
Alma Working Group Update

Catherine Grove, Northwestern University Libraries
ELUNA co-chair of the Alma WG

Gijs Noels, KULeuven / LIBIS
IGeLU co-chair of the Alma WG

IGeLU 2024



Agenda

What - Why?

- Renewed ToR Mission
- Dependencies (Challenges)

Who?

- Members
- Liaisons
- Shifts / Calls?

Ongoing?

- NERS
- Collaboration ExLibris
- ...

Looking ahead?

- Goals 2024 - 2025
- Discussion: expectations from the Community?

Questions?

- Q&A
- Other?

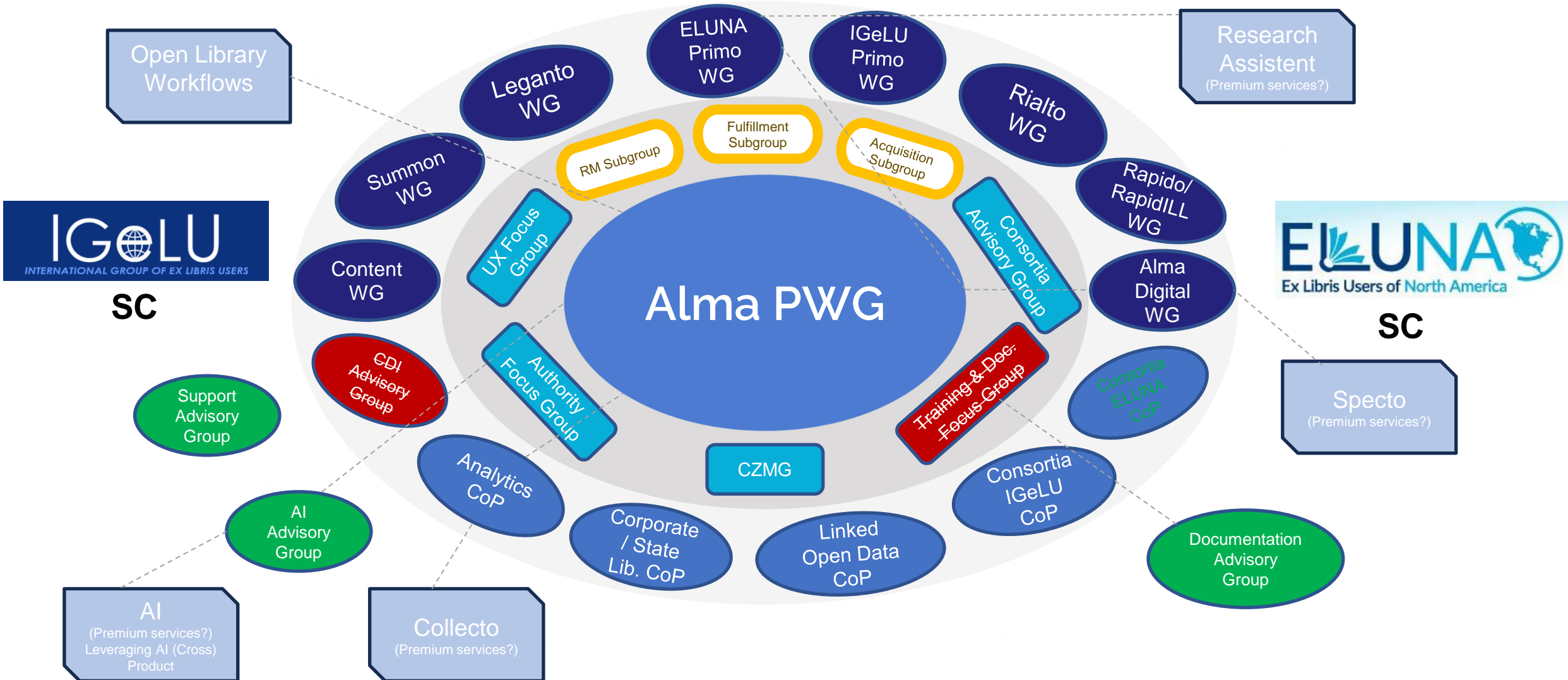


Mission - (Renewed ToR)



- Joint group between ELUNA and IGeLU
- Represent the Alma User Community to ExLibris
- Advocate for the interests of all Alma users, through discussion and negotiation with Ex Libris
- Actively partner with Ex Libris staff to improve Alma functionality
- Be responsible for establishing and reviewing the purpose of Alma advocacy groups

Dependencies – ‘THE’ Alma network



Alma WG Members



Core Group Members

- **Catherine Grove**, Northwestern University – co-chair (ELUNA) / Linked Data CoP / UXFG / Training and Doc FG
- **Gijs Noels**, LIBIS KU Leuven – co-chair (IGeLU) / Consortia Coord Group chair / UXFG / Consortia IGeLU CoP
- **Joe Ferguson**, University of Tennessee – Deputy Chair / Fulfillment Subgroup / UXFG / Rialto WG
- **Mary Grenci**, University of Oregon – Enhancements Coordinator ([Rotating off](#))
- **Leon Krauthausen**, Freie Universität Berlin – Acquisitions Subgroup / Analytics WG
- **Bettina Kann**, OBVSG Austria – Resource Management Subgroup / UXFG / IGeLU Consortia CoP
- **Emma Clift**, Macquarie University – Primo WG (IGeLU) / member at large
- **Shelly Hypes**, University of North Carolina – Communications and Education Coordinator

Liaisons & SC representatives

- **David Schuster**, Binghamton University – Alma digital WG
- **Stacie Traill**, University of Minnesota – Community Zone Management Group / CDI Advisory Group
- **Margaret Corby**, Kansas State University – Alma Authority FG
- **Xiaotian Chen**, Bradley University – Content WG
- **Daniel Naas**, University of Kentucky –Primo WG (ELUNA)
- **Katie Sanders**, University of Wisconsin – Rapido WG (ELUNA)
- **Joe Montibello**, Dartmouth College – Leganto WG
- **Nick Pavlovic**, Liberty University – Summon WG
- **Christina Hennessy**, California State University – Alma Consortia CoP (ELUNA)
- **Knut Bøckman**, Royal Danish Library – Steering Committee (IGeLU)
- **Allen Jones**, The New School – Steering Committee (ELUNA)

Thank you!!!

IGELU Administration

Gijs Noels

Katie Sanders

Bettina Kann

Knut Anton Bøckman

Daniel Naas

Christina Hennessey

Stacie A Traill (she/her/hers)

Leon Krauthausen

Nick

David Schuster

Margaret Corby

SA From Stacie A Traill to everyone

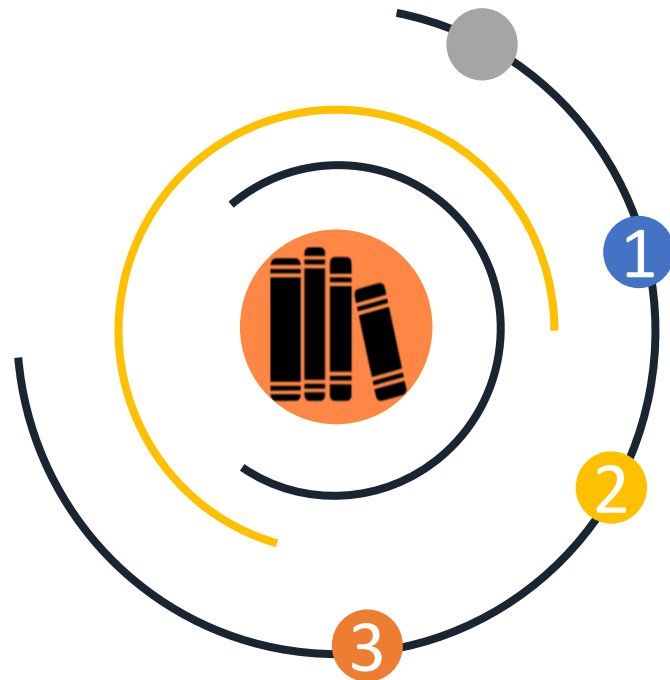
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"fun"

Ongoing!



1. Enhancement process
2. Collaboration ExLibris Alma Product Management
 - Ongoing concerns!
3. (Some) Work done by the related groups (see report)
 - UX Focus Group
 - CZMG
 - Authority Focus Group

NERS - overview

NERS 2023 - ([High level solutions + Status!](#))

NERS 2024 (241 enhancement requests / 215 Complexity Points)

Title (High level solutions)	ReqID	ComplexityPoints	TotalVotes
Special Characters option in Metadata Editor	8998	40	3362
Automatically suppress bibliographic records- inactive portfolios	8182	25	3309
Enable the ability to make an item missing that has a process type	8918	10	3225
Changing POL type after POL is sent	8861	40	2990
Waive Fines/Fees in Bulk by Set	8734	45	2936
Copies of claim letters sent to sender e-mail and PO line reference and vendor code added to the claim report events	8936	30	2850
New institutional number sequence, or reset Additional ID, to shorten hold shelf pickup number	8777	20	2769
Linking to authority via dropdown menu in MDE	8819	5	2731

~~NERS~~ – enhancement Procedure!

(Collaboration between the Alma user community and ExLibris)



- For each enhancement request:
 - *basecamp discussion with NERS submitter AND Alma (sub) group representative/Stewards!*
 - verify that the understanding of the requirements are aligned
 - outline high level solution (ExLibris)
 - receiving *confirmation for high level solution (Alma Community)*
- List of NERS enhancements for the cycle are finalized according to priority and complexity points Start Implementation:
 - Add High level solution to [NERS article](#)
 - *Share FSD (full scale dev.) with NERS submitter AND Alma (sub) group representative/Stewards!*
 - *Follow-up development via Basecamp*

Ongoing Concerns!

(Continuous focus between Alma WG and ExLibris)

- Alma response times (Survey intermittent slowness)
 - 55 institutions responded, some with multiple responses
 - AP - 6
 - NA - 16
 - EU - 33
 - 1/3 submitted cases
 - Across all areas
- Quality Assurance (QA)
 - Understanding the Ex Libris-process of “bug fixing”
 - ‘Consolidation’!
- Collaboration & Communication
 - Idea Exchange – “ideas older than 2 years from the last comment AND which have less than 30 votes were closed”



Looking Ahead!! (Challenges)

(Goals 2024-2025)



(1) ~~NERS~~ 2025

- ❑ Implementation new enhancement software – AHA & Election Buddy!

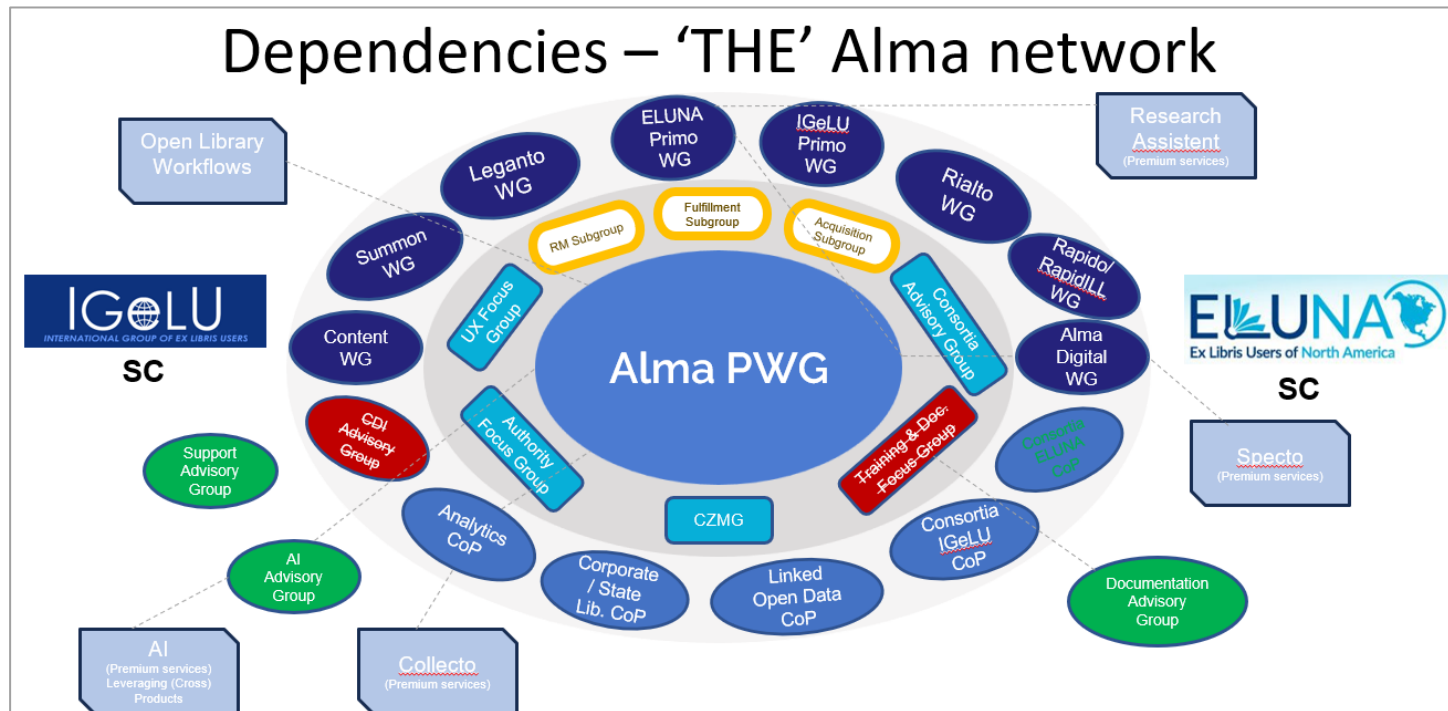
(2) Organization Alma PWG

- ❑ New members & succession planning
- ❑ How to deal with 'scattered' ExLibris Products/services?

Looking Ahead!!

(Goals 2024-2025)

How to deal with 'scattered' ExLibris Products/services?



Questions to answer?

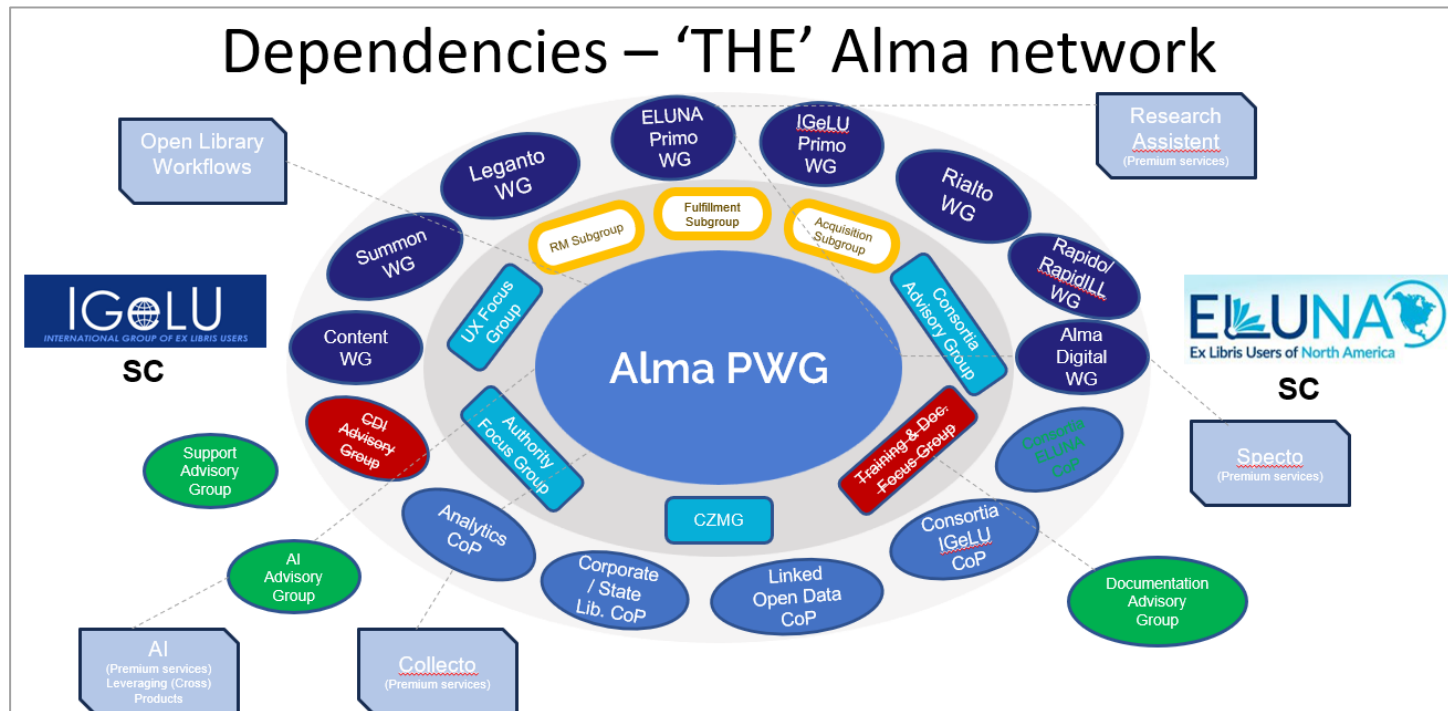
(how to deal with)

- New functionality vs consolidation?
- Change: embrace vs reluctance / resistance?
- Focus vs balance?

Looking Ahead!!

(Goals 2024-2025)

How to deal with 'scattered' ExLibris Products/services?



Questions to answer?

(how to deal with)

- New functionality with consolidation?
- Change: embrace with (some) reluctance / resistance?
- Focus with balance? (prioritization)

Looking Ahead!!

(Goals 2024-2025)

(3) Transparency / Communication

- ❑ Share our work with the Community
- ❑ **Listen** to the community!



- How do you think your voice could be better heard by the Alma Working Group? By IGeLU?
- Are you involved in other user communities? What makes them valuable to you?
- How could the Alma WG increase its value to you and your library?
- What is the number one thing you'd like to see from the Alma WG?



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Q & A



Thank you

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