# Custom Sorting of Items in Aleph

# How Triggers and the Z13 Enabled Us to Rule Our World

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THE CHURCH OF

JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



#### Agenda

- Background
- The Problem
- The Solution
- Gotchas
- Additional Material



#### **Background LDS Church**

- 14+ million members globally
- 166 languages supported
- \$885 MM of humanitarian assistance given since 1985
- 4 Universities and Colleges
- Family History Library
- Church History Library
- Audio Visual Department / Motion Picture Studio



#### **Background Church History Dept**

- Within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints there is a Church History Department.
- Inside this department there is a Church History Library, Museum, and Archives.
  - Aleph handles circulation for all 3 organizations (single shared ADM library).
- Primo is used for discovery.



#### **Background within the Archives**

- In the Archives, a BIB record can have multiple associated HOL records.
  - The first HOL record is typically the hard copy original.
    - HOL1: manuscripts, diaries, photographs, maps, etc.
  - Each subsequent HOL record (and its associated items) is typically a duplicate of the first HOL record in a different material type.
    - HOL 2: microfilm positive
    - HOL 3: microfilm negative
    - HOL 4: CD master copy
    - HOL 5: CD patron copy

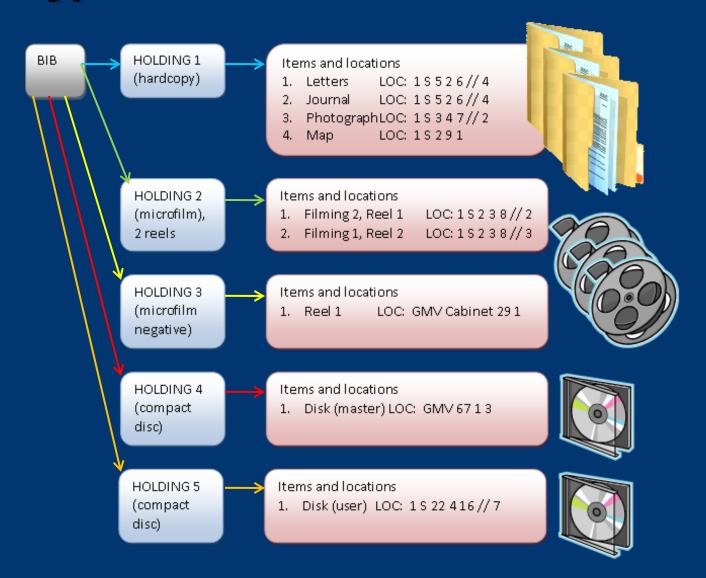
    - Other miscellaneous reasons
  - Certain HOL records have dozens or even hundreds of item records.
    - REEL 1, REEL 2, REEL n ...
    - FILMING 1, FILMING 2, FILMING n ...







#### **Typical Archives Record**





#### **Hold Requests in the Archives**

- Patrons search/discover in Primo and manually request by call number at the reference desk.
- Staff places the hold request for the patron using the Aleph client.
  - Many of the staffers are volunteers and are not professional librarians.
- When placing hold requests for patrons, staff must sift through and choose the preferred item in the Aleph client.
  - There are hundreds of items / many locations / multiple item statuses.
  - Circ policy prefers "Regular" items (don't require approval).
  - Circ policy prefers a digital or microfilm copy (not the original).

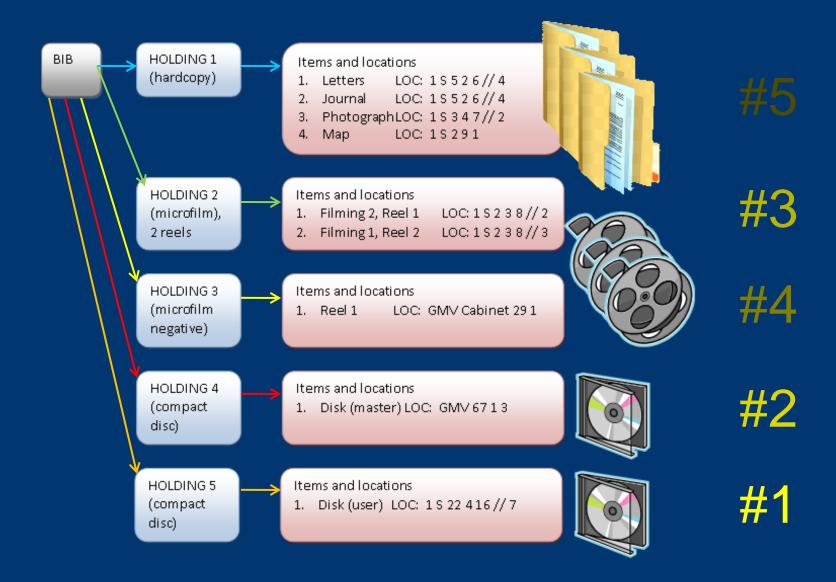


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# Preferred Item Order for a Typical Archives Record







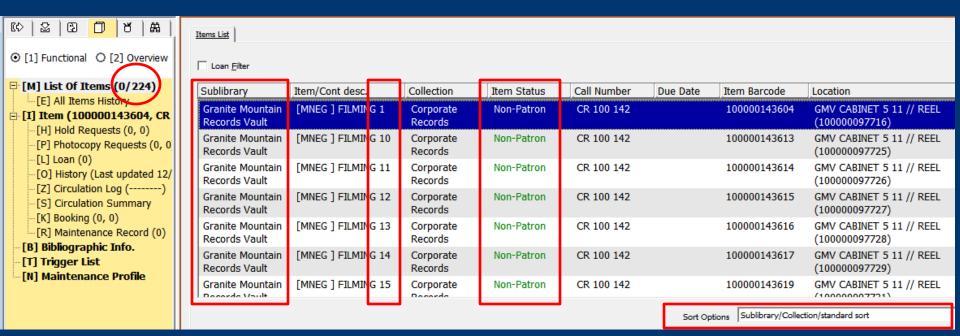
#### The Problem

- How do we customize the sorting of items?
- In our case: sort items by <u>sublibrary</u> + <u>material type</u> + <u>collection</u> + <u>item status</u> + the <u>sequence number</u> in item description?
  - There isn't a pre-defined sort routine for this.
  - There is no way to create a new sort routine.
  - Material type doesn't appear on the item list.
  - There isn't an item level filter mechanism.
  - There is no way to expand and correctly sort the sequence number (a piece of the item description).



#### **Example of the Problem**

- Hundreds of items, many locations, multiple item statuses.
- Vault items show up before Open Stacks.
- "Non-patron" items show up before "Regular".
- Numbers in item description sort incorrectly (1, 10, 11).





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#### The Solution

 Create custom sort keys and store them in unused item fields (using database triggers)
 and

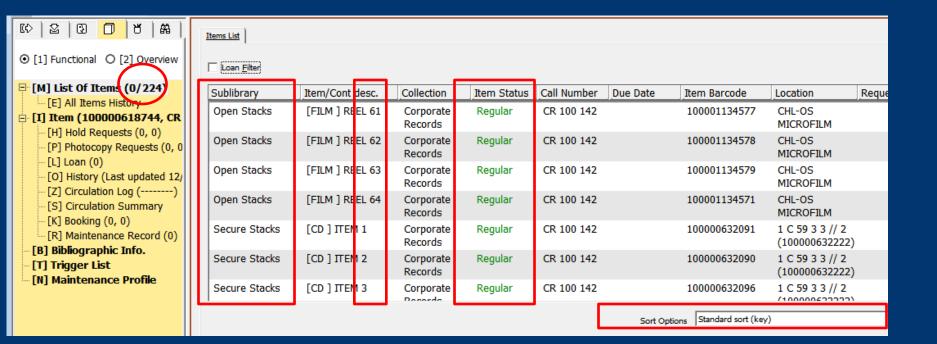
 Re-purpose a sort routine that will reference this field or fields.

• If needed, modify the z13 and z13u configuration to get additional data from the BIB and/or HOL records. (Covered in the additional material section.)



# The Solution (Example)

- Open Stacks show up first.
- "Regular" items show up first.
- Numbers in item description sort correctly.





Modifying an existing Aleph sort routine

#### **CHOOSING A SORT ROUTINE**



#### Aleph Sort Routine

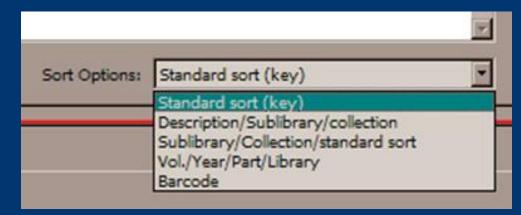
 After a great deal of trial and error, we settled on the ITEM-14 sort routine.

```
xxx50/tab_z30_sort
```



#### tab\_z30\_sort, option 14

- In xxx50/pc\_tab\_exp\_field.eng, we found ITEM-SORT-TYPE and renamed ITEM-14 sort to "Standard sort (key)".
  - This is what will show up in the Aleph client.
- In xxx50/tab\_z30\_sort, we added ITEM-14 and specified sort routine 14, ascending.
  - ITEM-14 A 14 A 14





Creating and storing custom sort keys

# **CUSTOM SORT KEYS**



#### **Sort Order and Weighting**

- We asked staff to define a sort order.
  - Sort order: sub-library + material type + collection + item status + the sequence number in the item description (REEL 1, REEL 2, REEL n).
- We further asked staff to weight each sort criteria.
  - Staff provided a 3-digit priority number for each: (1) sublibrary, (2) material type and (3) collection code. (note: only sub-library is shown)
  - 000 was the highest, and 999 was the lowest.
  - These are kept in Oracle tables.
- Item status codes were ordered from the lowest (least restrictive) to highest (most restrictive).
  - Regular (01), Approval Required (02), Non-Patron (04), and Non-Circulating (08).

SUB_LIBRARY	SORT_KEY A
▶ OSTKS	001
PROJ	002
SSTKS	003
MLIB	004
VAULT	005
GMRV	006
CSTOR	007
MUS	800
HSITE	009
CD	009
OTHER	010



#### **Creating the Main Sort Key**

- Every time the item record is updated, the trigger creates or updates the custom sort key.
  - Sort key [\$006M700C105I004] translates:
  - Sub-library sort order / weighting: 006
  - Material type sort order / weighting: 700
  - Collection code sort order / weighting: 105
  - Item status code sort order: 004
- The main sort key was put in the unused item field: Chron. Level.3 (K).



#### Item Sequence Sort Key

- Using a database trigger, we expanded the sequence number from the item description.
  - Item sequence sort key (respectively):
  - FILMING 1 → FILMING 0000001
  - $REEL 53 \rightarrow 0000053$
  - CD 5  $\rightarrow$  CD 0000005
  - ITEM 27 → ITEM 0000027
- The item sequence sort key was put in the unused item field: Sub-O / Supp-index-o.



#### **Adding Material Type to the Item**

- Staff had already put the item sequence number in the description field.
  - FILMING 1
  - REEL 53
  - ITEM 5
  - ITEM 27
- Using a database trigger, we put the material type code [in square brackets] at the beginning of the item description.
  - [MNEG] FILMING 1
  - [FILM] REEL 53.
  - [MULTI] ITEM 5
  - [CD] ITEM 27
- Now staff can see the item material type + the item sequence number when looking at items.

#### xxx50/Z30 Fields Modified by Trigger

- Z30\_DESCRIPTION
  - for viewing

- Z30\_CHRONOLOGICAL\_K
- Z30\_SUPP\_INDEX\_O
  - for sorting

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∄	Column Name	ID	Pk	Null?	Data Type		
	Z30_CALL_NO_2_KEY	20		Y	CHAR (80 Byte)		
Þ	Z30_DESCRIPTION	21			VARCHAR2 (200 Byte)		
	Z30_NOTE_OPAC	22		Y	VARCHAR2 (200 Byte)		
	Z30_NOTE_CIRCULATION	23	23 Y VA		VARCHAR2 (200 Byte)		
	Z30_NOTE_INTERNAL	25 Y V		Y	VARCHAR2 (200 Byte)		
	Z30_ORDER_NUMBER			Y	VARCHAR2 (30 Byte)		
	Z30_INVENTORY_NUMBER			Y	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_INVENTORY_NUMBER_DATE	27		Y	NUMBER (8)		
	Z30_LAST_SHELF_REPORT_DATE	28		Υ	NUMBER (8)		
	Z30_PRICE	29	Y CHAR		CHAR (10 Byte)		
	Z30_SHELF_REPORT_NUMBER	30 Y		Y	CHAR (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ON_SHELF_DATE	31		Υ	NUMBER (8)		
	Z30_ON_SHELF_SEQ 32			Υ	NUMBER (6)		
	Z30_REC_KEY_2	33		Υ	CHAR (19 Byte)		
	Z30_REC_KEY_3	34		Y	CHAR (40 Byte)		
	Z30_PAGES	35		Y	VARCHAR2 (30 Byte)		
	Z30_ISSUE_DATE	36		Y	NUMBER (8)		
	Z30_EXPECTED_ARRIVAL_DATE	37		Y	CHAR (8 Byte)		
	Z30_ARRIVAL_DATE	38		Y	CHAR (8 Byte)		
	Z30_ITEM_STATISTIC	39		Υ	CHAR (10 Byte)		
	Z30_ITEM_PROCESS_STATUS	40		Y	CHAR (2 Byte)		
	Z30_COPY_ID	41		Y	CHAR (5 Byte)		
	Z30_HOL_DOC_NUMBER_X	42		Y CHAR (9 Byte)			
	Z30_TEMP_LOCATION	43		Y	CHAR (1 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_A	44		Y	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_B	45		Y	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_C	46		Y	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_D	47		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_E	48		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_F	49		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_G	50		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_ENUMERATION_H	51		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_CHRONOLOGICAL_I	52		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_CHRONOLOGICAL_J	53		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
•	Z30_CHRONOLOGICAL_K	54		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_CHRONOLOGICAL_L	55		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
	Z30_CHRONOLOGICAL_M	56		Υ	VARCHAR2 (20 Byte)		
٠	Z30_SUPP_INDEX_O	57		Υ	VARCHAR2 (30 Byte)		
	Z30_85X_TYPE	58		Υ	CHAR (1 Byte)		

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#### **Custom Trigger Code**

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION INVENTORY.build_sort_key
p_sublibrary
              in varchar2,
              in varchar2.
p material
p collection
              in varchar2,
              in varchar2,
p itemstatus
p procstatus
              in varchar2 default null
RETURN VARCHAR2
build_sort_key
 PURPOSE: Builds a sort string from sub-library, material, collection, and item status
 REVISIONS:
 Ver
        Date
                Author
                           Description
        10/12/2010 RawlesBA Created this function.
 NOTES: The Sub-Library, Material Type, and Collection all have tables that convert the code
to a numeric value used in sorting.
v_return
              varchar2(100);
v sublibrary
              varchar2(3);
              varchar2(3);
v_material
v_collection
              varchar2(3)
              varchar2(3):
v itemstatus
v procstatus
              varchar2(1):
BEGIN
  -- Sub Library code
  begin
    select sort key
          v_sublibrary
    from sort_sublibrary
    where sub_library = p_sublibrary;
  exception
    when others then
      v_sublibrary := '099';
  end;
```

```
-- Modify sub library based on process status
  if ltrim(rtrim(p_procstatus)) is null then
    null;
  else
    v_sublibrary := '9'||substr(v_sublibrary,2,2);
  end if:
  -- Material code
  begin
     select sort_key
            v material
     from sort material
     where material = p material;
  exception
     when others then
       v material := '999';
  end:
  -- Collection code
  begin
     select sort_key
            v collection
     from sort collection
     where collection = p_collection;
  exception
     when others then
       v collection := '999';
  end:
  -- Item Status us value
  v_itemstatus := lpad(substr(p_itemstatus,1,3),3,'0');
  v_return := substr('[S'||v_sublibrary||'M'||v_material||'C'||v_collection||'I'||v_itemstatus||']',1,20);
  return(v return);
END build_sort_key;
```



Set Aleph to use the new sort routine

# USING THE RE-PURPOSED SORT ROUTINE

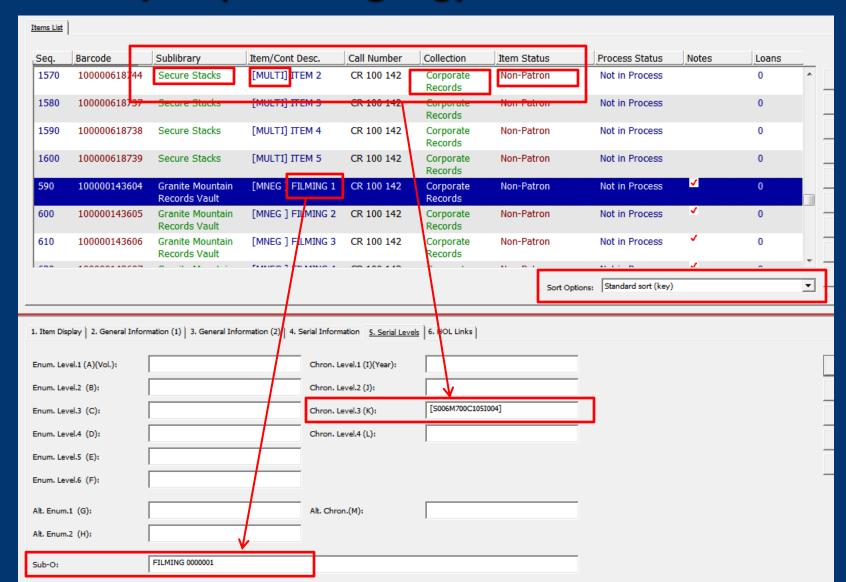


#### **Have Aleph use the Custom Sort**

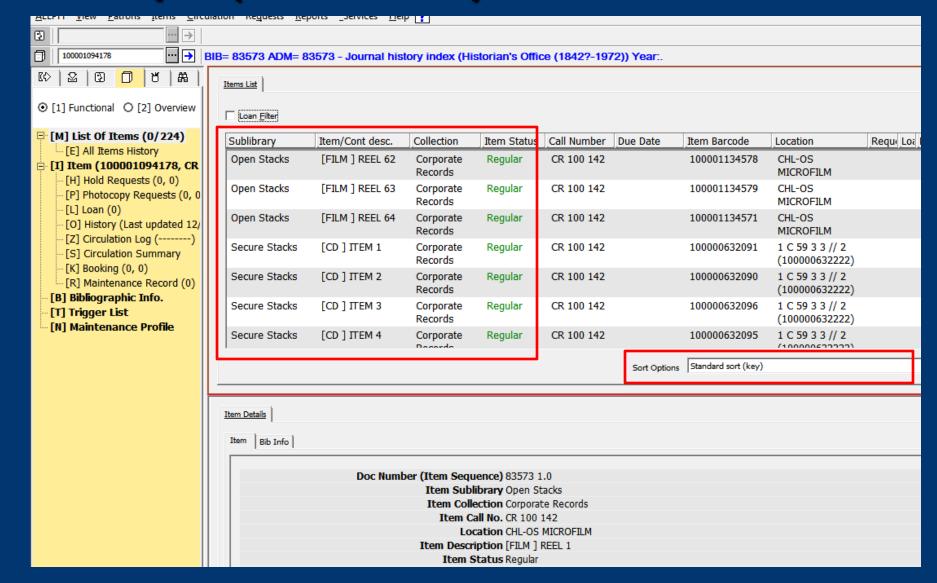
- Modify \AL500\Circ\tab\GuiSys.ini to point to the new sort routine.
  - [ItemList]
  - ItemSortType=ITEM-14



## **Example (Cataloging)**



#### **Example (Circulation)**





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#### Gotchas

- General warning: be careful with custom triggers and item records (Z30) since the trigger might interfere with some Aleph (or Primo) functionality.
- Make sure the trigger that creates the custom sort key doesn't do anything for serials.
  - Configure your trigger to ignore material types that start with "ISS".
- We created custom labels for certain fields in the Aleph client. In some cases we added the word "[AUTO]" or "[REQ]" to the end of the label as indicators to staff.
  - C:\AL500\Alephcom\tab\eng\window.dat
- In some cases, we prevent staff from changing values to certain fields (non-serials). All of this can be very confusing for the staff.



#### Gotchas, cont.

- Initially we tried to use certain Z30 item fields to get the sort key working properly but encountered some odd side effects.
  - Do NOT use Enumeration Level.1 (A) (Vol) / Enumeration Level.2 (B), since Primo assumes a multi-volume collection if something is in these fields.
  - We tried to use a note field but that caused confusion for staff, and the sort key got displayed in the OPAC.
- Finally we found that Chronology Level 3 and Sub-O / Suppindex-o fields worked fine to hold the custom sort keys.
  - We also tested using some of the other Enumeration / Chronology fields (like Alt Chronology M), but in the end the two fields we selected seemed to work the best without side effects.

#### **Test Thoroughly!**



## Field Labels (Example)

Item Display     2. General Inform	Display 2. General Information (1) 3. General Information (2) 4. Serial Information 5. Serial Levels 6. HOL Links				
Barcode [REQ]:	100000993257	Item Status [REQ]:	01		
Sublibrary [REQ]:	OSTKS	Item Process Status:	<b>F</b>		
Collection [REQ]:	CLB	Enum. Level.1 (A)(Vol.)	):		
Copy Number:		Enum. Level.2 (B):			
Material Type [REQ]:	BOOK				
Hol. Link [REQ]:	692149				
85X Type/Linking #:	<b>)</b> 0	<u> </u>	Temporary Location		
Call Number [AUTO]:	8 M243.8 W8	727 v. 12 1997	<b></b>		
Location [AUTO]:	8 CHL-OS G	ENERAL BOOK LOCATION			
Item/Container Desc [REQ]:	[BOOK] ITEM 1	1. Item Display 2. General Infor	mation (1) 3. General Information (2) 4.	Serial Information 5, Serial Levels	6. HOL Links
		Enum. Level.1 (A)(Vol.):		Chron. Level.1 (I)(Year):	
		Enum. Level.2 (B):		Chron. Level.2 (J):	
		Enum. Level.3 (C):		Chron. Level.3 (K):	[5001M002C001I001]
				Chron. Level.4 (L):	
		Enum. Level.5 (E):			
		Enum. Level.6 (F):			
		Alt. Enum.1 (G):		Alt. Chron.(M):	
		Alt. Enum.2 (H):			
		Sub-O:	ITEM 0000001		
		Sub-O:	11211000001		



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Using the Z13 to get additional fields from the BIB and/or HOL records.

#### **MODIFY THE Z13 / Z13U**



#### **Modify the Z13/Z13U**

- If you need to create sort keys on a field that is in the BIB or HOL record, you will need to use the Z13/Z13U tables.
  - It is not possible to pull individual fields out of the BIB/HOL records because content is stored as a BLOB.
- Use the xxx60/tab22 and xxx01/tab22 tables to configure the Z13/Z13U tables.
- The Z13/Z13U tables can be configured to pull fields from the BIB and/or HOL records. Up to 15 user defined fields can be defined.
- DB triggers can access BIB and HOL data in the Z13/Z13U in addition to the item level data (Z30).



#### **Z13/Z13U Additional Notes**

The HOL will pull from the BIB and vive-versa.

For example we store the call # in the BIB 090\$a, or the HOL 852\$h or 950\$a.

- We modified: xxx60/tab22:
  - CALL-NO 1 852## h 950## a 090## a
  - Aleph will search for a value in this order: HOL 852\$h, HOL 950\$a, and then BIB 090#a until it finds a value.
- The Z13 is limited. But, it is updated by a background daemon so it is nearly always current.



#### Questions



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