

Norwegian National User Group Annual report 2025 - Sikt

Background

Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research is a public administrative body under the Ministry of Education and Research. Our mission is to help Education and Research entities achieve their goals by providing shared, value-adding services they can trust. Sikt delivers Primo and Alma to the BIBSYS Consortium and Leganto to the Reading list consortium.

The BIBSYS Consortium consists of 77 institutions with a total of 230 libraries spanning the areas of higher education in the private and public sector, research institutes, museums and hospitals. The consortium has a shared catalogue of bibliographic metadata with holdings and items being managed on the institution level. The consortium collaborates on resource sharing, configuration and best practice workflows.

The Reading list consortium consists of 28 members and has been live with Leganto since 2017. Leganto has proven to be a success within the institutions and has resulted in a more efficient handling of reading lists by the staff and better user experience for the students. Almost every institution has changed to the new UI as of Q3 2025.

Consortium working groups

Different working groups have been established within the Sikt consortia, each focusing on various functional areas. This structure ensures that the systems are configured and set up to suit the unique needs of each institution. The working groups consist of members from the institutions that form part of the specific consortium and are selected to represent the diverse range of institutions, needs, and competencies within the consortium.

Currently there are five working groups in the consortium, all managed by Sikt:

- Resource Management
- Acquisition
- Fulfillment
- Oria (Primo)
- Leganto

A new tender and contract for Library system and Discovery Solution

The BIBSYS Consortium currently utilizes Alma, Primo, and Leganto from Clarivate as its core systems. The consortium went live with Primo in 2013 and Alma in 2016, making BIBSYS one of the first large consortiums to adopt Alma. The contract with Clarivate was set to expire by the end of 2025, and so the work on the requirements specification, tender, and contract has been a significant and prioritized part of the efforts in 2024 and 2025.

Key Activities in the Process:

- User satisfaction survey
- Survey among Library Directors
- Develop requirement specifications
- Review and evaluate offers and product demonstrations
- "Notification of award of contract" and "Evaluation report" based on the evaluations conducted



Clarivate was ultimately chosen as the supplier, and the new contract will be signed later this year.

This process has ensured that the BIBSYS Consortium's current and future needs are met. Lessons learned from this process will be valuable when initiating the tender for the reading list solution before the current contract expires in 2027.

The Sikt working groups have played a key role in collaborating with the Sikt staff to prepare the requirements specification for the tender. This specification encompassed 748 total requirements for the library system and discovery, along with six appendices that (among other things) included 55 User Stories, requirements for national library statistics, and the BIBSYS Authority file (BARE). It was a comprehensive effort to review and assess the quality and functionality in the responses from suppliers.

The National Library of Norway has also been involved in this process.

The list of requirements has been published on the [website for the project](#) (in Norwegian). The list of requirements itself is in English.

Sikt and the BIBSYS Consortium are still somewhat concerned with the market for ILS and LSP solutions. There are few options and little competition. Although the tender process is demanding and comprehensive, it also provides significant value and learning. It would be desirable to have more suppliers making offers.

Primo BO/VE

The BIBSYS Consortium is still using Primo BO, but we have officially begun testing and implementing Primo VE. As far as we can tell, Primo VE now fulfills our primary needs, though we are still concerned that important functionality is not distributable from the Network Zone. This makes it laborious to operate as a consortium compared to Primo BO. Good progress has been made in this regard though, so we are hopeful that this will only get better as the Consortia Central Configuration Dashboard is further developed. Our plan is to implement Primo VE by the end of 2025.

Other Projects

NVA – National open access repository

The development of the National Knowledge Archive (NVA) began during the fall of 2019. There have been some delays underway, but now after having conducted extensive user-testing, it has been concluded that the system is ready for full-scale migration.

NVA will fulfil the role as Norway's Current Research Information System (CRIS) and as a nationwide Institutional Archive. The old service "Cristin" is set to read-only mode and the migration started august 2025. All content will be migrated over to NVA during fall 2025, including data from the old Institutional Archives.

We expect all institutions to have transitioned to NVA by the fall/end of 2025.

Continuing efforts in Importing User Data to Alma – New SIS Integration Progress

The existing solution has become outdated, prompting a multi-year process of modernization and development within the Norwegian student information system (FS). There is a strong desire to establish a standardized solution for the sector.

The development work began in spring 2021 with the goal of creating a platform that provides access to all data in the Norwegian student information system (FS). The first version of the platform was launched in production in March 2022.



New Solution – Overview

The new solution consists of four main components:

- FS GraphQL API
- Interface for setting import parameters (GUI)
- Web-import – an integration that listens to events in FS
- API endpoint to Alma
(+ Import via file)

Import parameters are set via the GUI and managed by each institution. The GUI lets institutions configure integration options and ensure GDPR compliance and access control.

The import integration is event-based and operates in near-real-time. Events in FS are placed in a message queue, and the integration captures these changes. The changes are then sent to Alma to update user records.

Future Plans

- Testing in sandbox environments.
- User involvement and evaluation of the GUI.
- Piloting – going live with a single institution.
- Gradual rollout throughout the consortium.
- Next development phase: Employee records

Further development: User deletion

Continued Development of Digital Delivery Solution

Early 2024, Sikt implemented automatic digital delivery of interlibrary loan (ILL) article requests to the end user. We have continued to develop this solution, which is based on several key components:

- Legal rights
- Support in Alma
- License terms for interlibrary loans
- Coordination between Alma and Edvarda (consortium license agreements)

Lenders providing document delivery services can indicate whether the supplied document can be made available digitally to the patron or requires manual handling by the borrowing staff.

This option enhances copyright control by allowing the lender to specify how the document can be shared. The following choices are available in the 'Send item digitally' screen with two conditions: 'Electronic to end-user permitted' and 'Print only to end-user'. Libraries use an Analytics report to retrieve information from the licenses, ensuring correct delivery conditions.

Advantages of the Solution:

- No unnecessary time delays
- Reduced manual work for the borrowing library
- Eliminates the need to print articles before delivery

The solution has been developed in collaboration with Clarivate for Norwegian Alma libraries that are part of the consortium license agreements.



New as of 2025

During the latest negotiations for the consortium license agreements, we successfully persuaded more providers to approve digital article delivery. This was achieved by including Terms of Use in the delivery letter. When patrons receive the letter with a link to the article, they are also presented with the following Terms of Use:

- Only for scholarly, personal, educational, or professional use
- Not for commercial use
- Not for onward transmission or distribution
- Not for conversion to any other format

RDA

At present Norwegian libraries use RDA Original as metadata registration rules. According to plans the BIBSYS Consortium will transition from RDA Original to RDA Official by May 2027. The cataloguing will with this move from record-based (manifestation records) to entity-based.

Currently, there is a significant focus on BIBFRAME within the library community, but the Norwegian Cataloguing Committee recommends that the ontology RDA Elements (ala the RDA implementation of LRM) forms the basis for entity-based cataloguing in Norway and that RDA application profiles are developed by the National Library.

This was also a focus area in the procurement process, and the list of requirements included criteria related to the RDA/LRM and BIBFRAME cataloguing. It was important that the supplier had concrete and time-bound plans for RDA/LRM and that these were set to align with the timeline for RDA Official. We feel confident that these plans are well accommodated in the new library system, ensuring good support for our cataloguing needs.

Retention project

The BIBSYS consortium, in collaboration with its largest member universities, is undertaking a project to enhance their collections by adding retention information to specific materials.

Currently, Alma supports retention marking for both items and bibliographic records, ensuring that monographs are covered by the necessary functionality. However, there remains a need to extend this capability to include journals and holdings-level data. While this feature was originally scheduled for release on the Alma roadmap in the second half of 2025 (H2 2025), it was subsequently removed by Clarivate.

Recognizing the importance of this functionality for the universities, the National Library, and Sikt, meetings were held with Clarivate to explore viable alternatives. Clarivate demonstrated a willingness to collaborate, resulting in the identification of a solution that meets the consortium's needs. As a result, the ability to mark holdings for retention will now be implemented in Alma and is scheduled for production in the second half of 2026 (H2 2026).

Additionally, this project actively contributes to the EPICo¹ program/initiative, further reinforcing its significance within the broader library ecosystem.

Topics for the INUG-meeting

- Library Open Workflows – experience and use cases (single institution and in consortium)
- Primo Research Assistant – experiences, institutional safeguards, reception by users/staff

¹ epico-libraries.eu | European Print Initiatives Collaboration