



# SBS and SBART: a small consortium within a Larger One

**Adapting Alma and Primo in a multi-  
institutional environment**

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# About us

The University of Siena, founded in 1240, is one of the oldest universities in the world.

18.0000 students  
around 2.000 scholars and staff





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# About us

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# Introduction

## 20 year Celebration of the Library Community

**Central role of collaborations in the development and evolutions of libraries**

**The experience of SBS (Sienese Library System) and SBART (University Library System of the Tuscany Region) represents an innovative model in the national, maybe international, library landscape**



# Introduction

## What is SBS?

Let's start from the end - from what we are today.

**SBS** - stands for *Servizio Bibliotecario Senese*, or the *Sienese Library Service*

## Historical contest

In the 1980s, collaboration projects began between the University of Siena and the Biblioteca Comunale degli Intronati, later joined in the 1990s by the University for Foreigners.

In 2002, **ReDoS** was founded and became part of the SBS system

With the birth and evolution of SBS, the system moved from Sybilio to Aleph300, and later to Aleph500 – a mature and highly stable product



# Introduction

## Challenges

Aleph architectures was no longer capable of fulfilling the new strategic function of a University Library System. The motivation for change was its lack in managing electronic resources which accounted the 70% of the Library's budget.

## The "Big Change": From Aleph to Alma and Primo

Occurred in 2015, driven by the Ministry's three-year strategic plan (2013-2015). This plan provided funding for the federation and integration of services.



# Who are SBS and SBART?

**SBS**: Sienese Library System – local consortium

**3 ALMA institutions : MAIN, REDOS, FOREIGNERS**

**How it is composed?**

**MAIN - 5 university's libraries;**

**REDOS - 1 municipal library in Siena and 31 libraries scattered in the sienese province;**

**FOREIGNERS - University for Foreigners and many institutions of Siena (among Accademia dei Fisiocritici, Accademia musicale Chigiana, Istituto Musicale R. Franci, Biblioteca Briganti, Monte dei Paschi, Archivio di stato and Opera del Duomo)**



# Who are SBS and SBART?

**SBART**: University Library System of Tuscany – regional consortium

**Born in 2015 first with the adoption of Primo and in 2017 with the adoption of Alma.**

The SBART project, which involves the Universities of Florence, Pisa, Siena, the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, the University for Foreigners of Siena, and other Tuscan institutions such as the Sienese Documentary Network (REDOS), the Accademia della Crusca, the Franceschini Foundation, and SISMEL, represents an innovative **model of federation**.

**This collaboration has allowed us to move beyond the autonomy of individual library systems to foster greater synergy.**



# Who are SBS and SBART?

**The adoption of Alma has enabled:**

- A unified management environment for all types of resources—print, electronic, and digital.
- The sharing of cataloging, user management, and lending policies across the network.
- The creation of a single university-regional SBN hub (National Library Service), marking the entry of the Pisa and Siena library systems into the SBN network.
- The formation of a “community of librarians” that transcends individual institutions, providing common spaces for exchange and collaboration in daily work practices.



# Who are SBS and SBART?

## SBART key strengths:

- **A true community of librarians—a broad and inclusive community that goes beyond the boundaries of individual institutions.**
- **The Network, a shared environment, a common space where opportunities for exchange and collaboration naturally arise as part of everyday work.**
- **The Current Solid Infrastructure: Collaboration and Technology**

**The transition from Aleph to Alma (the management system) and Primo/OneSearch (the discovery tool) in 2017 was a crucial step. This migration was driven by the need to integrate the management of electronic resources—which account for about 70% of the University library budget—and to operate at a network level, moving beyond an atomistic approach.**



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# Who are SBS and SBART?

**SBART: University Library System of Tuscany – regional consortium**

**Award  
for  
the  
innovation**





# Adapting Alma and Primo

## Why we chose **Alma**

- **Electronic Resource Management (ERM)**
- **Complementary to Primo (already adopted by SBART)**
- **Integration with Leganto**
- **Interfacing with SBN,**
- **Reliable technological partner**

The "double jump" (transitioning from Aleph to Alma and simultaneously joining SBN) aimed to share a common catalog and service model at the network level among the universities, contribute to the national SBN project while maintaining autonomy, participate in the international Authority project, simplify cataloging procedures in a period of resource contraction.



# Next Steps

## **Enhancement of SBN:**

**There is still much work to be done to achieve full integration with the SBN catalog.**

**Collaboration with the Nuovo Soggettario of the National Central Library of Florence (BNCF) is a prime example of this openness.**

**It aims to evaluate interoperability procedures with other online resources of common interest and to develop themes related to linked open data.**

**Authority Projects: Contributing to national authority projects is another explicitly stated goal, which aligns with the effort to support the national SBN project.**



# Transition to Primo VE

**Started in January 2023.**

**Estimated completion within 6 months**

**Project conclusion May 2025.**

## Reasons for the Transition to Primo VE

**Abandonment of the no longer supported (and insecure) authentication system PDS – Patron Directory Service**

**Adoption of AI developments, available only for Primo VE and not for Primo**

**Simplify back office processes and optimize management within the Alma platform**



# Transition to Primo VE

## Reason for the delay

**Greater difficulties for SBS as it is a consortium within Sbart, itself a big consortium**

## Complex Architecture

- Primo SBS: integrated bibliographic resources from UNISI, FOREIGNERS and REDOS
- Primo SBART: integrated resources from SBS, UNIFI, UNIPI e Sant'Anna



# Transition to Primo VE

## Differences Between Primo and Primo VE: Back Office

### Primo

Standalone application with a specific URL; access is allowed only from specific IP addresses.

### Primo VE

Primo VE is fully integrated with Alma



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# Transition to Primo VE

## Differences Primo Primo VE:

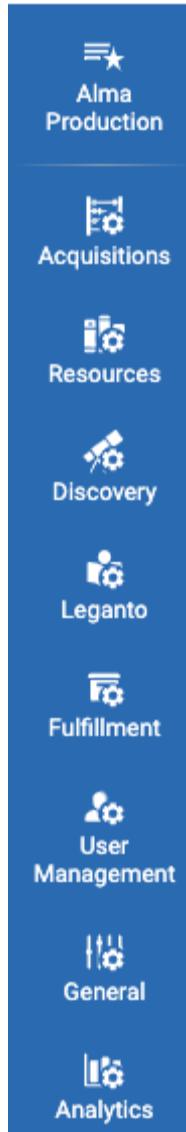
From one to three

Result: **Three Primo VE** for

- UNISI
- FOREIGNERS
- REDOS



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# Transition to Primo VE

## Differences: Front Office –

PRIMO	PRIMO VE
<b>Charges and new records become visible the following day</b>	<b>Charges and new record become visible immediately (indexing in 15 minutes)</b>
<b>Uniform presentation of UNISI holdings regardless of user authentication</b>	<b>Prioritized display of holdings belonging to the institution the user authenticated with.</b>
<b>Different visualization of related titles: one generic label for all related titles</b>	The titles of all related titles are displayed



# Transition to Primo VE

## BEFORE

Dettagli	
Titolo	Un laboratorio economico del fascismo : la «Scuola di Scienze corporate» dell'Università di Pisa (1928-1944) / Marco Cini (a cura di)
Altri autori	Cini, Marco >
Editore	Milano : FrancoAngeli
Anno	2022
Serie	<a href="#">Biblioteca storica degli economisti italiani; &gt;</a>
Soggetti	<a href="#">Economia - Italia - Storia - Sec. 20. &gt;</a>
Classe Dewey	330.9450915
Comprende	<a href="#">Vedi i record collegati &gt;</a>
Lingua	Italiano
Descr. fisica	XVII, 280 p. ; 24 cm
Identificativi	ISBN: 9788835145288
Fonte	Alma-Unisi



NOW

# Transition to Primo VE

## Details

Title	Un laboratorio economico del fascismo : la «Scuola di Scienze corporative» dell'Università di Pisa (1928-1944) / Marco Cini (a cura di)
Author	<a href="#">Cini, Marco</a>
Publisher	Milano : FrancoAngeli
Year	2022
Series	<a href="#">Biblioteca storica degli economisti italiani</a>
Subjects	Economia -- Italia -- Storia -- Sec. 20
Classification	<a href="#">330.9450915</a>
Language	Italian
Format	XVII, 280 p. ; 24 cm
Related Titles	<a href="#">Contains : Al rintocco del Campano : il GUF di Pisa e il passo del regime / di Paolo Nello</a> <a href="#">Contains : Alla ricerca di confini alla ricerca di dominii : i giuristi della Scuola e il Diritto corporativo / di Marco Paolo Geri</a> <a href="#">Contains : Cinema e corporativismo : giovani e Cineguf a Pisa / di Daniela Manetti</a> <a href="#">Contains : Fondare le basi teoriche e di policy del corporativismo : le collezioni della biblioteca della Scuola di Scienze corporative di Pisa / di Giovanni Pavanelli</a> <a href="#">Contains : Il corporativismo del Collegio Mussolini / di Fabrizio Amore Bianco</a> <a href="#">Contains : L'archivio di Studi Corporativi : discorso economico e progetto politico fascista / di Francesca Dal Degar, Marco E.L. Guidi, Alice Martini</a> <a href="#">Contains : L'Economia politica e corporativa / di Fabrizio Bientinesi</a> <a href="#">Contains : L'insegnamento dell'Economia aziendale nella prospettiva corporativa / di Simone Lazzini</a> <a href="#">Contains : L'insegnamento di Scienza delle finanze / di Alberto Pench</a> <a href="#">Contains : La cerchia della Treccani e l'esperienza di Pisa nei Nuovi Studi di Diritto Economia e Politica 1927-1935 / di Simone Misiani</a>



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# Transition to Primo VE

## Authentication form

### Pre-filter

ECARIO SENESE

TE DOCUMENTARIA SENESE ACCADEMIA DEI FISIOCRITICI ISTITUTO MUSICALE FRANCI ACCADEMIA CHIGIANA

NEW SEARCH

GUIDES AND  
TUTORIALS

ASK THE LIBRARY

Search anything



ADVANCED SEARCH



All



Books



Journals



Databases



Archived materials



Drawings and prints



Manuscripts

Login using:

LOOK UP QR SELECT INSTITUTION

REMOTE ACCESS

ELECTRONIC RESO

REDOS

trust institutional users (teachers, consulting the restricted access resou  
journals and subscription databases)

University for Foreigners >

and providing the University

Configuration instructions are availa

University of Siena >

for teachers and administrative staf  
including institutional users

CANCEL



# Pros and cons

## CONS

**The implementation process took longer than expected**

**Staff discomfort and fatigue from operating two systems for a long time**

**Letting go of certain features that were highly valued by our users**

## PROS

**Opportunities for collaboration with the SBART network**

**Implementation of new functionalities**

**Presentation of innovations to the library community**



# Lessons Learned

**Continuous Adaptation and Communication**

**Strengthening Collaboration**

**More has to be done**

**Enable Primo Research Assistant**

**Linked Open Data**

**Moving to NDE**



# Lessons Learned

## **Importance of community and collaboration**

**Being part of a library system offers numerous advantages (e.g., avoiding duplication, saving time) but also entails responsibilities, like maintaining a "common garden" where attention to system-level indications is crucial.**



# Conclusion

**One of the most important achievements of the SBART project has been the creation of a real community of librarians—a broad, diverse group that goes far beyond the boundaries of individual institutions.**

**Thanks to the shared environment provided by the Network, we now work within a common space where collaboration, exchange, and mutual support happen naturally, as part of our daily routine.**

**And it's not just about using the same system—it's about sharing knowledge, practices, ideas, and above all, a common sense of purpose.**

**In the end, it's clear: the community—the people working together—is what really drives innovation in our libraries.**



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# A Long Road, But Worth the Journey

**Thank you all-and let's keep growing  
this garden together!**

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