



State Library of New South Wales: From Alma to Adlib in No Time Flat



STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

The library with the largest collection in Australia needed to streamline integration for accurate archival management. Now, there's an app for that.

ExLibris
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“We can feel that we now have a more integrated collection management system.”

Lynne Billington, Manager, Data Quality, Systems & Standards



About the State Library of New South Wales

The State Library of New South Wales is the oldest library in Australia and houses the country's largest library collection, with more than six million items. These include not only significant published collections such as a rare Shakespeare first folio, a working magician's library, and the oldest books and journals published in Australia, but also extensive unpublished collections of personal, literary and business archives, digital archives, photographic archives, manuscripts, documentary art, architectural plans, objects, oral histories, watercolours, drawings and paintings.

The State Library provides support and services to 91 public libraries throughout New South Wales, including multicultural material in 42 languages and disability-friendly materials. Almost one million readers and visitors walk through the State Library's doors each year, to enjoy its reference services, public events and exhibitions. The Library employs between 250 and 300 people in multiple functional areas.

Trying to Maintain a 'Single Source of Truth'

The State Library uses the Adlib software for management of its hierarchical archival collections, including description of both digital and physical objects, tracking of external exhibition loans and recording valuations. The Ex Libris products the library uses are Alma, Primo and Rosetta, having migrated to Alma in 2016.

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The State Library manages catalog records for published material in Alma, while continuing to manage records for unpublished collections in Adlib.

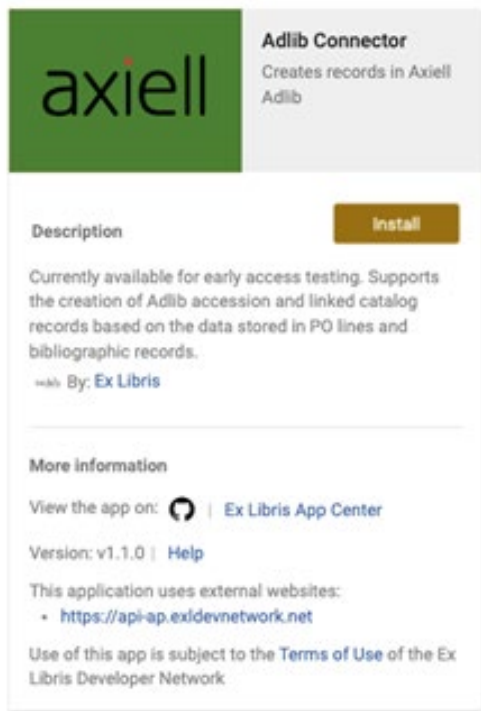
Alma became the single source of truth for all acquisitions, including those managed and discovered in Adlib. This meant basic record information had to be entered into Alma at the time of acquisition and then manually copied by staff members into Adlib. This double-entry proved to be a time-consuming process with risk of errors.

A Tailor-Made App Solution

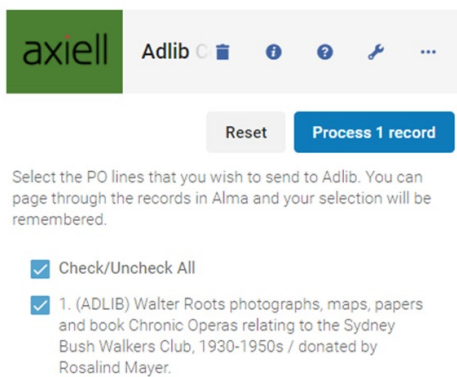
The State Library and Ex Libris searched for a way to integrate its Alma and Adlib solutions, so that information in Alma could be easily shared with Adlib. As the Library leadership was considering its options, Alma introduced Cloud Apps. Cloud Apps allow users of Alma and other Ex Libris products to build on a large API set to develop their own applications for almost any library-centered purpose. The apps are then hosted and displayed on the Higher Ed Platform, where any user can directly access them from within their instance of Alma or another relevant Ex Libris product. Using the new Cloud Apps open framework, over 1,000 users have thus far activated Cloud Apps to quickly extend the capabilities of Ex Libris cloud solutions to meet their specific needs.

In consultation with Ex Libris, the Library determined that the Alma-Adlib integration was a perfect candidate for a Cloud App. In addition to the expected increase in efficiency and effectiveness, a Cloud App would give the State Library the agility needed to respond to changing requirements. As the solution is native to the Alma ecosystem, the State Library team also understood they would have less to do from a technical sustainability perspective. If need be, the Library can also independently make changes going forward as the app code is available in a GitHub code repository.

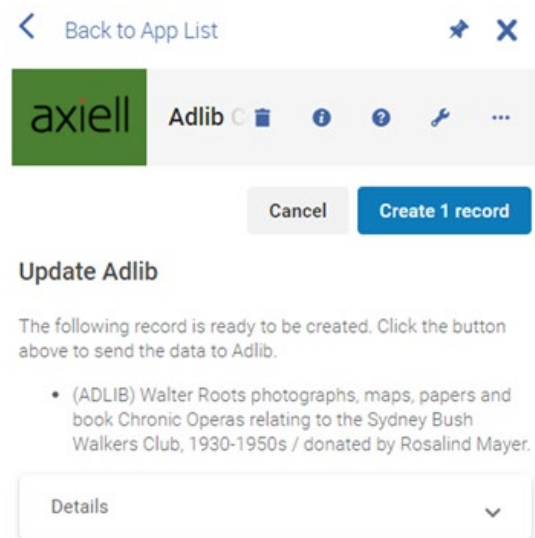
Ex Libris designed the Cloud App, called the Adlib Connector, in close cooperation with Axiell, the creator of Adlib. This involved the mapping needed to create the records correctly, as well as the technical work to configure Adlib for accessibility from the Cloud App. The State Library staff also worked closely with Ex Libris, providing feedback during development, which was then used to improve and tweak the app in an iterative process. The three organizations collaborated through a centralized online platform for a surprisingly fast development of a more effective user experience.



The Adlib Connector removes the manual aspect of transcribing resource data from Alma to Adlib. After the financial matters related to a given resource are completed, the operator selects the closed order in the Cloud App and all the relevant resource information in Alma is automatically copied into a newly created Adlib record.

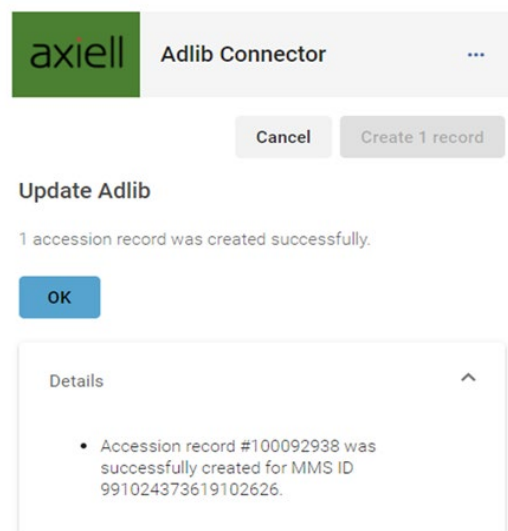


“It’s a couple clicks of a button and – bam – it’s created in Adlib,” according to Lynne Billington, Data Quality Manager at the State Library of New South Wales.



Fast, Easy and Accurate

The Adlib Connector has streamlined the State Library’s workflows. There is no need to exit Alma or access a new URL, interface, or screen to use the app and transfer data to Adlib. The Adlib Connector is fully integrated and triggered automatically, with a button for executing the process appearing the moment an invoice is closed by the user. The app also provides the librarian with instant confirmation when the data is successfully copied, or a notification if something went wrong or requires attention.



The automation of the Alma-Adlib integration app ensures consistency and completeness of the data in Adlib and mitigates the risk of human error and omissions. The workflow is simplified and much faster for Library staff, relieving them of the burden of manually copying and creating records. It has also increased their confidence in the information they see in Adlib, which by extension also ensures the quality of their service to patrons and public libraries.

Glad to Be of Service

The librarians at the State Library of New South Wales were exposed to the Cloud App feature thanks to Adlib Connector. Now, they have already started using other available apps on the platform, such as Bulk Check-in. They intend to explore Cloud Apps further and use other optimization apps in the future, as well.

In addition, the State Library team is pleased that the Adlib Connector can benefit other members of the Alma user community with its easy plug-and-play implementation.



About Ex Libris

Ex Libris, a ProQuest company, is a leading global provider of cloud-based solutions that enable institutions and their users to create, manage, and share knowledge. In close collaboration with its customers and the broader community, Ex Libris develops solutions that increase library productivity, maximize the impact of research activities, enhance teaching and learning, and drive student mobile engagement. Ex Libris serves over 7,500 customers in 90 countries. For more information, see our [website](#) and join us on [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

