

PALS UPDATE



Volume 3 / Issue 5

SCHEDULE

February:

24 (1:00 pm) – [RIPL \(Reference & Instruction Discussion Group\)](#)

March:

02 (11:00 am) – [MnPALS Consortium Board Meeting](#)

03 (2:00 pm) – [Discovery Community of Interest](#)

09 (2:00 pm) – [Meeting of the Minds](#)

10 (10:00 am) – [Cataloging Community of Interest](#)

21 (2:30 pm) – [ILL Community of Interest](#)

31 (1:00 pm) – [RIPL \(Reference & Instruction Discussion Group\)](#)

April:

01 Spring Gathering (Online)

Watch the MnPALS Discuss list for Zoom or registration links.

Alma and Primo VE March 2022 Release Highlights

Analytics – Ex Libris has added several events have to the Events Subject Area. Please see the Ex Libris documentation for [Events](#).

DARA – This tool now helps you identify local portfolios that you can most likely group into one electronic collection. Please see Ex Libris's [Video](#).

Fulfillment – You can now choose to extend the due date for a patron whose account is about to expire.

Primo – The ability to limit search scopes in CDI to specific disciplines or resource types.

Resource Management – Ex Libris released improvements to the Overlap and Collection Analysis tool. Check it out (Resources -> Advanced Tools -> Overlap and Collection Analysis). In the Analysis, you can include collections from the NZ. Please see Ex Libris's [Video](#).

Resource Sharing – Using Display Logic Rules, it is possible to hide the resource sharing service based on the resource type. Please see the [Display Logic Rules documentation](#).

[Alma Release Notes](#)

[Primo Release Notes](#)

From Jill's Desk

MORE ABOUT LIBSTATS

LibStats Might Be Just What You Need

Are you still tracking your reference stats with tic marks on paper? (And then you have to enter them into a spreadsheet, which is no fun.)

What if there was a way to record more information quickly and then use it?

There is! You can use LibStats. It is easy - have it open when doing reference, and you can quickly record the questions you are asked. Then later, use the reports to help with staffing decisions and collection development.

LibStats is an open-source program libraries use to record data about questions asked at service desks. St. Cloud State University used to host it for several institutions in our consortium. They added a few fields, most notably the READ Score. They also added several extra reports.

Now PALS has taken the orphaned 2009 version of the code (<https://code.google.com/archive/p/libstats/>) and updated it to work with current versions of Linux and MySQL. We also updated to https to eliminate those pesky browser security errors. We brought over the old data, and some of our libraries do indeed have rich historical data. One library has a record of their questions going back to 2009, and another library has over 90,000 questions in their LibStats.

While it is not a fancy program, and we do not plan to develop new features, we have a small group of people who love it. You can set up different users and libraries. You can customize the information you want to record. There are about 20 reports.

Watch this 8-minute video where Randi Madisen shows how they use LibStats at Century College:

https://mediaspace.minnstate.edu/media/LibStats+Demo+by+Randi+Madisen/1_cul4z18s

PALS is now hosting LibStats for free for our members. If you want to start using LibStats, submit a [PALS Support Center](#) ticket.

Member Highlight

Kevin McGrew, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth

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

I am currently the Director of the Library. I started at CSS in September 1989, working as the Night/Weekend Supervisor. Since then, I've worked with reference, serials, electronic resources, and interlibrary loan in a variety of ways.



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

We have just kicked off this year's nomination period for our annual [Bede Award for Undergraduate Library Research](#), which recognizes excellence in the use of information literacy skills.

What is a regular campus activity you missed last year?

All of the in-person celebrations that happen during the academic year.

What are you currently reading or listening to?

Currently, between books, my most recent read was "Breaking the Two-Party Doom Loop" by Lee Drutman.

What is your favorite snack?

Is pizza a snack? No? Cheese and crackers, then.



The Upper Midwest Ex Libris User Group (UMWUG) needs your input. UMWUG was planning to meet in October 2020, and then the pandemic happened. Now, after several postponements, UMWUG wants your feedback about the possibility of a meeting in person in October 2022 in Fargo, North Dakota. Please fill out [this short survey](#) to help the UMWUG committee make an informed decision about meeting in person. The Conference generally begins in the afternoon of day one, followed by a full conference day on the second day.

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

Contact Us

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[Alma Release Notes](#)

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[Alma/Primo Idea Exchange](#)