

## Alexandria 6.21.0 Release Notes Build 20120116

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Due to multiple data enhancements, a full database rebuild will be required upon updating. COMPanion encourages all v6 users to update to this version at their earliest convenience.

Please contact COMPanion at 1-800-347-6439 or COMPanion Technical Support at 1-800-347-4942 with any questions regarding this update or for release notes for versions prior to 6.21.0.

Documentation for Alexandria is available online at:

<http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Alexandria>

**\*\*\*\* Archive and Backup your Data before updating\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Ensure that you are running a minimum version of 5.5.6 before updating\*\*\***

Current Alexandria v5 customers will need to contact COMPanion prior to updating to version 6. This update is included as part of your support subscription and version 6 will require new registration codes. v5 to v6 data conversion includes core data such as item and patron records, transactions, patron history, authority control, acquisitions, etc. Quick reports and preferences that are no longer applicable will not be converted. It is highly recommended that administrators review their preferences and scheduled events settings due to a number of changes and differences. Scheduled Rebuilds and Archives will need to be reconfigured in the new v6 Scheduled Utilities module.

Alexandria v6.21.0 runs on the following operating systems (below are more specific recommendations): Mac OS 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008

### System Requirements for Data Stations

#### Recommended

Mac OS 10.6, Windows 7 or 2008  
X86 or X64 Multi-Core/Processor  
4 GB of RAM or more  
20 GB of Free HD/100,000 Items

#### Minimum

Mac OS 10.5, Windows XP  
G4, Pentium 4 (or equivalent)  
2 GB of RAM  
20 GB of Free HD/100,000 Items  
1024 x 768 Resolution

### System Requirements for Central Union Data Stations

#### Recommended

Mac OS 10.6, Windows 7 or 2008  
X86 or X64 Multi-Core/Processor

#### Minimum

Mac OS 10.5, Windows XP  
G5, X86, or X64 Dual Processor/Core

Variable - see RAM Recommendations  
20 GB of Free HD/100,000 Items

Variable - see RAM Recommendations  
20 GB of Free HD/100,000 Items  
1024 x 768 Resolution

### **System Requirements for Controller Systems**

#### **Recommended**

Mac OS 10.6, Windows 7 or 2008  
X86 or X64 Multi-Core/Processor  
Variable - see RAM Recommendations  
20 GB of Free HD/100,000 Items

#### **Minimum**

Mac OS 10.5, Windows XP  
G5, X86, or X64 Dual Processor/Core  
Variable - see RAM Recommendations  
20 GB of Free HD/100,000 Items  
1024 x 768 Resolution

### **System Requirements for Librarian and Researcher Workstations**

#### **Recommended**

Mac OS 10.6, Windows XP or 7  
X86 or X64 Multi-Core/Processor  
2 GB of RAM or more

#### **Minimum**

Mac OS 10.5, Windows XP  
G4, Pentium 4 (or equivalent)  
1 GB of RAM  
1024 x 768 Resolution

### **Browser Requirements for Web Librarian and Researcher**

#### **Recommended**

FireFox 6+ for Mac or Windows  
Safari 5+ for Mac OS X

#### **Optional**

Internet Explorer 8 or 9+  
and others for both Mac and  
Windows  
1024 x 768 Resolution

### **Controller and Central Union RAM Recommendations:**

Up to 5 collections: 4 GB or more  
Up to 20 collections: 8 GB or more  
Up to 30 collections: 12 GB or more  
Up to 50 collections: 16 GB or more

NOTE: For Controller or Central Union configurations managing more than 50 collections, contact COMPAnion for specific recommendations.

NOTE: In all cases COMPAnion recommends modern and fast Hard Drives for Data Stations. Database applications are disk intensive and with modern disk hardware performance will be greatly enhanced. SSD technology has shown promising results in early testing.

### **Overview of Major Features:**

Alexandria 6.21.0 offers enhanced Report, Utility, and Export interfaces designed to simplify the process of working with ad-hoc as well as saved operations. Additionally, this release further improves on performance, reliability, and stability and includes a number of minor enhancements and fixes.

Documentation for the Report, Utility, and Export windows will be available online, and accessible through the help links in the application. Please view this video for an overview on reporting: <<http://www.goalexandria.com/videos/wiki/reports.html>>

### **Special Considerations**

COMPanion will no longer be providing a separate installable Researcher Client beginning with version 6.21.0. The Researcher interface is available through a supported Web Browser only. Many of the reasons that customers choose to install a separate client can be achieved by using web browsers in "kiosk" mode.

Details on operating an Alexandria Researcher as a Kiosk are available online at: <[http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Alexandria\\_Researcher\\_in\\_Kiosk\\_Mode](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Alexandria_Researcher_in_Kiosk_Mode)>

Older versions of the v6 Researcher application will still connect and function; however, they will not be supported in the future. It is recommended all users become familiar with the Alexandria Researcher Web Interface at their earliest convenience.

Details on the Alexandria Researcher are available online at: <[http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Researcher\\_Workstation](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Researcher_Workstation)>

Beginning with version 6.21.0 COMPanion will only support email messaging via your own or other SMTP servers. COMPanion will no longer be supporting the built in SMTP feature. If your system was configured to use this option, you'll need to configure the program for a new SMTP server. If you need assistance with this please contact COMPanion Technical Support . Additional details for configuring Alexandria to work with your SMTP server are available online at:

<[http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/System\\_Preferences:\\_Network\\_Services:\\_Email](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/System_Preferences:_Network_Services:_Email)>

COMPanion is aware of an issue currently that may prevent Librarian Workstation clients from properly updating to 6.21.0. Sometimes the update process will get confused and although it will appear the update is progressing, nothing is actually happening. If a client update is taking longer than a few minutes or if it reports to be running a version older than 6.21.0 following the update, the client application may need to be removed completely and reinstalled. Please contact COMPanion Technical Support if you require assistance. Instructions for installing Librarian Workstations are available online at:

<[http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Installing\\_Alexandria\\_v6\\_Librarians](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Installing_Alexandria_v6_Librarians)>

## **Additional Key Enhancements and Changes:**

### **Circulation:**

- Fixed tabs in Copy Statistics so full checkout date is showing.
- Added a message box to better alert operators when check outs fail due to the require circulation group preference being set.
- Central Union - Alexandria will now use the operators current site for the site code of items added from the unknown barcode window.

### **Database:**

- Updating to 6.21.0 will require a full database rebuild on first launch.
- We have changed the order that data files get rebuilt and validated to address issues where validation sometimes needs to be done twice.
- Increased size of awards index to improve awards searching.
- Increased size of vendor code index.

### **District Librarian:**

- The District Librarian can again properly reconnect to the local collection after failing to connect to another one.
- Corrected an issue that caused some of the menu items to not activate when switching back to the local collection on a District Librarian.

### **Email:**

- Corrected an issue that prevented circulation notice emails from being sent to patrons with multiple comma separated email addresses in their record.

### **Explore Builder:**

- Explore pane search labels are now more accurate.
- Corrected an issue that caused the 'Browse' options to open as empty windows in the Define Explore Button Search window.
- Corrected an issues that caused boolean explore searches to fail.

### **Export:**

- Implemented enhanced user interface. For more information, see: [<http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Export\\_Window>](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Export_Window)
- Corrected an issue that could cause extra spaces to be added to copies in MARC format exports.

### **Import:**

- Total number of records imported has been added to end of the Import Summary Report.
- Previously it was possible to create a new patron with the same Government ID as an existing patron on import. This has been corrected and on import If a patron is found to have a duplicate ID to an existing patron, then it is noted in the log and that field is set as blank for the new patron.

**Item Management:**

- The Add Title Assistant / MARC Search functionality has been enhanced to be more efficient and functional. We have added a 'Find More Records' option to the MARC Search Results window, allowing for the searching of additional servers. Servers must be configured in the Address Book preference pane and be 'Available'. The initial search and each additional search will search two servers at a time - server priority is also defined in the Address book preference pane for z39.50 servers.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Due to minimal use and wide availability external to Alexandria, the Dictionary Window has been removed from the application.
- Brodart, a partner company, has discontinued support for the DartClix and DartClix for Kids service as of December 31, 2011. COMPanion recommends removing all NetLink, DartClix, and DartClix for Kids records from your collection as COMPanion can not guarantee the reliability or integrity of these links in the future. We have enabled the ability for operators to edit or selectively remove these records in Item Management. Utilities exist to remove all records in a single action. Please contact COMPanion at 1-800-347-6439 for more information.
- Alexandria will now attempt to alert administrators in the event that hard drive free space is running low. An email will be sent to the administrators email address configured in preferences when Alexandria detects there is less than 3x the size of the database free; If less than 1x is free, Alexandria will refuse to start as it will not be able to operate correctly. It is critical to ensure your server hardware is well maintained.

**Preferences:**

- Central Union - when a new Site record is created, we are now creating a corresponding address book entry which further automates the Central Union setup process and eliminates duplicate work for the Operator.
- Added Site ID Code import/export support for Address Books.
- The 'Keep Patron History' setting in Policies is now correctly being applied to new Patron records when the system is not configured to "Keep History for All Patrons".
- Added Title Accession Date default sort option to Researcher preferences.
- The SSL preferences now accept DER format certificates.
- The SSL -> Create Temporary Certificate window now accepts URLs as well as IP addresses in the URL field.
- Corrected several reported issues with respect to sound preferences.

**Reports:**

- Implemented enhanced user interface. For more information, see: [http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Report\\_Window](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Report_Window)
- Central Union - The Pull Pending Holds report now properly respects Site selections.
- Corrected an indexing issue preventing the Bibliographic Term selection from working properly.

- Added a 'Only Print Items with Lexile from Title Match' checkbox to the Item List - Lexile report.
- Added an option to 'Print Item Images' on Circulation Notice 2 per page, Circulation Letter, Circulation Letter to Parents, and Circulation Letter with Summary.
- Added a Cash Drawer report to Circulation -> Charges and Payments.
- Added Refund Letters and Refund Letter - Email reports to Circulation Notices.
- Added a Top Circulating Patrons report to Patron Usage reports.
- Restored Policy Exceptions Special Report.
- Moved the Reservation Label report from Copy reports to the correct location in Circulation - Reservation reports.
- Moved the Item Analysis report from Copy reports to the correct location in Titles - General reports.
- Custom Barcode report is no longer printing custom text when a barcode label is set to be skipped.
- Added a Serial # column to the Copy Status report.
- Added Patron Email selection option to Circulation reports.
- Added Accession Date selection option to Patron reports.
- Added a 'Has Picture' selection to Patron and Title reports.

#### **Researcher:**

- Patrons are again required to login before they can submit a title review.
- Corrected an issue that caused some users to experience premature and repeated session timeouts.
- Search results call number sorts are now all case-insensitive.
- The reset search button now brings the user back to the search interface in addition to clearing all search pre-filters and search parameters.
- iPhone and other mobile devices no longer present screen resolution warnings.
- iPhone and other mobile devices are again capable of sorting search results.
- Researcher is now displaying the 856\_y instead of the 856\_3 as the link Description.

#### **Self Service:**

- The self service window now disables all menu options for modules the logged in operator had access to when using the 'AS' command to access it. This ensures that patrons can not access restricted areas of the program when using a self service window accessed via the AS command instead of via self service operator login.

#### **SIF:**

- Made ZIS scheme and protocol user configurable and we also allow the ZIS URL scheme as specified in the SIF window to not match the specified security level. This allows customers with Infinite Campus ZIS servers not operating securely to communicate correctly with the server when the ZIS still expects HTTPS in the URL.

#### **SIP2:**

- SIP2 will now test for User ID as well as Patron Barcode in SIP2 Login Messages.

**Utilities:**

- Implemented enhanced user interface. For more information, see: <[http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Utilities\\_Window](http://www.companioncorp.com/mediawiki/index.php/Utilities_Window)>
- Added an 'Other' option to the drop down menu for the Circulation -> Checkout utility. Selecting that option adds a Barcode textfield allowing the user to enter the barcode of a patron and checkout en mass to patrons other than system patrons.
- Added checked out records as line items in the Checkout utility summary report.
- Removed the Sneak Peek "Get Additional Information" Utility as it is no longer needed - Alexandria does not store Sneak Peek information locally and Sneak Peek Additional Information is available online when viewing content for a given item.
- Convert ISBN utility is now putting the newest ISBNs in the first 020 tag.

**Web Librarian:**

- Corrected an issue with resetting a patrons password when a new patron was being created; Alexandria now prevents this ensuring the new patron is first saved so the correct patron is always updated when password changes are made.
- Changing a Copy ID in the Web Librarian Item Management window is no longer resetting the copies checkout count.

**Web Router:**

- The Researcher will now reload its interface rather than the Web Router sites list upon timeout due to Inactivity.
- Links to Item Details are now working correctly through Web Router.
- Corrected an issue with the Web Router site report so it will again report the correct collection information.
- Addressed an issue that prevented advanced searches submitted on the URL, as well as NoveList Select links, from working through Web Router.