

Norwegian National User Group Annual report 2026 - 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 approx. 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 had Leganto in production since 2017. Leganto has supported more efficient handling of reading lists and a better user experience. The consortium is now in a procurement process to ensure that its future solution continues to meet the needs of the member institutions.

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

Tender processes for our library and reading list system

The BIBSYS library system consortium has concluded a tender process for a library system and a discovery system. The choice fell on Clarivate, and a contract has been signed for the delivery of Alma and Primo. The new contract runs from 2026.

The Reading List Consortium is currently undertaking a tender process to secure a new contract for its reading list solution. This follows from the fact that the current agreement with our existing supplier, Clarivate (Leganto), is time-limited and will expire. The tender process is planned to be concluded during Q1 2027. For more information about the project, please see the project page¹ (in Norwegian). The requirements specification is available in English².

¹ <https://www.sikt.no/tiltak/anskaffelsesprosess-pensumlistesystem>

² https://cms.sikt.no/sites/default/files/2026-06/kravspesifikasjon_pensumlistesystem_juni_2026_komplett_m_vedlegg_for_publicisering.pdf



Primo - Transition to Primo VE and NDE

We transitioned from Primo Back Office to Primo VE in January 2026. The transition to Primo VE has served as an interim step on the path to Primo NDE, which we have now started testing. So far, the Consortium Office is busy working on the overarching configurations that will apply to all the institutions.

The consortium is organized as several IZs under a single NZ, and customizations will be implemented through a Central Package using regular CSS and Angular components. The learning curve has been steep, but we are now at a point where building the Customization Packages is working well. We hope that many of the smaller institutions can make do using only the Landing Page Configuration (in addition to the Central Package), reducing the complexity for members without resources, time or skills to maintain their own Customization Package.

Some uncertainty remains regarding the viability of this approach, but we are actively pursuing solutions. If all goes well, we are looking at "go live" either summer 2027 or January 2028.

RDA implementation: from procurement commitment to practical modelling

Last year we reported that Norwegian libraries were preparing to move from RDA Original to RDA Official, and that this transition would also mean a shift from record-based (manifestation-level) to entity-based cataloguing. We also noted that the procurement process for a new library system had included concrete requirements for RDA/LRM support, timed to align with the RDA Official transition.

Over the past year, this commitment has moved from contract to practice. We have held weekly meetings to progress the RDA implementation work, with participants from Clarivate, Sikt, the National Library of Norway, and the Resource Management Working Group. This group has worked to define how RDA Work, Expression and Manifestation (WEM) data will be modelled and supported in Alma as linked data - starting from converting and analyzing example records and gradually moving towards a shared conceptual and technical model.

Phase 1 of the implementation has been scoped to Work, Expression and Manifestation only, postponing separate RDA entities such as Agents and Nomens. Within this scope, the group has worked on the main structural principles: a Work → Expression → Manifestation hierarchy, a many-to-many relationship model and how RDA Registry and vocabulary labels can be cached and correctly represented in RDF/XML for multilingual search and display.

A part of the work has concerned identifiers and subjects. RDA's generic identifier property (rdam:P30004) does not distinguish between identifier types such as ISBN and ISMN, so the group has worked out a practical convention of type-prefixed values (e.g. "(ISBN) ...", "(ISMN) ...") to keep identifiers unambiguous and searchable without introducing separate Nomen objects, which are out of scope for this phase. A similar approach has been developed for classification numbers and subject vocabularies, where RDA has no dedicated classification elements, but Norwegian practice requires recording scheme, edition and assigning agency alongside the value itself.

The group has also evaluated the role of authorized access points in an RDA/linked data environment: Alma should rely on the underlying entities and relationships for search and display, and the access points should only be used for export and interoperability with MARC-based systems. Access point elements remain available for cataloguing but are not the foundation within the internal data model.

Throughout the year, we have developed a growing set of example records - covering simple monographs, notated music, exhibition catalogues, aggregated manifestations (such as collections of short stories and journal issues), translations, and monographic series - which Clarivate has used actively in design and testing. These examples have surfaced a number of concrete modelling questions that the group has worked through together with Clarivate, including how to handle role-specific contributor properties (translator, editor, narrator, composer, etc.), how series statements and numbering should be split between RDA properties, and how physical description and format



information map from legacy MARC practice to RDA's more granular property structure. This ongoing, example-driven dialogue forms the basis for the continued design of the RDA metadata editor in Alma, the necessary APIs and crosswalks, and the future search and display behavior in Alma and Oria.

Retention project

The Retention project is a collaboration between Sikt, the National Library of Norway and the BOTT libraries — University libraries at Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim and Tromsø — to enhance the participating institutions' collections by adding retention information to specific materials in Alma.

At the beginning of our project, Alma supported retention marking at the item and bibliographic record level. For our project, however, this was not sufficient as many older journal titles were never registered with item-level registration when they arrived. For these titles, holdings-level records are the only level carrying inventory information. Had all journals been fully registered at the item level, bibliographic- and item-level marking would have covered them as well. Extending retention marking to holdings-level data was therefore needed, and was originally planned for H2 2025 but was removed from the roadmap by Clarivate. Following meetings between Sikt and Clarivate, a solution was identified, and the functionality was released to production in the first Q1 2026. Our project has not yet reached journals, but this capability will be implemented in our workflows once the work on monographs is complete. In the spring of 2026, the project's work has concentrated on retention marking of monographs.

The group has defined criteria for records that qualify for retention marking. Alma Analytics was then used to produce reports listing the bibliographic records meeting these criteria. The reports were limited to records whose items are held at defined locations reported by the participating institutions. Overlap analyses between the institutions were carried out, and items were selected for marking based on lists where locations were prioritized. Normalization rules were then run as jobs on the resulting sets of bibliographic records in the Network Zone and on the corresponding items in the individual Institution Zones.

So far, this work has resulted in approximately 1.6 million marked records, with one institution's records remaining to be processed.

Additionally, this project actively contributes to the EPICo program/initiative, further reinforcing its significance within the broader library ecosystem. The preliminary results of the project were presented at their conference in late September 2026.

Library open workflow

At the end of 2025, Sikt acquired three LibOW licenses: one for Sikt and two that were offered to institutions for a trial period. After an open call, the University of Oslo Library (UBO) and the University of Bergen Library (UBB) were selected and have since developed and tested prototype workflows in their local environments. Examples of relevant test projects include creating user profiles from web forms, sending notifications to patrons about upcoming due dates, and generating purchase orders from submission forms.

Sikt, UBO and UBB have collaborated closely, sharing use cases, technical solutions and experiences. All three partners presented their early results and lessons learned at the BIBSYS Conference in March this year, and this work forms the basis for assessing the further potential and governance of LibOW in the consortium.



In parallel, Sikt and the National Library of Norway (NB) have initiated a joint pilot project. Albums are first manually given minimal records in Alma with reference to the corresponding Discogs record. Metadata from the Discogs database is then combined with authority data from BARE to automatically enrich the minimal album records and create new track records. Reports of artists not found in BARE are sent to NB for further authority work. Once these authorities have been registered or updated in BARE with a Discogs ID, a scheduled job will automatically update the records for those artists.

The project will be put into production this autumn and is expected to save NB a significant amount of time when registering music material.

Acquisition – ordering workflows

The Acquisition working group has mapped and compared ordering workflows across the consortium's libraries for different resource types. The review shows that small, medium-sized, and large libraries have developed their own well-functioning routines, but that there are also significant differences in how much of the process takes place in Alma versus in external systems such as vendor platforms and MS Forms, and in the extent to which orders are connected to Alma through API or EDI integration. The group has collected concrete examples from several libraries for each workflow, so that others can draw inspiration for their own routines. The work has been presented in both a webinar and in online documentation.

Continuing efforts in Importing User Data to Alma - New SIS Integration Process

The multi-year process of modernization and development of the new import integration for user data to Alma have completed testing and have three institutions in production, running in parallel with the old existing import solution. Two more institutions are in the pipeline to go live by the end of 2026.

BIBSYS Conference 2026

In March 2026, Sikt held the BIBSYS Conference. The conference is a long-standing forum and serves as a platform for professionals in Norway's knowledge sector who are dedicated to making knowledge accessible. This year the conference brought together more than 300 delegates and 22 exhibitors.

The conference featured inspiring keynote talks and numerous parallel sessions on topics related to education and library services in higher education and research.

“Making Alma simpler” – streamlining configurations, setups and data

In 2026, Sikt launched a project to make Alma easier to use.

When the BIBSYS Consortium adopted Alma in 2015, familiarity with the system was limited. Since then, both Alma and the way libraries work have changed considerably.

Many institutions have unnecessarily complex setups and store a lot of redundant data. Sikt is now helping institutions streamline these setups. The goal is to create a system that is easier for libraries to work with and gives Sikt a better foundation for providing support.

As of autumn 2026, the project is in its early stages and is expected to continue for several years.



Topics for the INUG-meeting

- NDE Implementation. How far along are the other countries? Any barriers or showstoppers?
- Use of AI functionality in Primo NDE. Do you plan to adopt (or are you currently using) the Natural Language Search and/or Primo Research Assistant? What are your experiences?
- Use of Library Open Workflows. Any success stories?