

The Alma Enhancement Process and Voting: a Users Guide

Enhancement Process

The ELUNA and IGeLU Steering Committees negotiated the enhancement process to facilitate product development of Ex Libris products. Alma is awarded 200 development points annually according to the agreement. The “Development Cooperation” page at the IGeLU web site (<http://igelu.org/development-cooperation>) provides more information on procedures and partnerships.

IGeLU and ELUNA use the community designed and hosted NERS website (<https://ners.igelu.org/>) for the submission of enhancement requests and all voting. Each institution, as part of their membership in ELUNA or IGeLU, has a NERS account and will need to assign a member of staff to coordinate and vote on behalf of the institution. If you are unsure of your institutional NERS account, please contact:

IGELU - <https://igelu.org/about/membership>

ELUNA - <http://el-una.org/about/contact/ners-contact-form/>

Voting

Institutional requirements for voting

- Membership in ELUNA or IGeLU *and*
- The institution must be an existing Alma customer, ie., under contract to purchase Alma, in implementation or production

Institutions who are members of both user groups only vote once. Consortia may have a single membership for the consortia, just single memberships for members, or both.

Each institution receives 100 votes to use in each round.

- First Round - 100 votes
- Second Round - 100 votes

An institution can place all 100 votes on one enhancement should it decide to do so, or it could break down votes in chunks. 30,30,30,10 on four different enhancements is a common way of parsing out the 100 votes.

Placing 1 vote for an enhancement which is interesting, but not important, is not recommended. Enhancements are ranked based on the total number of votes received. Better to identify a few top candidates that would truly benefit the institution and focus on those, rather than spread small numbers too thinly.

After the first round of voting the twenty enhancements with the most votes are sent to Ex Libris for “pointing”. Ex Libris assigns development points to each of the 20 enhancements from round one.

Consider the second round of voting a new vote. In the second round of voting, institutions review the twenty remaining enhancements and the number of points assigned to each and then allocate the 100 votes as they see fit. There is no obligation to vote for the enhancement

receiving the most votes in the first round if it does not help the institution. Consider what top candidates within this subset of enhancements would be the most beneficial and vote accordingly.

Enhancement Process

The Alma enhancement process operates under the auspices of the IGeLU/ELUNA Alma Product Working Group. The PWG designates an Enhancement Coordinator to manage the process. That management includes communication with both the Alma community and Ex Libris, confirming the voting results, and following through to ensure that the enhancements are implemented fully within the enhancement year. Functional subgroups of volunteers assist in the review of submitted enhancements.

As part of the communication with the Alma community, the volunteers make sure that the enhancements are written clearly and succinctly, and are appropriately scoped. The Enhancement Coordinator and Alma PWG reserve the right to ask contributors to provide additional information, rewrite, scope and potentially remove the enhancement from voting.

The enhancement process calendar year generally looks like:

- The community adds new enhancements into NERS. These can be added anytime, but a two week focused period is built into the schedule
- The Alma PWG functional subgroups review, deduplicate and verifies the proposed enhancements - Early February-Early March. Usually around 5 weeks
- First Round of Voting - 3 weeks
- Enhancement Coordinator reviews results and prepares the top twenty enhancements, by vote, to send to Ex Libris - 2-4 days
- Enhancements to Ex Libris for pointing - Mid April to Late May - 6 weeks as the time includes the ELUNA annual meeting in May.
- Second round of voting on pointed enhancements - Late May to mid-June - 3 weeks.
- Tally results and send to Alma PWG for confirmation - 1 week
- Release results to ALMA-L and Ex Libris - once confirmed.