

# PALS UPDATE



Volume 2 / Issue 4

## SCHEDULE

February:

- 02 - 3 pm – SubjectsPlus training
- 04 – 10 am – Primo Q&A
- 11 – 8:30 am – 12:30 pm  
User Council/Executive Committee
- 17 10 am – Resource Mgtm. Q&A and discussion
- 25 3 pm – Fulfillment Show & Tell

March:

- 04 – 2 pm – Resource Sharing Show & Tell

Watch the MnPALS Discuss list serv for Zoom or registration links.

## Alma and Primo VE Highlights – returning in next month.

The February release includes the premium sandbox refresh. You will see new data in the Sandboxes on February 14. Please note down any configurations you want to keep for future use. All Sandboxes will refresh with data and configurations from the production sites.

Also, the Primo VE semi-indexing occurs with the February release.

### *In-Depth*

It is that time of the year; the ELUNA NERS enhancement process is upon us. The NERS enhancement is a collaborative process for IGeLU and ELUNA members to bring software enhancement to Ex Libris. IGeLU and ELUNA members create software enhancement ideas, the membership votes on the ideas, and the top voted enhancement, Ex Libris implements.

Do you have a great software enhancement idea but not an ELUNA membership? Make your voice heard; work with a PALS Support Teams member to convert your idea into a votable enhancement request. Please submit your enhancement idea via the Support Center by Monday, February 8. Enhancement ideas are due to ELUNA on February 13. We want enough time to work with you to write up a clear statement of improved functionality and benefit. NERS enhancements generally are complex and represent considerable functionality improvements.

The first round of voting begins March 28, ending April 10. The top enhancements make it into the final round of voting starting June 14, ending June 26. Ex Libris commits to developing the top voted enhancements.

ELUNA/IGeLU reserves voting rights to members only. Watch the MnPALS Alma/Primo listserv for the list of votable enhancement. We will ask for input for you all via the MnPALS Alma Community list. Consider an ELUNA membership to place your votes, <https://el-una.org/about/>.

Let's not forget about the Idea Exchange, <https://ideas.exlibrisgroup.com/>. The Idea Exchange is open to all. You only need an email address. Enter an idea to improve software functionality and vote on ideas. You have a total of 25 votes, place between 1 and 3 votes on any idea. Once Ex Libris adopts an idea, you will receive the votes back. Coordinate with your colleagues in your institution, across the MnPALS Consortium, and beyond. The higher the vote count, the better chance that Ex Libris will adopt the software development idea.

---

## Member Highlight, Rachel Milani

Hibbing Community College



1. What is your current position, how long have you been in your position? *I am the Library Technician at Hibbing Community College. I've been working in this position for the past 5 years, ever since graduating from UW Madison with my MLIS.*
2. What is your favorite function in Alma or Primo? Why? *I am terrible at picking favorites. Favorite colors, favorite movies, favorite books (I know!) - so a favorite function in ALMA is tough to pinpoint. This isn't a function exactly, but I like the platform itself. I like that I don't have to open four different desktop clients to manage library functions (cough - ALEPH - cough). I like the modern look and how easy it is to customize the roles and functions for my student workers. I really like the Tasks widget on the ALMA home screen. And I love ALMA Analytics. Like I said - terrible at favorites.*
3. What do you want to learn next? *I've been killing it in the hobbies department lately. I taught myself how to knit and crochet over the past couple of years, and I've been expanding my horizons in the kitchen, making wontons and chicken tikka masala, and now I've set my sights on music. I recently bought a cheap violin, and I'm hoping I can coerce my brother into teaching me how to play. I already play the piano and sing, so I'm hoping that learning the violin won't be too difficult (it totally will be, but a girl can dream).*
4. What are you currently reading or listening to? *Ah, the sheer embarrassment of admitting that the most recent book I read was a romance novel. I read Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie, and thoroughly enjoyed it, but you can't tell anyone because I strictly maintain the morbid reputation of enjoying nothing but serial killer mysteries - the more people that die, the better (it's mostly true... but sometimes a girl just wants to read a feel-good romance). I am also listening to the Harry Potter books on OverDrive, read by Jim Dale, and thoroughly enjoying the experience. Next up, I'm going to re-read the Throne of Glass series by Sarah J. Maas or the Lunar Chronicles by Melissa Meyer because I also love YA fiction (again, tell no one. I have a reputation to uphold).*
5. What is your favorite snack? *I've already discussed my inability to pick favorites, but I can actually answer this one. I LOVE Dot's Pretzels. 😊*

# Celebrate

During the weekend of January 12, 2020, our Consortium switched from using the Primo Central Index (PCI) to the Central Discovery Index (CDI) for Primo VE content discovery. At this point of our CDI first anniversary, we want to thank everyone for their help testing before the switch and their patience post-switch as Ex Libris fine-tuned the CDI functionality. While there were some hiccups along the way because we one of the first Ex Libris Alma customers using the CDI on production, the overall process went smoothly. We know that this past year has been trying, but we are glad we chose to switch at the time we did. Going in January enabled us to get over initial hurdles before everything became chaotic. So, once again, thank you.

Some of our institutions do still need to review and clean up their electronic collections in Alma. That cleanup work will improve your users' experience in Primo VE. If you are one of them and need assistance, consider scheduling a One-on-One Institutional Collection Activation Review Session online at the [PALS Bookings Page](#). For more information, see [One-on-One Institutional Collection Activation Review Sessions \(Answer 4338\)](#).

Just a reminder, switching to the CDI meant you no longer needed to maintain electronic collection activations in two separate places. Now, you manage all aspects of electronic collection activations in Alma. Switching to the CDI also meant faster processing times when you edit an electronic collection's settings to the point when Primo VE reflects those changes.



## **Virtual Conference: Flexibility in Library Service: Rediscovering our Work (April 5 – 9, 2021)**

Consider sharing your experience & expertise with library colleagues at the MnPALS virtual spring conference April 5-9, 2021. All sessions will take place between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm (US central time zone). Sessions can take the form of short presentations, long presentations, lightning rounds, or panels, and will be thematically divided into the following categories:

- *Making the Most of Alma/Primo VE*
- *Moving Beyond the ILS*

You have until January 22, 2021, to submit proposals for a presentation. [Enter your proposal here.](#)



**Reference/Instruction Community of Interest:** Adam Bezdicek (Pine Tech/Anoka Tech), Elizabeth Tegeler (St. Catherine University), and Scott Kaihori (Bethel University), have planned a meeting for anyone interested in reference and instruction issues. The meeting will be on **Thursday, January 28, 1:00 - 2:00 pm.** **Please RSVP** either way if you'd like to be involved in this community of interest. If you are busy at that time, there's a place on the form for you to register your interest so you can stay informed. (From Johnna's MnPALS email 1/19/21)

---

## Book a Consultation with PALS Support

Do you have Alma topics you would like to discuss? Perry, Etta, Carrie, and Dani offer consultation times to talk through workflow scenarios and use of the software to its full potential, functionality, or follow-up on a ticket.

### Book a session:

[Perry](#) – talk with Perry about Primo VE

[Etta](#) - scroll down to Course Reserve or Fulfillment

[Carrie](#) - see Acquisition and ERM sections

[Dani](#) - let's talk about anything Resource Management related

---

## Contact Us

### PALS

Minnesota State University, Mankato

3022 Memorial Library

Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507.389.2000

Toll Free: 1.877.466.5465

[daniela.kroon@mnsu.edu](mailto:daniela.kroon@mnsu.edu)

[www.mnpals.org](http://www.mnpals.org)

[Support Center](#)

[Ex Libris Knowledge Center](#)

[Alma Release Notes](#)

[Primo VE Release Notes](#)

[Alma/Primo Idea Exchange](#)

