

# PALS UPDATE



Volume 3 / Issue 3

## SCHEDULE

December:

02 (1 pm – 2 pm) Discovery  
Community of Interest,  
Topic: Collection Discovery

08 (1:30 pm – 2:30 pm) Meeting  
of the Minds, Topic: IPEDs &  
Course Reserves

16 (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm) Reference  
& Instruction Discussion Group

January:

12 (1:30 pm – 2:30 pm) Meeting  
of the Minds

27 (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm) Reference  
& Instruction Discussion Group

Watch the MnPALS Discuss list  
for Zoom or registration links.

## Alma and Primo VE December 2021 Release Highlights

**Administration** - A counter has been added to the Printout Queue task list.

**Analytics** - Coming to you via a NERS Enhancement, Ex Libris added the PO Line Notes field to the PO Line dimension. Also, you will see "Expenditures Per Reporting Code - 4<sup>th</sup>" and "Expenditures Per Reporting Code - 5<sup>th</sup>" in the out-of-the-box Acquisitions' Dashboard > Reporting Code tab.

**Course Reserves** - The rollover job may be run now multiple times without fear of duplicating reading lists. Please enter the previous rollover date in the Integration Profile to ensure courses rolled once will not roll over again.

**Fulfillment** – Another NERS enhancement, institutions can customize the list of locations in the GetIt menu, using the 'Use Custom Sorting' option in the Locations Ordering Profile.

**General** – Excel reports exported from Alma will be formatted to sort headers, column width adjustments, and wrap content. [Video](#).

**Resource Management** – In an institution with multiple libraries, the default locations tie to the desk the user set Alma to say they are "Physically at."

[Alma Release Notes](#)

[Primo Release Notes](#)

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*From Perry's Desk*

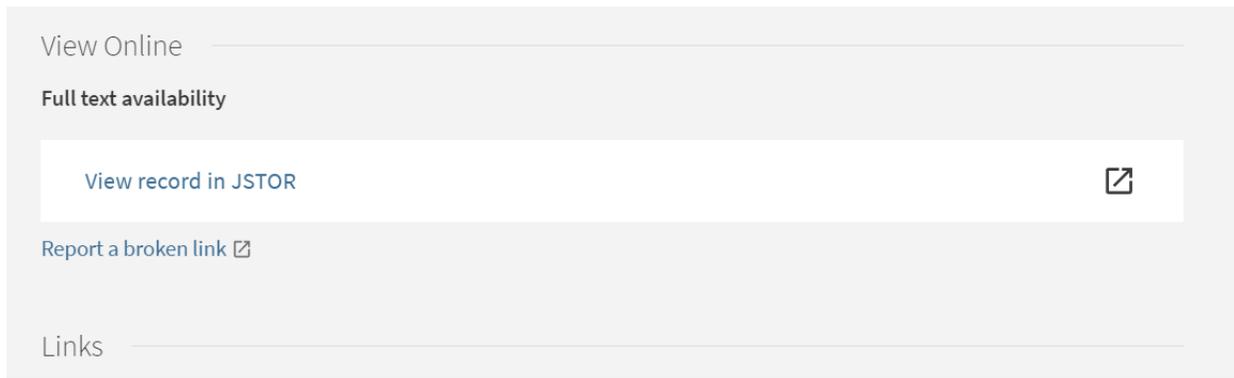
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## BROKEN LINK REPORTING IN PRIMO VE

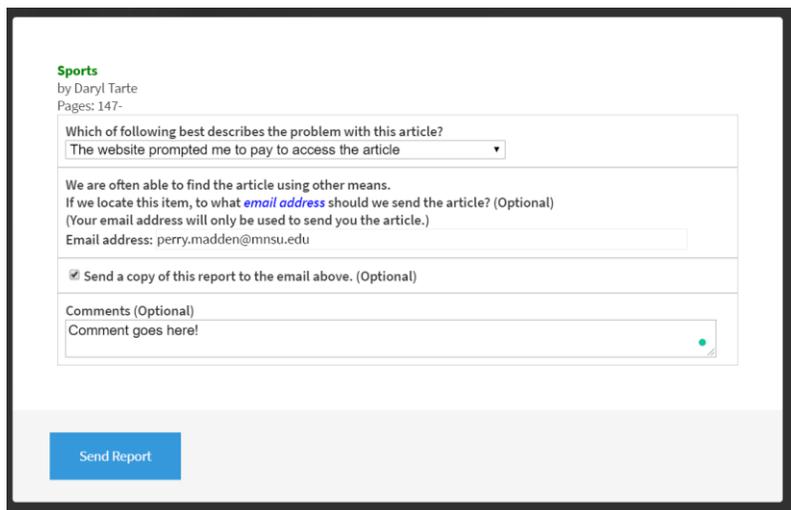
Introduced by the PALS office in June 2020, PALS Tech Staff (mainly Simon Mai) adapted code shared on the Ex Libris Tech Blog, allowing

library patrons and staff to report problems linking out to Electronic Collections from Primo VE. Initially designed for use by a single library, Simon enhanced the code to allow multiple libraries to use the Broken Link Reporting functionality while allowing PALS staff to run a single instance of the background software that processes the Broken Link Reports.

The **Report a Broken Link** feature appears after the 'View It' section in Primo VE, where the various links to your library's Electronic Collections appear.



The form gathers data from the PNX record in Primo and shares that information with the designated Library Staff. With help from PALS, libraries can customize the display form, including the description of the problem.



The patron can also add their email address to the Broken Link form to get a copy of the email message and alert library staff to the patron needing assistance. Then, library staff can assist the user in gaining access to the resource.

Currently, 15 libraries in the MnPALS Consortium have implemented the Broken Link Reporting functionality through the PALS office. A couple of other libraries have implemented the functionality in their fashion. The implementation includes updates to your library's Primo Customization Package files, including the Custom CSS (Style Sheet) and Javascript files. Libraries can customize the form, including the dropdown menu list of problems.

If your library is interested in implementing this in your Primo VE instance, please use the PALS Support Center to request implementation.

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## Member Highlight

Laura Bell, Legislative Reference Library, St. Paul



### What is your current position, how long have you been in your position?

Information Analyst. I'm a reference librarian and the cataloger. I've been in this position for a little over a year and will have been with the LRL for two years in December.

### Share one thing you are excited about that is happening in your library?

The LRL constantly has new projects in the works. A collective favorite is the [Legislative Media Archive](#). The LRL has digitized and made available thousands of committee/commission/floor session tapes and files from 1991-present. Although I haven't worked on the project directly, all of the librarians benefit from this resource, and it's been enjoyable to share in everyone's excitement. The archive is always expanding, and the LRL staff is always working on improvements.

### What is a regular campus activity you missed last year?

One word, Session! Having only been with the LRL for two years, I experienced a couple of months of Session before working from home began. It was fun, busy, full of energy, and a great way to get to know new people.

### What are you currently reading or listening to?

In July, we had a baby! My life has been filled with a ton of children's books, both old and new, and a parenting book or two. I'm currently reading *The Wonder Weeks*, and a few of our favorite children's books are: "The Pout-Pout Fish" by Deborah Diesen, "Winnie-the-Pooh" by A.A. Milne, and "Owl Moon" by Jane Yolen.

### What is your favorite snack?

My go-to snack is cheese; however, I am currently dairy-free and have popcorn or graham crackers as backups with great sadness.

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## Metadata Contemplation by Dani



The art of cataloging has been on my mind lately, and I mean beyond the support I provide to you all in Alma. I attended Minitex's Technical Services day, which was all about "Making Good Trouble." In addition, let us not forget about the news that the Library of Congress changed the .N cutters with .B cutters. Plus, the Library of Congress debated and adapted to change the subject heading for illegal aliens.

## Subject Change, Illegal Aliens:

The most important news item of the last couple of weeks is the announcement from the Library of Congress to change the subject heading 'Illegal Aliens.' I was sorely disappointed when I saw the subject heading switched to 'Noncitizen.' What exactly is a noncitizen? Aren't we all citizens of this earth? Some confusion might come because the heading splits into two separate headings, Noncitizens and Illegal Immigration. As Mark Ehlert pointed out in one of his posts on the MnPALS Cataloging discussion list, the headings now distinguish between the person and the law. We implemented local authority headings in the MnPALS consortium catalog to flip headings associated with Illegal Aliens to Undocumented Immigrants. Thank you to Mark Ehlert and former CLiC libraries for sharing the authority file. The question is, are we going to follow the Library of Congress or continue on our local authority file path? I wonder what members of the consortium will decide?

## Minitex Technical Services Day:

Here are a couple of highlights from presentations from our MnPALS members.

Bobby Bothmann from Minnesota State University, Mankato, gave a summary presentation of many currently cataloging projects to make our catalogs unbiased and just. For example, see the [announcement](#) from the Library of Congress that .N cutters (Negro) changing to .B cutters (Blacks). Bobby also talked about the [Homosaurus Subject Headings](#). The subject heading list provides a vocabulary of LGBTQ+ terms. There is an [Idea Exchange](#) to add the Homosaurus Subject Headings to Alma Authority Vocabularies. Vote for it if you have remaining votes. Further, he shared a [presentation](#) by Kalani Adolpho from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who talked about decolonizing the catalog and classification for Indigenous peoples and nations. Are there other subject terms in our catalog that are racist, offensive, or incorrect?

David Norris of St. Catherine University and Violet Fox gave a presentation about the MARC fields added to aid the discovery of assessable materials, aptly titled: You've Got Accessible Resources: Can Your User Find Them? The Library of Congress introduced accessible related MARC fields in 2018 (341, Accessibility Content, 532 Accessibility Note, and 041 Language Code). David and Violet explained how to use them, the lack of usage and why it matters. David highlighted his desire that accessibility notes could translate to facets and, in general, to make retrieval of materials that are accessible easier for patrons. My favorite quote from the presentation comes from David, "Our metadata is all dressed up with nowhere to go."

There is a lot to ponder in the evolving sphere of cataloging and metadata. Changing our library catalogs to replace biased, racist, colonized terms is one of many steps. Correct and thoughtful term usage is one way libraries can help make society a kind, fair and equitable place.

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## 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 discuss workflow scenarios and use of the software to its full potential, functionality, or follow-up on a ticket.

### Book a session:

[Perry](#) – Primo VE

[Etta](#) - Course Reserves or Fulfillment

[Carrie](#) - Acquisitions, Serials, and ERM

[Dani](#) - Resource Management

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

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[Alma/Primo Idea Exchange](#)