York : Schocken, 1962)	911018100000541	Physical version at eLibrary, BIC, P4, BIC, [a] 1962 [a])			Holdings (1) Items (1 of 1 available)

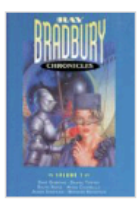


The user will be able to navigate easily from record to record in split view or full page view by using previous and next arrows



Quick Editing and Actions

It will be possible to easily perform commonly used actions directly from the details pane, both at the title level and for its inventory.



The hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy. Book one / Douglas Adams ; adapted by John Carnell ; illustrated by Steve Leialoha ; inked by Steve Baskerville, Art Nichols & Steve Leialoha ; colored by Lovern Kindzierski.
 By Adams, Douglas, (New York, New York : Byron Preiss Visual Publications, [1993])
 MMS ID 99410000007461492

Electronic Portfolios (1 - 5 of 19) ▼

-
- 1 Portfolio ID 53410000025449994
 Electronic Material Type Book
 Interface [EBSCOhost](#)
 Service Type Full Text
 Collection Name EBSCOhost Ebooks
- 2 Portfolio ID 53410000025243285
 Electronic Material Type Book
 Interface Ebook Central
 Service Type Full Text
 Collection Name Ebook Central Perpetual, DDA and Titles

Activate

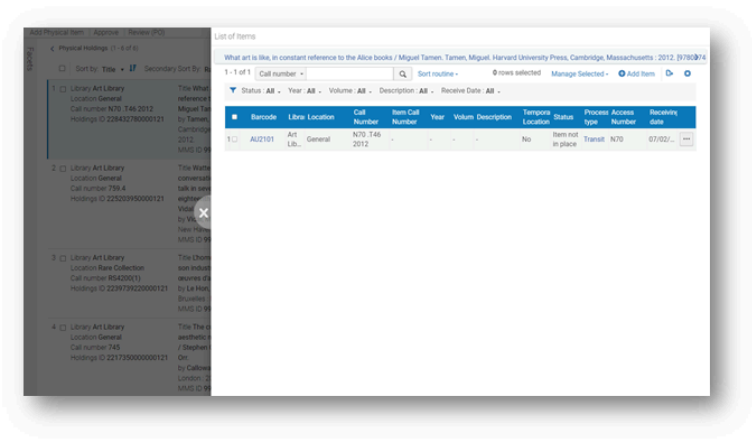
Order

Report To Ex Libris

Linking Information

Keep in context

There are situations in which the user would like to review resources and perform a complex operation. This ability to perform an operation but still keep the context of the list of resources is possible by using a sliding pane. The user will be able to perform the relevant operation and then come back to the list of resources.



Enhanced Repository Search

The Repository Search will evolve and significantly improve the staff user's experience in many ways. This evolution based on the new UI concepts described above will bring greater efficiency to processes, making them faster and simpler. The new streamlined workflows will save time and improve productivity, with better management and search performance across the Alma platform.

Titles Search



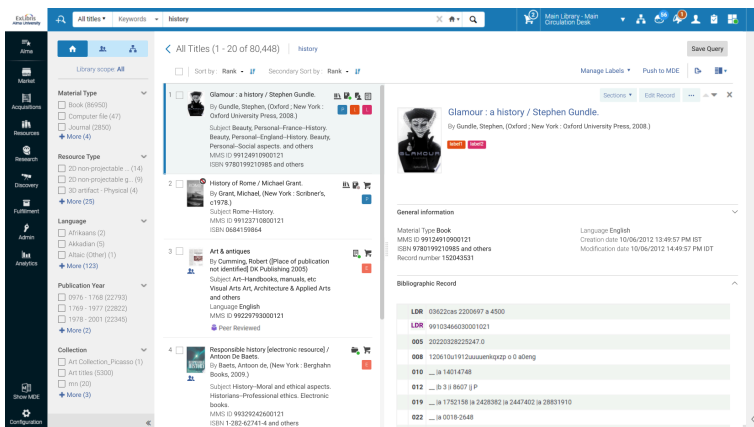
[Metadata](#)

[Management](#)

The title searches allow a staff user to find titles according to search criteria. There are 4 types of title searches in Alma: All Titles, where searchable fields are based on metadata that is common to all resources but does not include fields that are specific to physical, electronic, or digital inventory, as well as Physical Titles, Electronic Titles and Digital Title searches, that search only titles with a specific type of inventory and support searching not just by title metadata but by inventory information. The title searches have been updated and redesigned for better usability, performance, productivity, and overall user experience using the new UI concepts of side by side and slide out, additionally users have the ability to:

- Use multi-value selection facets
- Perform cross-page bulk operations
- Stay in context while working
- Customize actions and presentation of sections

The new UI for title searches is now the default UI for all Alma users.



Physical Resource Search



[Physical Resource](#)

[Management](#)

Physical resources are organized by using metadata to describe the physical title with physical holdings including all items grouped together under the same holding record. Resources can include books, serials, and maps, among others.

All physical resource searches will be enhanced with the new UI concepts:

- **Physical Titles Search** - provides information on the titles of physical resources with the ability to access information on holdings and items. The new UI of the Physical Titles search is now the default UI for all Alma users.
- **Physical Holdings Search** - provides information on physical holdings with the ability to drill down to the item list. The Physical Holdings Search was designed in the new UX, and was since enhanced further based on the new UI concepts described above.
- **Physical Items Search** - provides information on physical items with all relevant details on item location and availability. The Physical items search will be enhanced to work with the new UI concepts described above.

Physical Item Workflows

The new UI concepts will be applied to various areas of handling physical items:

The Physical Items Search

The new physical items search will introduce the new UI concepts of improved search queries, faceting and sorting, along with convenient and configurable record and table views. It will introduce a side-by-side editor, allowing physical inventory operators to edit items directly from the search results.

Barcode	Status & Process Type	Title	Current Library	Current Location	Description	Call Number	Bids and Loans
414106	Physical Type: Missing Item Services	Music	MUS	Music		MUS 347	Items (1) Reserves (1)
79102	Item in place	Music	MUS	Music		MUS 347	
9009	Physical Type: Missing Department for Searching (1)	Medical (MMS) edited by W. Thomas Marocco and Nicholas Santoro	MUS	Music		766 902 M331m	Reserves (1)
412802	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 34, no. 1 (2008 Feb.)		Related Records (2)
412801	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 33, no. 1 (2005 Feb.)		Related Records (2)
412800	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 33, no. 2 (2005 Mar.)		Related Records (2)
412819	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 33, no. 3 (2005 Mar.)		Related Records (2)
412816	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 33, no. 4 (2005 Nov.)		Related Records (2)
412817	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 34, no. 1 (2008 Feb.)		Related Records (2)
412816	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 34, no. 2 (2008 Mar.)		Related Records (2)
412815	Item in place	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title	MUS	Musique	+ 34, no. 3 (2008 Mar.)		Related Records (2)

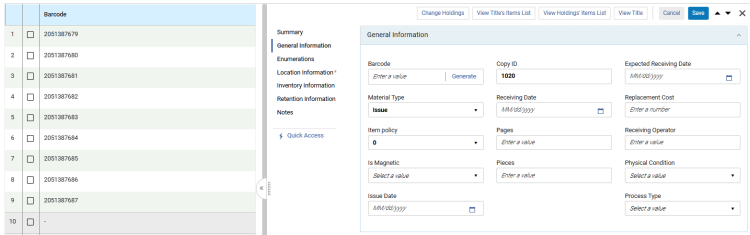
Search results table view with customized multi-select facets

Item ID	Title	Call Number	Facets
1	Book Book - Physical By World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession. (Geneva, Cant. - New York Graphic Society, [1964].) Series: A-176 Current Library: MUS Current Location: Music Call number: MUS 347 Call number Type: Library of Congress Classification Alma Library Search: AML 1017025044 Physical Type: Book	MUS 347	Creation Date: 12/11/2019 12:58 AM, CST Modification Date: 12/06/2020 7:24 AM, CST Barcode Date: 12/10/2019 10:34 PM, CST Item #: 220447020004 Holdings ID: 220368000021 MMS ID: 1017025044 Material Type: Book
2	Book Book - Physical By World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession. (Geneva, Cant. - New York Graphic Society, [1964].) Series: A-176 Current Library: MUS Current Location: Music Call number: MUS 347 Call number Type: Library of Congress Classification Alma Library Search: AML 1017025044 Physical Type: Book	MUS 347	Creation Date: 12/11/2019 1:40 PM, CST Modification Date: 12/10/2019 11:14 AM, CST Barcode Date: 12/10/2019 10:34 PM, CST Item #: 220447020004 Holdings ID: 220368000021 MMS ID: 1017025044 Material Type: Book
3	Medical (MMS) edited by W. Thomas Marocco and Nicholas Santoro Book Book - Physical By Marocco, W. Thomas. (New York: Oxford University Press, [2015].) Series: A-176 Current Library: MUS Current Location: Music Call number: MUS 347 Call number Type: Library of Congress Classification Alma Library Search: AML 1017025044 Physical Type: Book Physical Type: Missing Item Services	766 902 M331m	Creation Date: 12/11/2019 11:07 AM, CST Modification Date: 12/06/2020 1:42 PM, CST Barcode Date: 12/10/2019 10:34 PM, CST Item #: 220447020004 Holdings ID: 220368000021 MMS ID: 1017025044 Material Type: Book
4	Early MMS, Early MMS, ACCRUE Title Journal Journal - Physical (Geneva: World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, [1971].) Series: A-176		Creation Date: 12/11/2019 9:39 PM, CST Modification Date: 10/16/2019 8:14 PM, CST Barcode Date: 12/10/2019 10:34 PM, CST

Search results record view with local labels and customized multi-select facets

The Physical Items List

The list of items belonging to a specific holdings or titles will use the new search UI, introducing improved filtering and sorting, as well as side-by-side editing while remaining in the list context.

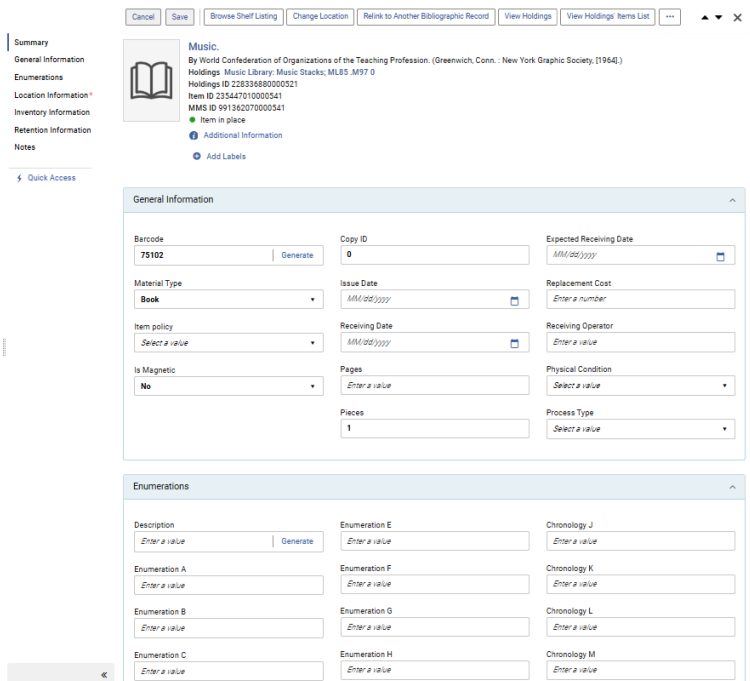


Side-by-side editing in the items list

Editing Items

The new UI introduces a side-by-side editor in item lists and search results, that can also be opened in full screen (with arrow navigation between the items when in the context of a list).

All editable fields in the item will be available to edit in a single tab, grouped into sections that users will be able to reorder to suit their workflows - so, for example, serial inventory operators will be able to place the enumeration & chronology section near the top of the editor, easily accessible:



Configurable item editor

For more information on UI roadmap plans for the Physical Items search, see: [Physical Items Staff Search – Early Access to Enhanced UX](#)

Electronic Resource Search



[Electronic Resource](#)

[Management](#)

Electronic staff search results show the library's owned/subscribed electronic resource organized as electronic collections or standalone portfolios. Electronic Resources can include electronic collections of mixed material (journals/books/videos/mixed), databases, standalone journals or books. These resources are represented as portfolios.

All Electronic resource searches will be enhanced with the new UI concepts:

- **Electronic Titles Search** - provides information on the titles of electronic resources with the ability to get information on electronic collections, services and portfolios. The new UI of the Electronic Titles search is now the default UI for all Alma users.
- **Electronic Collections Search** - provides information on electronic collections with the ability to drill down to the electronic collection portfolio list.
- **Electronic Portfolios Search** - provides information on electronic portfolios with relevant information from the electronic collection it is part of, when relevant.

Digital Resource Search



[Digital Resource](#) [Management](#)

Digital resources are organized using metadata to describe the digital titles containing representations of the titles. Each representation contains digital files representing either digitized books or born-digital material, in any digital format. Access can be controlled according to defined access right policies.

All digital resource searches will be enhanced with the new UI concepts:

- **Digital Titles Search** - Provides information on the titles of digital resources with the ability to perform various actions such as delivery via embedded viewers and drill down to the representations list. The new UI of the Digital Titles search is now the default UI for all Alma users.
- **Digital Representations Search (Roadmap)** - Provides information on digital representations with the ability to perform various actions such as delivery and drill down to the files list.
- **Digital Files Search** - Provides information on digital files with all relevant details on the specific resources with the ability to perform actions such as delivery, download and more.

Authorities Search



[Metadata](#)

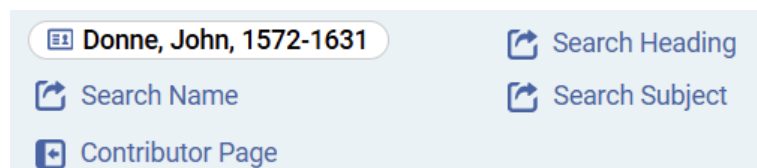
[Management](#)

This search allows a staff user to find authority records according to search criteria. The searchable fields are based on metadata. It allows the staff user to find existing authority records and edit them when necessary.

The Authorities search will be updated and redesigned for better usability, performance, productivity, and overall user experience. Users will have the ability to:

- Use multi-value selection facets
- Perform cross-page bulk operations
- Stay in context while working
- Use the enhanced advanced search queries, including the ability to group search conditions

The new search will introduce enhanced navigation and linked open data capabilities, such as searching for bibliographic records with headings linked to an authority record, generating catalog searches based on the name or subject index, and info cards containing linked data from external resources, when available.



Enhanced navigation and linked data

For more information on UI roadmap plans for the Authorities search, see: [Authorities Staff Search – Early Access to Enhanced UX](#)