

- Q1. Will this power point be available on CARLI for printing?
- Yes, not only the recording, but copies of the slides will be posted to the CARLI website.  
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share/alma/CARLIOfficeHours>
- Q2. Does patron data include password? [verbal, 28:54]
- No, patron data does not include a password. Passwords are managed by an external authentication system for "external users", rather than in Alma.
- Q3. Will everybody be keeping the same barcode prefixes already in use in Voyager? [29:20]
- Libraries should continue to use the barcode formats that are already in place.  
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share/circ/barcode-formats>
- Q4. Is CAMS Campus Solutions?
- CAMS is a product of Unit4/Three Rivers
- Q5. What is the timeframe for being a pilot library for the SIS? [31:20]
- We would like pilots to start work ASAP and be done in January so we can do tests with other insts. in Feb and Mar. Let us know if you are interested at [support@carli.illinois.edu](mailto:support@carli.illinois.edu)
- Q6. I very much rely on being able to compare data in our SIS to data in Voyager. What kind of process will be required to extract patron data from Alma? [30:25]
- That sounds very much like a possible use of Alma Analytics. You may also export Users from within your SIS Integration Profile (in the Actions tab). The repository search functionality in Alma itself does have less functionality and less user data visible within the Alma UI (by design), but Analytics does have additional data available through reporting.
- Q7. Does Alma have the ability to provision accounts on demand? Other systems we use can provision on demand by authenticating against our SIS and building the user account based on field mappings. I'm curious why an institution would choose to do a patron load rather than a 'self registration'. Can someone talk through the rationale for one vs the other? I think the 'self registration' option should be explored if it's viable since it users real time data and would be a one time configuration, presumably, rather than a continuing, recurring job. [31:42]
- Chat response: You may be able to provision (created on demand) via Authentication Integration Profile. It's called "Self Registration. In "Self Registration," you can provide these mappings. This "Self Registration" feature is available for SAML based Authentication.
  - Audio response [31:42]: This topic is separate from SIS discussion today.
  - Audio response [35:34] Patron load vs. Self-Registration, Ben is not familiar with institutions doing self-registration; he's not worked on a project where an institution has used that functionality and he says he'd be curious how that plays out. The standard approach is to do SIS load.
- Q8. What are the requirements for setting up a SFTP server? [47:25]
- Would it be possible to use the CARLI ftp server for this? Either for the test or long term? [31:34]
- Yes, we plan to keep our CARLI sftp server going indefinitely. The CARLI FTP server will continue to be an option for use in Alma.
- Q9. Is there a template or help page that tells what is required in the XML file? [31:54]
- The complete description is defined in a schema file ([https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/alma/xsd/rest\\_user.xsd](https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/alma/xsd/rest_user.xsd)). The relevant parts will be annotated using the string "sis" within the documentation tags.
  - SIS: Overview: <https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/user-management/sis>
  - Alma Developers – Patron Loader: <https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/integrations/user-management/sis/synch>
  - Data Dictionary and XML sample:  
[https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/apis/xsd/rest\\_users.xsd?tags=SIS](https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/alma/apis/xsd/rest_users.xsd?tags=SIS)
- Q10. Are there mandatory fields in the patron data other than the primary identifier? [39:44]
- There are mandatory fields. The first link in the slide: SIS overview leads you to a place that shows which of the fields are required; it is relatively few. Minimum required are primary identifier and email address; CARLI will be requiring more fields than that. The mandatory fields are documented in the Developer's Network.

Q11. Will CARLI provide "recommended" XML fields that should be included? [32:33] [37:50]

- We will; it will be shared as something along the lines of "minimum" XML spec. The number of required fields will be fewer than the fields possible in the XML file template. Just a note: the xml files will need to be zipped (.zip) for Alma to process them.
- [33:20] Load full patron record with each load, don't select between fields between loads. Keep all identifiers in the load or they will be overwritten/erased. Take into account being able to include the other identifiers in the file.
- I-Share Mandatory Fields for User Records in Alma: [https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share/alma/user\\_mandatory\\_fields](https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share/alma/user_mandatory_fields)

Q12. ETA for CARLI providing minimum required fields? [Since our campus still uses mainframe, will need to program these, etc.]

- We are finalizing that and will have it to send out soon.

Q13. Can you have more than one integration profile? I'm thinking we might need one for setting records to active and then another one to set records to inactive (say, for graduated students). [28:34]

- Yes, that is a possibility.

Q14. Can the job be set to run automatically on a periodic basis? That is, have a file placed on the sftp server once a week, then Alma goes and gets it and runs it without sysadmin intervening. [34:42]

- Yes; in the presentation, Miiya demonstrated some of the scheduling options. Some institutions run their file as often as every six hours. Others do once a semester, once a month, or once a week.

Q15. If user data includes email, if we test this in our test environment will it replace the scrubbed email addresses for users? [36:12]

- Yes, that would be expected. The notice-generation automatic jobs that trigger patron communications are not turned on in the test load. Along with the allowed IP addresses ranges Miiya highlighted, there is also an email whitelist option during the testload, so you would need to manually enter email addresses that are eligible to receive email addresses during the test load (so assuming that you do not enter your email addresses into the allowed file; only add specific user email addresses as allowed).

Q16. Where is the documentation for SFTP server requirements? [43:27]

- The first portion of Miiya's presentation covered this; you set up the SFTP server, create the connection in Alma, and then you point the SIS to that same SFTP as well. Recap in video at 44:14.

Q17. Does Alma expect separate patron load file for each patron group - so separate XML files for undergrad, grad, faculty, staff - or can we include all patrons in a single xml file that contains all patron data? If we can do either, is there a recommendation? [38:12]

- Chat answer: Alma looks specifically at the secure FTP folder that you specify in the integration, and processes any files found there. Bear in mind, though, that if any patron is found in more than one file (i.e., they have more than one possible user group), the last one loaded will become the active user group. It's in your interest to work with your IT programmers to sort out what group should be active; maybe that's something entered in your SIS, or maybe that's something that can be edited in a script before you load the user files.
- Verbal answer: You can contain multiple user groups within the same load file; there is no expectation that you would have separate load files per user group. Some institutions have files generated from multiple external systems. So for example, one for students, and one for library staff. In some cases, a User could be included in multiple files. In these situations, ExL recommends that the files be loaded with the lower-privileges completed first, with the higher privileges be added after.

Q18. In our test load we have UG patron group as owned by SIS (external patrons) but faculty and staff not owned (internal). Does this auto load SIS option only work on patrons that are owned by SIS? [40:50]

- Verbal answer: The distinction between external and internal patrons is important. The users that are showing up as internal were flipped to external by CARLI or other staff users. Staff users should be external users in most cases. Internal users are not authenticated by external systems. Some institutions do not have SIS systems; CARLI may have a list/guidelines for those institutions. IF users are listed as internal, it is a workaround for exploring Alma before integration is set up. Later, staff will be set back to external. Internal vs. External has to do with how the library filled out the Migration form; the form asked which patron groups were managed via patron load in Voyager, and which were added manually in the Voyager Circulation client.

Q19. My school is quite small (average incoming class is 30 students). We currently don't connect our SIS to Voyager. Do we have to use an SIS? Is there a manual option? and if you don't have one? [49:18]

- This will vary by institution. ExL and CARLI have been working to identify institutions that do not have the authentication or SIS systems. This information in this webinar is general and applicable to the vast majority of I-Share libraries, but, we'll be working with all I-Share libraries for their best solution.

Q20. What IPs need whitelisted for the SFTP server? [46:10]

- IP whitelists are found in the Technical Requirements document: [https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/Alma/Implementation\\_and\\_Migration/Implementation\\_Guides/03Technical\\_Requirements\\_for\\_Alma\\_and\\_Discovery\\_Implementation#Alma\\_Platform\\_IP\\_Range](https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/Alma/Implementation_and_Migration/Implementation_Guides/03Technical_Requirements_for_Alma_and_Discovery_Implementation#Alma_Platform_IP_Range) This will need shared with your IT department. Alma as a large range of IP addresses that it can connect from. This information is not exclusively for the SIS integration, but it is needed for the SIS integration.

Q21. If a patron wants to see what books they have checked out, what exactly is the patron using to authenticate to their account? We currently have a Single Sign On system working with New VuFind; I'm getting the impression that that SSO will no longer work with Alma. Is that correct? [48:15]

- Single Sign-on is STRONGLY recommended.
- Most institutions do use some type of single sign on solution. There's a separate set-up for integration that we've delayed setting up so far. It is something that Alma supports. SIS is for updating user information; Authentication is separate, and more information is coming soon. Do expect to integrate your single-sign on system with Alma.

Q22. For the file we send, do we include all patron data or just changes each time? Example of a subset: if you want to do a SIS load that just includes students who have graduated and you want the SIS process to deactivate them, your file would just include that set of patrons, right? [49:50]

- You include all of the record data for the user(s) you want to update, but, you can send a subset of your institution's patrons.

Q23. How does SIS interact with LDAP/single sign on and ezproxy? [54:00]

- LDAP interacts with Alma, and Alma should have the necessary data from SIS to authenticate users. There are separate integrations, but they are interdependent. Your Authentication system (LDAP, SAML, etc.) will need to return a unique identifier that will match what is also in your User records (SIS synchronization). Single Sign-On (CAS/LDAP) should 1) verify affiliated user 2) also pass identifier along to Alma. Alma then links authenticated user to their own patron record via the identifier.

Q24. Does the automated update interval varies by institution or is there a recommended interval to run automated updates? [56:58]

- The interval will be completely up to the institution. The more often it's run, the more current/accurate the data will be.

Q25. Is the active directory in LDAP updated from SIS? Is that how they stay in sync?

- That's how it *should* work. Your local IT practices may vary slightly