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Changing Cataloging Systems

Integrating Alma, WorldCat and the Dutch Union Cataloging System (GGC)

KB } national library
of the netherlands



We Changed Cataloging Systems in December 2023!

*Since then: “Alma is the Truth”
(for Physical Titles)*



Changing Cataloging Systems in Context



The KB and Alma

- KB implemented Alma with ExL in 2021–2022
- More ‘implementation’ steps are ahead of us
 - Legacy integrations and workflows
- Starting Cataloging Physical Titles in Alma paves the way for cataloging digital titles
 - Transition to MARC21
 - Setting Up a Complex Data Flow with Three Systems



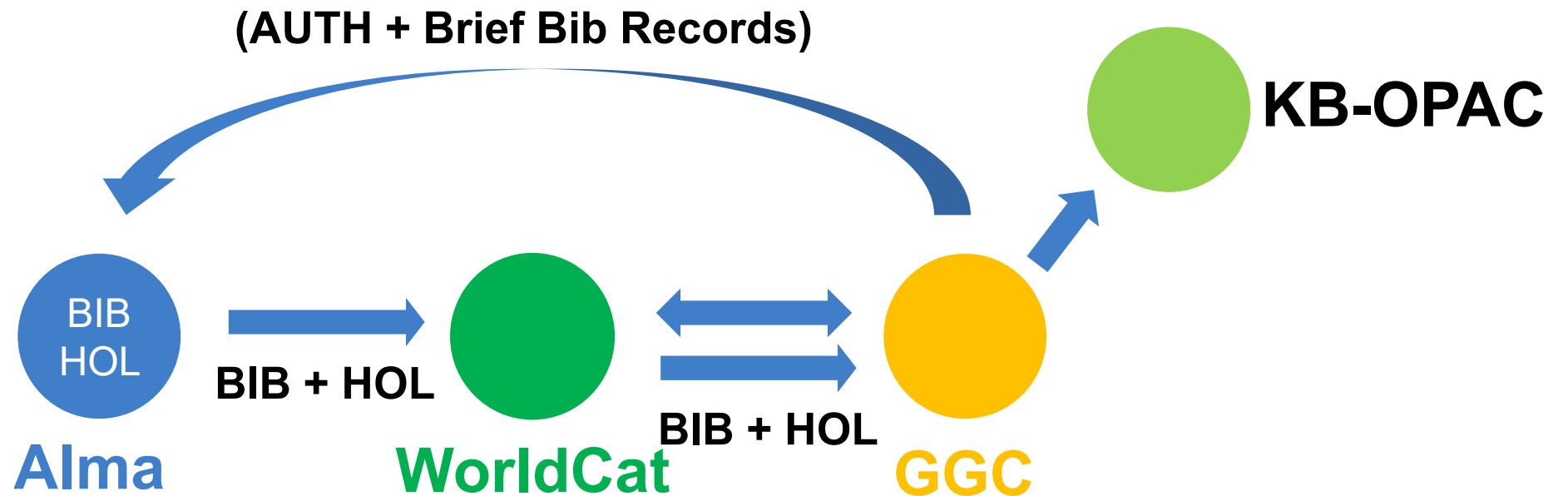
Three Library Systems

Alma

WorldCat

GGC

Our Current Alma-P Flow Since Dec 2023



Changing Cataloging Systems: Challenges



1. Enhancing the Export of Authority-Records from the GGC

- Separating auth from bib management created needs to enhance auth export from GGC, esp. auth. merges and bib redirections
- We looked into Alma functionality
- We asked OCLC to enhance the export (send LDR/5=d; add 035\$a\$z)



2. Alma Publishing Profiles for OCLC

- Ex Libris suggests libraries that manage bibs and hols in Alma to send bibs with embedded holdings to OCLC (1 profile)
- But OCLC asked us to send bibs and hols separately (2 publishing profiles)
- We set up two publishing profiles in Alma:
 - General Publishing Profile for Bibs
 - Publishing Profile for OCLC: LHRs



3. Oops, We Deleted All KB-Holdings in WorldCat

- Before OCLC had asked us to separate bib and hol publishing, we switched the 'Export to OCLC' Management Tag from *Publish Holdings Only* to *Publish Bibs*
- This triggered Alma to publish deletions of holding records to WorldCat



4. Metadata Quality in Alma

- Our Catalogers are not just new to Alma, they're new to MARC21
- Quality control functionality in Alma is limited/does not meet our needs
- We implemented labor-intensive supplementary validation steps as part of publishing to WC/GGC



5. Metadata Quality in WorldCat

- We currently depend on WorldCat for how our records appear in our OPAC
- WorldCat is a global union catalog
- OCLC certified us as Trusted Partners after checking ca. 1000 bib records
- Now our records will trigger more field Transfers than before
- NB: We catalog in Dutch



Conclusion



Summary

- Changing Cataloging Systems from a Union Cataloging System to Alma was, in our case, complex & impacted the flow of auth, bib, and hol records
- Extra Challenge: we depend on WorldCat to get our records into the GGC and our OPAC

Lessons Learned

- Test, test, test
- Read the documentation (critically)
- Ask the community for advice
- Talk to your vendors
- Sometimes you have to find your own solutions





Thank you!

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