

# Alexandria<sup>®</sup>

HOMECOMING

## BUYER'S GUIDE



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# INTRODUCTION

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Thank you for considering returning to Alexandria! We are committed to making your transition as easy and painless as possible. This is a resource for former Alexandria users to highlight the major differences between Alexandria 7 and previous versions. It examines the newest features, tools, and improvements to streamline the management of your library.

*It is not the purpose of this document to serve as a complete manual or to replace the current Support Center resources available to all Alexandria users.*

# MODERN LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

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For more than 30 years, Alexandria has focused on creating software to help empower educators. Whether you are a librarian, administrator, or IT technician, we are working on removing obstacles so that you can focus on inspiring patrons and making a difference.

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Finding the right system for your library is vital for the management of your assets and the service of your patrons. Consider these factors when selecting Alexandria 7 as your LMS solution:

- **Type of Library:** School, public, academic, or special libraries can customize Alexandria to fit their needs.
- **Collection Size:** Alexandria supports collections big and small.
- **Budget:** During this special promotion, Alexandria will price match any qualifying Library Management System.
- **Size of Staff:** The latest version of Alexandria provides accessibility for unlimited users.
- **Compatibility:** Alexandria maintains extensive strategic partnerships and comprehensive integrations.

## ALEXANDRIA'S COMMITMENT

Alexandria's mission is to foster a love of education, knowledge, and discovery in students of all ages. To fulfill this mission, Alexandria is committed to the following:

- **Librarian Empowerment:** We empower librarians by delivering a powerful platform that is intuitive, flexible, and easy to use.
- **Patron Engagement:** We facilitate the space for discovery by making books easier to locate, creating a platform for sharing and interaction, and providing customizable elements that make patron interfaces more inviting.
- **Innovation & Longevity:** We continue to develop and enhance our software to meet the evolving needs of our users.

# SWITCH TO ALEXANDRIA 7

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Switching back to Alexandria, you're going to notice some big differences! We've highlighted the most exciting and useful tools that will be at your disposal when you switch to Alexandria 7.

## SEARCH WITHOUT LIMITS

If the library is the hub of the school, then [Researcher](#) is the hub of your library software for patrons. Researcher is the most notable improvement available in Alexandria 7. It's an assortment of visually engaging and intuitive tools for patrons to search your collection. Below is an overview of the tools available in the latest version of Alexandria:

### Search

[Search](#) is a powerful utility that allows library patrons to find what they want by filtering results by keyword or phrase. The search algorithms of Alexandria 7 allow for smart keyword searches and specific searches by author, title, or call number. Search is the more advanced tool for patrons and educators who want to discover items by study program, medium, genre, and more.

Search the catalog of any library in your district, all libraries, or search groups of libraries using [Group Search](#). This function allows Alexandria libraries to share resources while still allowing each library to manage and control their own data stations individually.

### Scout

[Scout](#) is the perfect tool for your K–4 crew because of its fun and light Smart Search interface. Designed with younger patrons in mind, the simple layout and intuitive display enables your students to find books based on keywords or phrases without the need for more advanced search functions. Patrons can search your catalog, read item descriptions, place holds, and locate the item on a map all within Scout.

### Explore

[Explore](#) uses visually-engaging interfaces and clickable icons to guide patrons to items in your collection without the need to read or write fluently. Patrons can click on the icon related to the topic of their interest and find items in your collection that fit in that specific category.

Additionally, with Explore, you are not tied down to just directing patrons to items in your collection. Each icon is customizable so that you can guide patrons to external resources, websites, and information.

# SWITCH TO ALEXANDRIA 7

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## Browse

Perfect for librarians who are not ready to ditch the Dewey Decimal System, [Browse](#) allows you to renefy your collection without the grueling work! Students can discover the books they are most interested in by topic or genre when using Browse.

## Slideshow

Alexandria’s [Slideshow](#) is a library book display! You can dynamically display a range of titles from search or saved results on a tablet, TV monitor, or computer screen. Slideshow is an excellent tool to help you promote a theme or subject in your library without needing to move books or create displays physically.

## Bulletin Boards

Alexandria’s [Bulletin Boards](#) feature helps librarians bridge the gap between the library and its school community. Share and post information about upcoming school events, book clubs, book reviews, new collection items, and more! Bulletin Boards give you the platform to create engagement and conversations in your school community.

## Textbook Tracker

[Textbook Tracker](#) is a new asset management module within Alexandria 7. It improves efficiency and reduces cost by simplifying asset management across multiple locations. By facilitating the optimal use of your budget by providing a fast and reliable snapshot of all assets and their location within a district, this allows you to move resources where they are needed and make accurate purchasing decisions.

## CUSTOMIZE WITHOUT LIMITS

Our motto is “Your library, your way.” With Alexandria 7, there’s almost nothing you can’t make your own. We provide all the means necessary to customize your library software to fit your specific needs. Customize policies, preferences, items, labels, reports, and select patron-facing interfaces. Change the colors and themes of the various interfaces for patrons at different grade levels, and add visual interfaces to Search using the new [Explore Builder](#).

## Customize Search Interfaces

There are endless possibilities for you to customize Researcher interfaces. Choose from hundreds of new icons, or upload your own images to the Explore Pane. Organize links, highlight new items, or feature classroom resources. Explore Builder is meant to be open-ended so you can use the feature for whatever you need.

# SWITCH TO ALEXANDRIA 7

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## ACCESS WITHOUT LIMITS

Entirely web-based, the newest version of Alexandria can be accessed from any device, which means no need for special installations or apps. Users have unlimited access to the entire program from classrooms, computer labs, home, or anywhere with a proper internet connection.

Access without limits gives librarians more options to view, process, and complete operations from anywhere they'd like!

## UPDATE WITHOUT LIMITS

You will be excited to know that data archives are backed up by Alexandria 7 daily. Therefore, your institution will not need to worry about backups, installation, database maintenance, updating, special ports, firewall configurations, or even the DNS name for your library—we do all of the hard work for you!

Since Alexandria 7 is cloud-hosted and does not require on-site installation, the software automatically updates with the latest features and enhancements monthly. This drastically reduces any institution's need for IT personnel.

## INTEGRATION WITHOUT LIMITS

We play nice in the sandbox! It's essential to have options. That's why with Alexandria 7, you'll have multiple options for integration. The choice is yours when it comes to our add-on partners like Mackin, Overdrive, Axis360, Perma e-hub, Mitinet, NoveList, and more.

Integration without limits also means enhancing your library with our SIS Integration Bundle. You have the choice of Clever or GG4L to automate your student management by seamlessly integrating SIS data into your library software.

## SUPPORT WITHOUT LIMITS

Although Alexandria 7 looks similar to previous versions, redesigns and improvements have moved a few items around. Our goal is to ensure that you have the resources to manage your library software with confidence. That's why our [Support Center](#) is open to anyone on your staff, 24/7, 365 days a year. We want you to feel confident using Alexandria 7, and in the moments where you need guidance, we have a multitude of free resources to help answer your questions.

These resources include our [AlexU training video series](#), weekly basic training webinars, monthly in-depth training workshops, and resource articles.



# PRICE

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Typically the costs associated with Alexandria depends on the unique size of your patron population and collection. However, during the Homecoming promotion, Alexandria will price match customers' existing Library Management Software, if they qualify. **Contact your Sales Executive** for more information and see if you qualify.

When switching back to Alexandria 7, you are taking advantage of all the latest features and tools available. Your license will include:

- Unlimited user access
- Monthly automated updates
- Newest patron-facing interfaces
- Integration options like the SIS Integration Bundle
- Powerful Smart Search tools
- Customizable features to fit your needs
- 24/7 support, training videos, workshops, and resources



**Thank you again for considering Alexandria 7**

For more information:

**(800) 347-6439**

**[sales@companioncorp.com](mailto:sales@companioncorp.com)**

Or visit our online Support Center at [support.companioncorp.com/display/ALEX](https://support.companioncorp.com/display/ALEX)

**Alexandria®**