



Midwinter Virtual Conference 2021

Questions from Session 1: Turning Cataloging on Its Head: Using Alma and Java to Expedite Handling of New Materials, by John Myers and Hamza Ghumman (Union College)

Q1. What is your process for e-books?

Most are managed as packages in the CZ. For faculty requests, we make individual purchases. The scope of these purchases is still small enough that I manually overlay preliminary records with full master records from OCLC.

Q2. Are you back on campus to match book with bib record for the ones flagged in red?

Yes. We resumed lower density operations at the end of the NY Pause. I am on campus twice a week to catch up on-site work.

Q3. Is information about the Java app being made available for others, (e.g., through GitHub?)? If so, can you share this information?

Yes. Here is the GitHub link:

https://github.com/Hamza-Ghumman/WMS_PromptCat_Triage

Q4. Are there any plans to automate further/collaborate with CS students to develop even more automated processes?

At present, we are still settling in with the new process. It is working well for the scale of our work. We contemplated but have not implemented, if possible, API interactions that would automate some any of the particular edits that are presently just flagged for manual action.

Q5. How big is your student staff and/or how is your student work program structured? The responsibilities indicated for your student employees are impressive!

Currently have 2 work-study student assistants. We previously had 6 at a time when they had more involved physical processing tasks, such as applying paste to bookplates. We are glad to better match their academic abilities to the work they are assigned!

Q6. Did you try using Alma analytics to retrieve the items bib info?

We didn't. The foundation of the sets of interest are the MMS SIP IDs from the file load. It seemed easier to conduct the "hand offs" from the import reports to Alma sets. But Analytics tends to be a blind spot for me. I don't know if the MMS SIP IDs are available as a "hook" in Analytics the way it is in Alma proper.

Q7. Did you develop this at the same time you were implementing Alma?

We migrated in June 2018, so had a couple years of Alma under our belt by the time COVID struck.

Q8. So you continued ordering during the entire pause?

Yes. Acquisitions staff worked remotely to continue placing orders (after we obtained budgetary clearance and worked out delivery logistics)