

ALMA Report

The largest part of the ALMA transition I helped with was the pre-migration data cleanup. For my part, I was helping with cleaning up records from a digitized photo collection. This is one of the largest parts of preparing for the ALMA transition. There are several collections that are digital, and there are even more that are print based. This part of the project has been given to many staff members so all the collections will have the correct metadata. Ultimately, it will only be after the transition to ALMA that it will be revealed what else needs to be adjusted.

Using the OCLC Macro program allowed me to see how technological advances are helping automate some of the work librarians have to do. There are several thousand items that the library has to clean bibliographic records for. It is great that this process can be sped up. Then librarians can double check the records that need to be reviewed. There were a few records that I had that did not need deletions, but then there were also records that had no 035 fields after being ran through Macro. In order to determine how many records did not have 035 records a report has to be made.

I was able to sit in on an ALMA training session and it gave me a better sense of what the staff have to do to prepare for the transition. There are several training videos that need to be watched to help staff be ready to work with ALMA. I watched some that had to do with the acquisition methods, more specifically dealing with Purchase Order Summaries. The videos we watched took around 30 minutes to watch. There were 30 more videos to watch and each one was between 8-20 minutes long. Information sessions are scheduled throughout the entire summer and staff have the option to watch videos on their own time if they cannot make it to the information sessions.

Usually during the summer, RAM staff has a slower period to do work that has been put on hold during the Fall and Spring semesters. This did not happen this summer. ALMA training has taken extra staff time that would have been used for other projects. For example, during the department meetings it was announced that a couple of committees had not met due to having too much going on. Some summer projects that had to do with cataloging, such as the DVD reclassification, were completed as they needed to be done before transitioning to ALMA. Other tasks such as making new web resource guides for the liaisons will be put off for a later date. Making the change to ALMA is important and is taking the majority of staff time as it is a big project.