BIBFRAME Support in Ex Libris Alma

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Introduction

Ex Libris Alma is a completely cloud-based, unified library services platform, managing print, electronic, and digital materials in a single interface. Nearly 1,000 customers are live today in Alma.
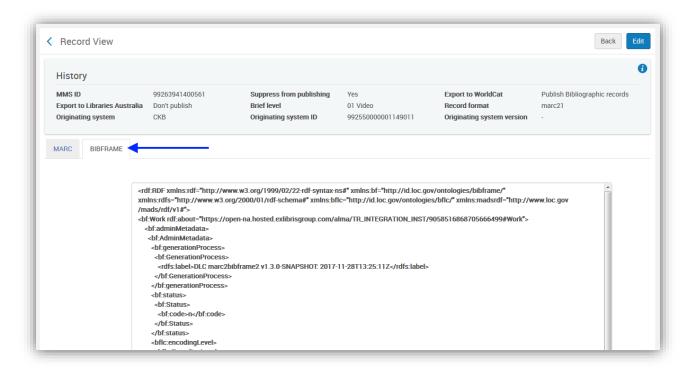
Ex Libris, working closely with its customers, has invested heavily in linked data features over the past 3 years. The result of these efforts is that nearly 1 billion bibliographic records cataloged in Alma institutions around the world can be accessed in the BIBFRAME format.

Three paths to BIBFRAME

Alma uses the "MARCXML to BIBFRAME Transformation software" supported by the Library of Congress to convert MARC21 records into BIBFRAME. In addition, Alma leverages its authority control features to automatically enrich bibliographic records with URIs of known authority vocabularies. This automatic enrichment opens legacy records to the benefits of linked data.

Converted BIBFRAME records are available in three different workflows:

- Individual records via "work" and "instance" APIs,
- Publishing parts or the whole of the library's repository as BIBFRAME,
- Librarian's view as a part of the Alma user interface

For more details on the state of linked data support in Ex Libris products, see this blog post.

BIBFRAME Expectations for ILS Tenders

The "European BIBFRAME Workshop 2017" produced a document outlining "BIBFRAME Expectations for ILS tenders." According to the criteria outlined in this document, Alma currently supports level 3. Support for further levels is planned as a part of the Alma road map.

The Future

The Alma road map includes additional BIBFRAME features. Alma's flexible metadata schema already supports 4 flavors of MARC formats, simple and qualified Dublin Core, and user-defined Dublin Core application profiles. This flexibility will allow Alma to be expanded to support natively-cataloged BIBFRAME records, along with accompanying functionality such as indexing, publishing, importing, and editing.

For more information consult the published road map documents.