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# PLIF Input, Output and Error Logs Training Participant's Guide

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A Program of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

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## WELCOME

Welcome! I'm your facilitator for PLIF Input, Output and Error Logs Training. I am here to assist you in learning what PLIF logs are and what to do with them.

At the conclusion of this one-hour session you will be able to find where PLIF logs are viewable, be familiar with the types of errors contained in these logs and know what to do with the errors found in the logs.

Please be sure to print this participant guide and use it to help guide you through the session. You should make sure that you have a printed version with you during the session and refer to it for instructions after the session.

I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

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## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

PLIF Input, Output and Error Logs Training is a one-hour live session that explores what PLIF logs are and what to do with them.

The target audience is systems/circulation staff who monitor PLIF (patron data) loads. PLIF loads are done for all MnSCU campuses and for non-MnSCU campuses as requested.

The following topics will be covered in the training:

- Overview of PLIF logs
- PLIF Error logs
- PLIF Output logs
- PLIF P\_file\_20\_output logs
- PLIF Input logs

At the conclusion of this one-hour session, participants will be able to:

- Find where PLIF logs are viewable
- Identify the types of errors contained in these logs
- Know how to resolve errors found in the logs.

## **CHECKLIST PRIOR TO SESSION**

Prior to the session, please:

- Print out this Participant's guide and have it with you during the session

# PLIF INPUT, OUTPUT AND ERROR LOGS

## Overview

PLIF stands for “patron load interface”. It is a means to get patron data into Aleph through a file load, rather than entering patron records manually. The PALS office gets a patron data file from MnSCU ISRS, if you are a MnSCU institution, or directly from your institution, if you are non-MnSCU and choose to send us a file.

For MnSCU institutions, we actually get two files—one for students and one for faculty/staff. The student file is sent on a daily basis year round, and just includes **updates** to student data. The faculty/staff file is sent daily for the first three weeks of each semester (Fall, Spring and Summer) and weekly thereafter. The faculty/staff file is a **total load** of data, unlike the student file, because ISRS has no means to send us just the records that have been updated, like they can for the student file.

Non-MnSCU campuses can send us whatever data they choose, and on whatever schedule, as long as they follow the file format.

There are four logs that are useful in troubleshooting PLIF errors. They are:

- **PLIF error log**
- **PLIF output log**
- **p\_file\_20\_output log**
- **PLIF input log**

The Error log is generated from checks that the PALS office has written into the PLIF load process. If there aren't any errors that this log catches, you won't see this log.

The Output log is always generated by a PLIF load, regardless of whether there were errors. It details several Oracle fields for each patron record that has either been updated successfully, or wasn't updated, because of errors.

The P\_file\_20\_output log is also always generated by a PLIF load. It details further information on the reason why errors may have been generated.

The Input log shows all the patron data that was held in the file and is always generated by a PLIF load.

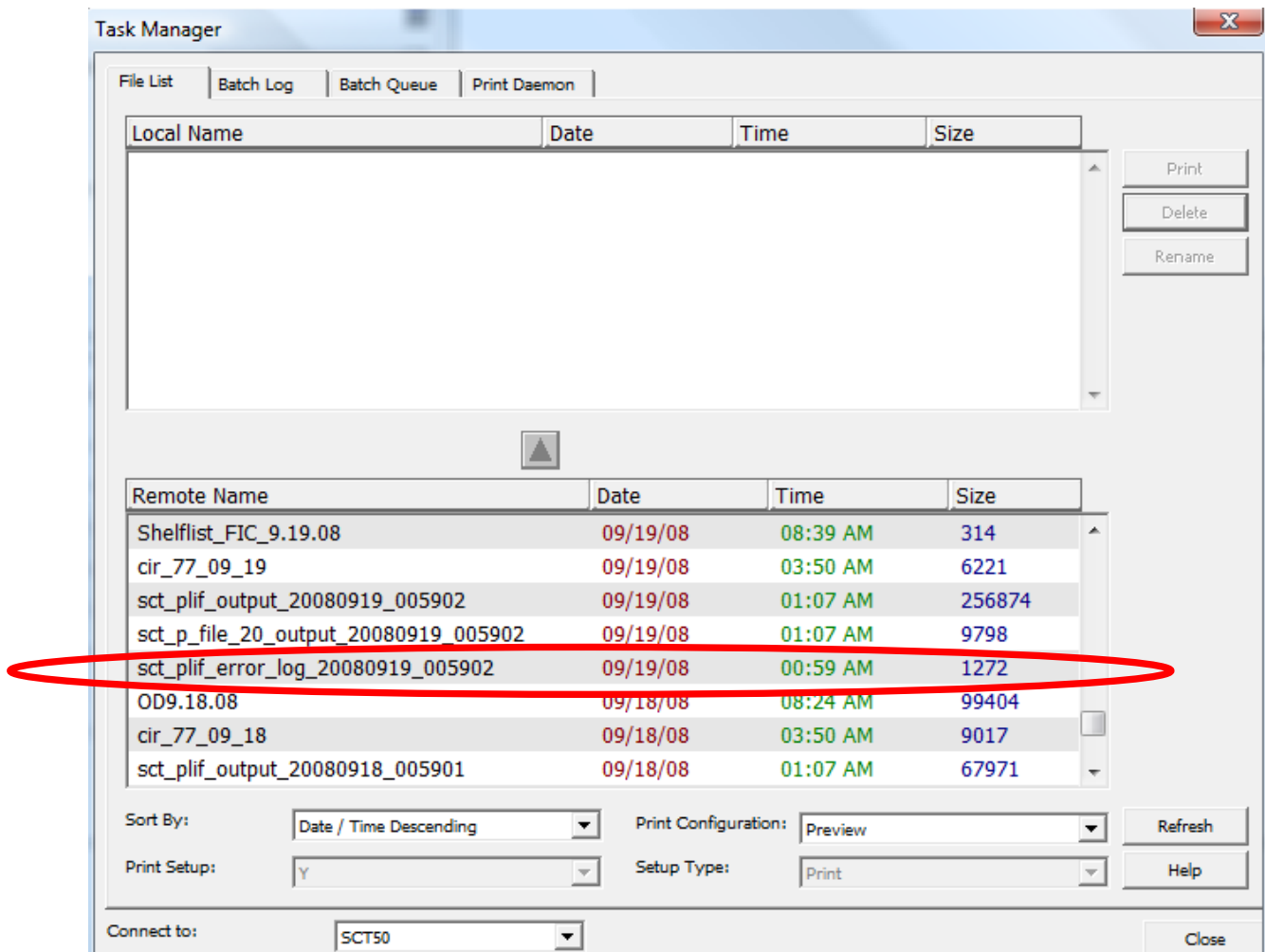
## Viewing the logs

To fix some PLIF errors, you may need to look at ALL FOUR of these logs, since different information is contained in each. The Input log can only be viewed via the Aleph v.18 Tables on the production server through the web. It can be viewed with either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. The other three types of logs can be viewed via the Task Manager in Aleph, or with Mozilla Firefox via the Aleph v.18 Tables on the production server through the Web. Now that the Task Manager allows the <Control-F> functionality to find data within the logs, it is recommended that the Error log, the Output log and the P\_file\_20\_output log be viewed via the Task Manager in Aleph.

## PLIF error log

The PLIF error log is written by PALS (AR) and is based on checks that PALS has written into the PLIF load process (i.e. duplicate barcodes, different patron status, etc.). Some of the errors will cause the entire patron record to NOT be loaded (duplicate barcode), while some of the errors will update the rest of the patron record, but not the “offending” part (different patron status). As stated above, if there aren’t any errors that this log catches, you won’t see this log.

The PLIF error log is viewable via the Task Manager in Aleph, which is the recommended way to view this log. You are looking for a file that looks similar to “xxx\_plif\_error\_log\_20080919\_005902”, where “xxx” is your library’s 3-letter ADM code:



Double click on the file name in the lower window to move it to your local PC (it will appear in the upper window). Then open the file in the upper window by clicking on it, first having selected “Print Configuration” of “Preview”. The Print Preview window will open.

## What to do with the PLIF error log:

As stated above, in the error log, some of the errors will cause the entire patron record to NOT be loaded (duplicate barcode), while some of the errors will update the rest of the patron record, but not the “offending” part (different patron status).

Here is an example of the first kind of error (entire patron record not loaded).

```
There is a duplicate barcode for 20410000501384 belonging to Aleph patron ID SCT000025256.
Because of this the following patron information was not processed.
The new patron information is:
Tech ID           : SCT[REDACTED]
ADM code          : SCT
New Tech ID # Change :
Year             : 08
Quarter          : 3
Term Status       : R
Action           :
Campus Code       : SCT
Patron Barcode    : 20410000501384
Patron Type       :
Patron Name       : Saiki, Robert John
Patron Address Name : Robert John Saiki
Default Verification : [REDACTED]
Patron Birthdate  : [REDACTED]
Patron Sex        : M
Patron Class-Major : FR-WET3
Patron SSN        : [REDACTED]0
Permanent Addr Line 1 : 309 Soputheast Fifth Street
Permanent Addr Line 2 :
Permanent Addr City : Minneapolis
Permanent Addr State : MN
Permanent Addr Zip Code : 554141605
Permanent Addr Phone # : 6123782316
Local Address Line 1 :
Local Address Line 2 :
Local Address City   :
Local Address State  :
Local Address Zip Code :
Local Address Phone # :
Patron EMail Address : [REDACTED]@acad.sctc.edu
```

As you can see, the patron record information that did not get loaded is supplied so that the patron record may be updated manually, once the reason for the error is fixed. In the sample above, an investigation will need to take place to determine why two patrons have the same barcode. The barcode must be unique for each patron.

Here is an example of the second kind of error in the error log (rest of patron record updated, but not the “offending” part). In this example, the error was with the patron status.

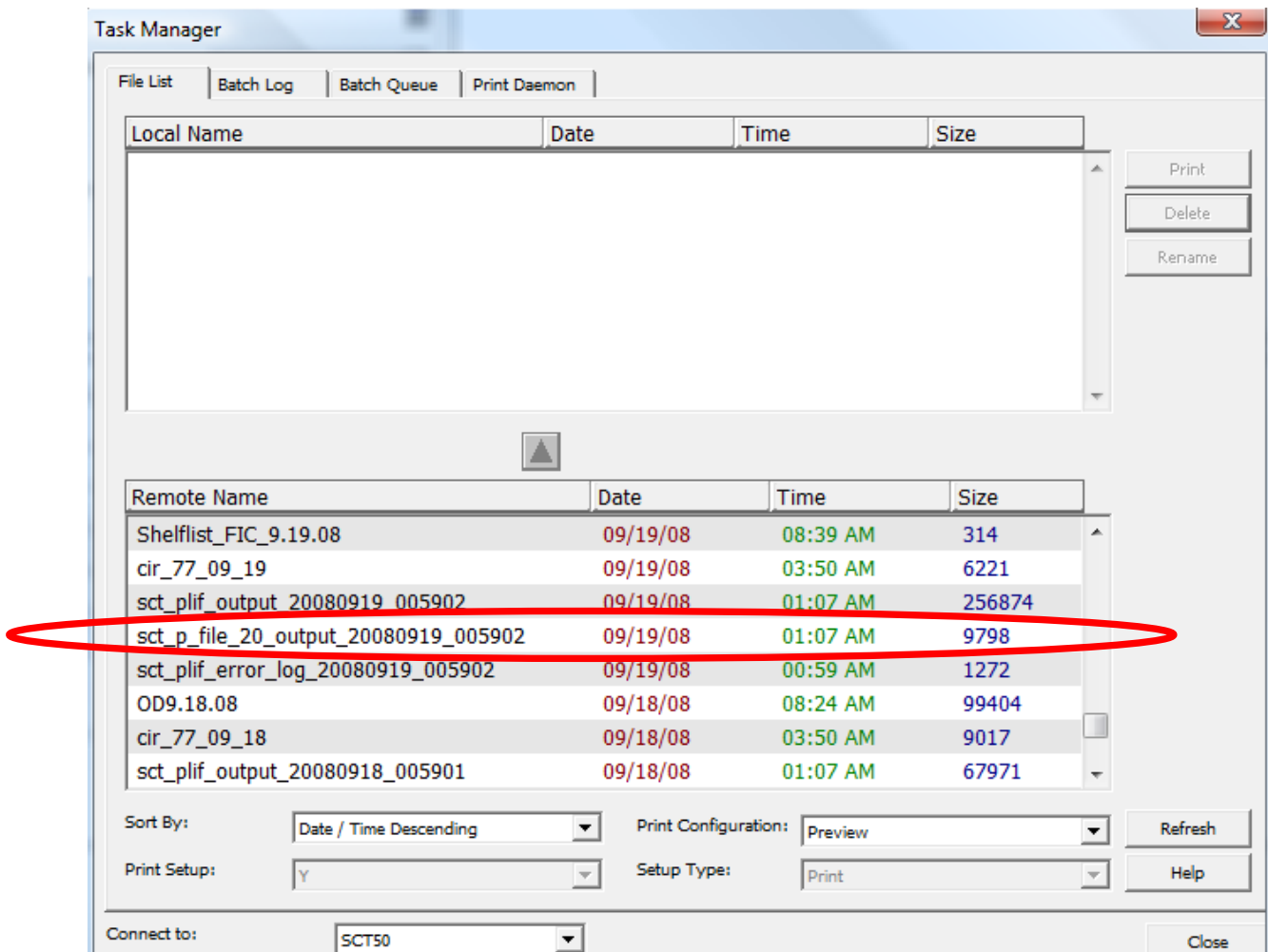
```
We updated Patron ID: MSU000023472 for Vonwahlde, Tami Lyn
The update record stated the Patron Status should be set to 12.
But since the record already had a type of 19, we did not change it.
```

In this case, an investigation will need to take place to determine what the patron’s correct patron status should be. It may be that the patron status in the patron record is correct and that no change is needed. If this is the case, you may continue to see errors in the PLIF error log reporting this discrepancy.

## p\_file\_20\_output log

The PLIF p\_file\_20\_output log errors come from checks that Aleph does. These errors cause the entire patron record to NOT be loaded or updated. These are errors that Aleph found in the existing patron record, such as incorrect Profile, ILL Library, Home Library or missing or incorrect Patron Status (Z305) record. You can't see the data that should have been updated in the PLIF output log, but you can use the data that IS there to find further information. As stated above, the PLIF output log is always generated by a PLIF load, regardless of whether there were errors. We recommend that after checking the PLIF error log, as explained above, that you then check the p\_file\_20\_output log, as you can easily see whether there are these types of errors that need to be dealt with.

The PLIF output log is viewable via the Task Manager in Aleph, which is the recommended way to view this log. You are looking for a file that looks similar to "xxx\_p\_file\_20\_output\_20080919\_005902", where "xxx" is your library's 3-letter ADM code:



Double click on the file name in the lower window to move it to your local PC (it will appear in the upper window). Then open the file in the upper window by clicking on it, first having selected "Print Configuration" of "Preview". The Print Preview window will open.

## What to do with the p\_file\_20\_output log:

Scroll down through the p\_file\_20\_output log. It is usually short enough that you don't need to use the <Control-F> find functionality in the Task Manager Print Preview window to find the lines that deal with errors. If there are no error lines in the p\_file\_20\_output log, you will not need to look at the PLIF output log. While the p\_file\_20\_output log file will not show the patron's name or ID, it will show the line number of the patron record (Record No.) that can be used to find the record on the PLIF output log, as well as more information about the exact reason for the error, as shown below:

```
Load: /exlibris/aleph/u18_1/sys50/tab/tab100
Info: Empty table /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/error_eng/p_file_20
Info: Empty table /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/error_eng/global
Load: /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/a18_1/aleph/error_eng/p_file_20
Error (b_file_20_chk_edit_record) : Errors in Z303. Record No 000279
Number of Errors = 01
Info: Empty table /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/error_eng/check_z303
Load: /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/a18_1/aleph/error_eng/check_z303
Error 0201 : Z303-ILL-LIBRARY is not valid (check tab_sub_library)
355 END READING AT 01:05:07
-----
Processed RECORD 000355
Processed MATCHED 000355
-----
end
```

In this example, the exact reason for the error is that the “z303-ILL-LIBRARY is not valid”. This means that what the patron record has in the ILL LIBRARY field, which is viewed in the [G] Global Patron Information window in the Circulation module, is NOT a valid choice and needs to be corrected. You will need to view the PLIF output log, as explained below, to find the patron's name and ID so that you can access the patron record in the Circulation module and make the correction.

Another type of error that you may find in the p\_file\_20\_output log is shown below:

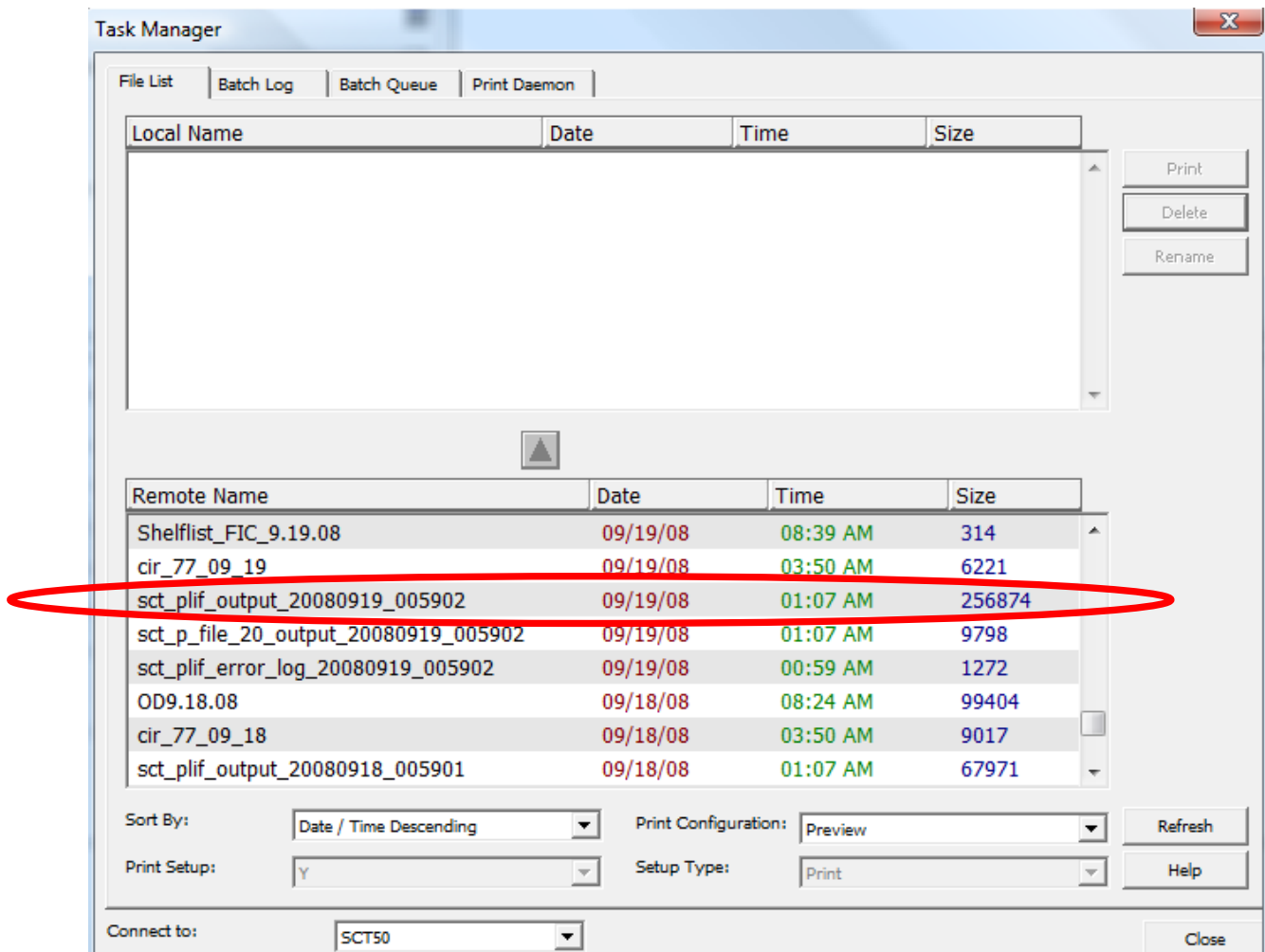
```
Load: /exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/unicode/tab_character_conversion_line
Load: /exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/unicode/adm_name_key
Load: /exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/unicode/unicode_case
Load: /exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/tab/tab100
Load: /exlibris/aleph/u18_1/sys50/tab/tab100
Info: Empty table /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/error_eng/p_file_20
Info: Empty table /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/error_eng/global
Load: /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/a18_1/aleph/error_eng/p_file_20
Error (b_file_20_chk_edit_record) : Errors in Z305 Record 000082
Number of Errors = 01
Info: Empty table /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/u18_1/alephe/error_eng/check_z305
Load: /tmp/utf_files/exlibris/aleph/a18_1/aleph/error_eng/check_z305
Error 0202 : conflict between Z305-SUB-LIBRARY and Z305-BOR-STATUS (check tab31)
235 END READING AT 01:03:47
```

In this example, the reason for the error is that there is a “conflict between z305-SUB-LIBRARY and z305-BOR-STATUS (check tab31)”. This means that the status number assigned to this patron in the [O] Local Patron Information window is not a status that is allowed according to tab31. You will need to view the PLIF output log, as explained below, to find the patron's name and ID so that you can access the patron record in the Circulation module and make the correction.

## PLIF output log

The PLIF output log reports the same errors that are reported in the p\_file\_20\_output log, but provides different information about those errors. You can't see the data that should have been updated in the PLIF output log, but you can use the data that IS there to find further information. As stated above, the PLIF output log is always generated by a PLIF load, regardless of whether there were errors.

The PLIF output log is viewable via the Task Manager in Aleph, which is the recommended way to view this log. You are looking for a file that looks similar to "xxx\_plif\_output\_log\_20080919\_005902", where "xxx" is your library's 3-letter ADM code:

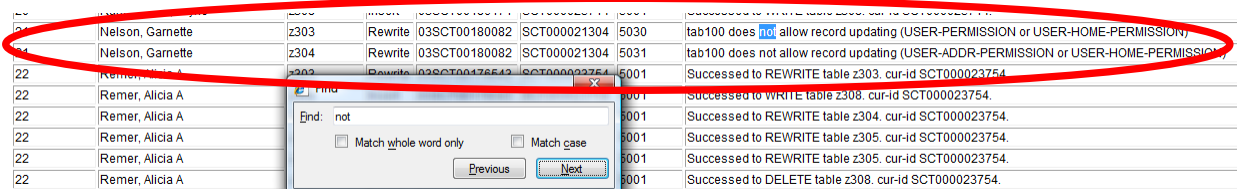


Double click on the file name in the lower window to move it to your local PC (it will appear in the upper window). Then open the file in the upper window by clicking on it, first having selected "Print Configuration" of "Preview". The Print Preview window will open.

## What to do with the PLIF output log:

To find the lines dealing with errors, you can either scroll down to the line number of the patron record (Record No.) that you noted from the p\_file\_20\_output log, or you can use the <Control-F> find functionality in the Task Manager Print Preview window and search for the word “not” to go directly to the lines that deal with errors in the log. The errors will generate different error messages, but they have the word “not” in common.

You can get several items of information from the PLIF output log. They are the patron’s name, the patron’s match-ID (tech/registration ID) and the patron’s ID, as well as the error message, as highlighted in the sample below:

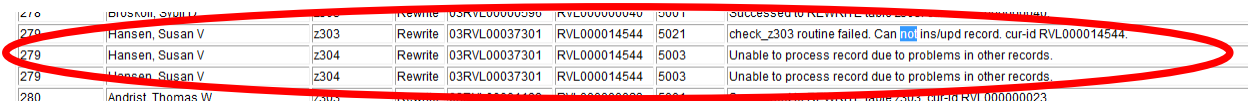


21	Nelson, Garnette	z303	Rewrite	03SCT00180082	SCT000021304	5030	tab100 does not allow record updating (USER-PERMISSION or USER-HOME-PERMISSION)
22	Nelson, Garnette	z304	Rewrite	03SCT00180082	SCT000021304	5031	tab100 does not allow record updating (USER-ADDR-PERMISSION or USER-HOME-PERMISSION)
22	Remer, Alicia A	z302	Rewrite	03SCT00476549	SCT000023754	5001	Successfully to REWRITE table z303. cur-id SCT000023754
22	Remer, Alicia A					5001	Successfully to WRITE table z308. cur-id SCT000023754.
22	Remer, Alicia A					5001	Successfully to REWRITE table z304. cur-id SCT000023754.
22	Remer, Alicia A					5001	Successfully to REWRITE table z305. cur-id SCT000023754.
22	Remer, Alicia A					5001	Successfully to REWRITE table z305. cur-id SCT000023754.
22	Remer, Alicia A					5001	Successfully to DELETE table z308. cur-id SCT000023754.

There can be separate lines for each piece of information contained in the PLIF load (address changes, barcode changes, etc.) so there may be several lines for each patron record.

In the example above, the error “tab100 does not allow record updating (USER-PERMISSION...)” is caused by an error in the existing patron record. The patron record, in this case, is missing the xxx50 patron status record (Z305). To correct this, the patron record will need to be edited to add the xxx50 patron status record (Z305). You can use the patron’s ID to search for the record in Aleph Circulation and add the xxx50 patron status record (Z305) in the [O] Local Patron Information window.

Another type of error that may be found is shown below:



279	Hansen, Susan V	z303	Rewrite	03RVL000037301	RVL000014544	5021	check_z303 routine failed. Can not ins/upd record. cur-id RVL000014544.
279	Hansen, Susan V	z304	Rewrite	03RVL000037301	RVL000014544	5003	Unable to process record due to problems in other records.
279	Hansen, Susan V	z304	Rewrite	03RVL000037301	RVL000014544	5003	Unable to process record due to problems in other records.
280	Andrist, Thomas W	z303	Rewrite	03RVL000000023	RVL000000023	5001	Successfully to REWRITE table z303. cur-id RVL000000023.

In the example above, the error “check\_z303 routine failed. Can not ins/upd record...” is also caused by an error in the existing patron record. The patron record, in this case, does not have a valid value in the ILL LIBRARY field, which is viewed in the [G] Global Patron Information window in the Circulation module, and needs to be corrected. You can use the patron’s name and ID from the PLIF output log so that you can access the patron record in the Circulation module and make the correction.







## PLIF input log

The last file, the PLIF input log, can be used to find all the information that SHOULD have been updated in the patron record, but wasn't, because of errors. The Input log can only be viewed via the Aleph v.18 Tables on the production server through the web, using either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox:

[http://aleph.mnpals.net/tables/u18\\_1/xxx50/scratch/](http://aleph.mnpals.net/tables/u18_1/xxx50/scratch/)

(note: it is in the "scratch" folder, not the "print" folder, like the PLIF error log, output log and the p\_file\_20\_output log). Be sure to replace the "xxx" with your 3-letter ADM code. The file looks like "xxx\_plif\_input\_date.filename":

## Index of /tables/u18\_1/rcl50/scratch

<u>Name</u>	<u>Last modified</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Description</u>
 <a href="#">Parent Directory</a>	25-Jan-2007 13:49	-	
 <a href="#">rcl_plif_input_20070..&gt;</a>	19-Feb-2007 00:59	6k	
 <a href="#">rcl_plif_input.20070..&gt;</a>	20-Feb-2007 01:01	1.1M	
 <a href="#">rcl_plif_input.20070..&gt;</a>	21-Feb-2007 01:00	86k	
 <a href="#">pc_job_batch_log</a>	21-Feb-2007 07:57	41k	
 <a href="#">rcl_plif_input.20070..&gt;</a>	22-Feb-2007 01:00	219k	

Double-click on the file name to open it.

## What to do with the PLIF input log:

You can use Control-F find functionality in both Mozilla Firefox and IE to now find the information that should have been updated by finding the patron's "match-id", which is their tech/registration ID, in the PLIF input log. This information will be in one long string, but will contain information such as that shown below:

```
U03RCL00001519
+      O'Neil, Herbert E
+      +          +++ +
++
+      + + + + ++          +          + +      +
+
000202U0101Herbert E O'Neil          310 Boulder St
SW          Hutchinson, MN
%          %
553502118 3205874425          +          +
+          herb.o'neill@ridgewater.edu
2007022020080528+          U0202Herbert E O'Neil
MAINHU          2 Century Ave SE
Hutchinson, MN          %
55350      3202340240          +          +
+          herb.o'neill@ridgewater.edu
2007022020070528+          UALEPH+ +
2007052820070220
URCL50+ + 2007052820070220
```

Currently, this file is NOT parsed into separate fields, with field labels. In the PALS office, we can view this information through the secure shell and see it in a much more readable layout. This information may contain names, addresses, phone numbers, address expiration dates, patron status record expiration dates, ID's, etc. In the example above, the "+" means "do not update this information in the patron record". The "%" means "delete this information in the patron record".

Because this information is not easily readable, it is probably best to just make sure the errors reported in the PLIF output log and the p\_file\_20\_output log are corrected, as explained above. Once the errors are corrected, subsequent PLIF loads should be able to automatically update the patron information.

## RESOURCES

MnPALS PLIF Loader document:

<http://www.mnpals.org/aleph/syslibs/docs/plif0607.pdf>

Production Server:

<http://aleph.mnpals.net/>