
<http://tinyurl.com/alliance16-api>

Alma APIs

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Outline

- API basics
- Developer Network Demo
- Cover each Alma API & survey (6/30) results, including:
 - What it does
 - Who's using it
 - Half baked ideas for use
- Some light Q&A

What is an API?

API is short for **Application Programming Interface**.

An API is the interface implemented by an application which allows other applications to communicate with it. Like a backdoor, but different.

REST and HTTP protocols

REST is short for **REpresentational State Transfer**

REST APIs can use these HTTP protocols:

GET (read data)

POST (write data)

PUT (update/replace data)

DELETE (delete data)

[Sample GET request for Google Books API](#)

Ex Libris Developer Network

Demo:

- Set up an application & key
- Run a test query
- Get some sample code

<https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com>

With a little additional code...

```
$today=date("Y-m-d")."Z";
$data=simplexml_load_string($response);
foreach ($data->day as $day){

    $date=$day->date;
    if ($date==$today){
        $dow=$day->day_of_week->attributes()->desc;
        $from=date("g:i a", strtotime($day->hours->hour->from));
        $to=date("g:i a", strtotime($day->hours->hour->to));
        echo "<p>Today's hours: $from - $to</p>";
    }
}
```

...you get this

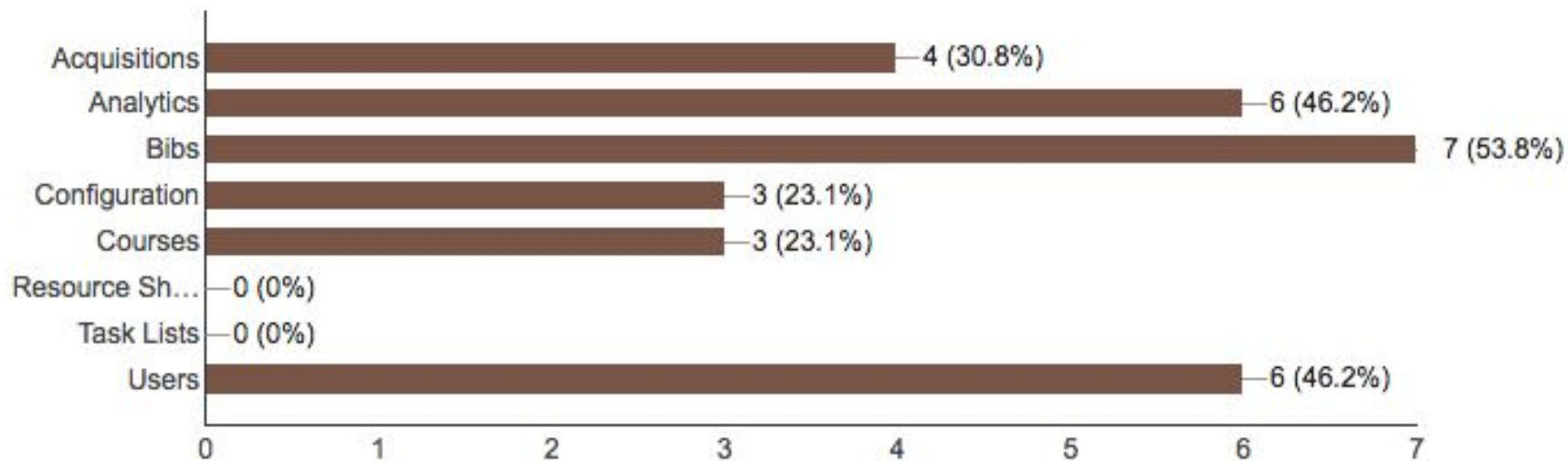
Today's hours: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm

Alma REST APIs

- Acquisitions
- Analytics
- Bibs
- Configuration
- Courses
- Resource Sharing
- Partners
- Task Lists
- Users

Alliance API usage

Alma APIs I/we use (13 responses)



Acquisitions API

Purpose:

Get/Post/Delete PO Lines & Vendors
Get Fund Codes, Invoices, Licenses

Who's using it?

WU, UW, UPS

PCC: update replacement cost in Alma items based on cost in the POL, (but it doesn't work)

Half baked idea:

Create PO Line for titles purchased from Amazon (w/Amazon API)

Analytics API

Purpose:

Get published Analytics report

Who's using it?

Lane, [Reed](#): Display new books

Half baked ideas:

Fund code report for librarians

Improve visualizations of data using Google Chart API or D3

Fun fact:

Doesn't work on the first try

Bibs API

Purpose:

Get/Post/Update/Delete Bib, Item, Holding, Request, Loan, Collection, Dig. Rep.

Who's using it?

PSU: show item info in patron portal

UW: Grabbing data for reporting to repositories

L&C: Get RTA for reserve items on reserves interface

WOU: metadata cleanup

COCC: Display study room availability

Half baked idea: "Scan In" for updating location, or anything

Configuration API

Purpose:

Get org. units, code tables, hours. Get/post import profiles & jobs

Who's using it?

PSU: Display Hours (soon)

UW: Display Hours

Half baked ideas:

Run any manual job programmatically / on a cron

Use MD Import to load records for an import profile

Courses API

Purpose:

Get/post/update/delete courses, reading lists, citations

Who's using it?

L&C: [front-end interface for viewing items by course](#)

PCC, PSU: Links to reserves from LMS

Half baked ideas:

Develop staff front-end for course reserves management

Allow faculty to place items on reserve from Primo GES link

Resource Sharing Partners API

Purpose:

Get a list of Resource Sharing Partners

Who's using it?

??

Half baked ideas:

Uh....get a list of resource sharing partners

Resource Sharing Partners API

Relais ILL Training Institution Auto-Graphics Test Sample 1 Test Sample 2 Test
Sample 3 LADD Aleph v.20 OCLC NRE British Library York University
Birmingham University LADD test ILLiad Oregon Health and Science Evergreen
State Lender 1 Lender 2 Lender 3 NA00 Training CCTest HQ-ISO Wisconsin
Library 2 INNREACH alephex Copy of alephex BBR Test Aleph v.22 Support
Sandbox Alma University ILL Last Resort TEST OCLC Navigator ILL Test Ill
Test ILL TEST 2015 BT-ILL-Test illtest ILL TEST ILLTEST Test Partner
LH NCIPtest TEST Library 2015 test Exercise 1 Pacific Northwest National
Laboratory TestILL TS 2015 Berea - DELETE ME - TEST Kronosdoc Umin test
GTBib ZZ test ÃfÃ...rstad videregÃfÃyende skole - Biblioteket fÃallen Clio
LADD_Test Training_1 BLDSS Bargteheide Library Hamburger Buecherhalle
NILDE ZZ Brent Test ZZ Brent Test worldshare ILLiad-3 ZZ Brent Test

Task Lists

Purpose:

Get lists of current borrowing or lending requests

Mark them as “printed”

Who's using it?

??

Half baked ideas:

Create custom interface for viewing & updating lending & borrowing requests

Users API

Purpose:

Interact with user data, including fines, loans, requests

Who's using it?

GFU: Load patrons

PSU: User portal

WOU: User portal w/Alma & Clio (ILL) items, place Summit req for VP

UW: Patron stuff

Half baked ideas:

DIY self-checkout system (w/Bibs API)

Pay fines with PayPal, Apple Pay, Google Wallet, Amazon Payments

API Survey Q&A

Q: Curious if the Courses API is getting any better.

A: No

Q: How can I use them w/o a server?

A: Set up a local machine to run PHP (or other language). Set up an AWS server. Alliance Proxy to support ajax/js/CORS headers.

Q: How do I pull analytics report and embed?

A: Linda is up next!

Thanks

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