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Alice 7

Alice version 7 has now been released for general deployment.

What are the new features of Alice 7?

Support for RDA (Resource Description and Access) in SCIS records

RDA is the new cataloguing standard that will supersede AACR2. Among other changes, the main difference between RDA and AACR2 is that the General Materials Designations (GMD) code will be replaced by three separate codes

- Content;
- Media;
- Carrier.

This gives much greater flexibility when cataloguing non-book resources. For example, a Video resource may be held as a VHS tape, DVD or computer file. The 'official' SCIS GMD list gives one option 'VI - Video' to describe the 'type' of the resource whereas RDA would assign three different 'carriers' to distinguish between the different resources with otherwise identical content.

From July 2013, catalogue records downloaded from SCIS have contained RDA MARC tags as well as GMD. From July 2014, SCIS records will no longer contain the GMD tag.

Alice provides a partial implementation of RDA. It supports RDA MARC Tags 336, 337 and 338 in SCIS MARC records by mapping the combinations to suitable GMD codes in Alice. Only the 'standard' SCIS GMD codes are supported. If your Alice library catalogue uses GMD codes other than the SCIS standard ones, you will need to change the GMD after importing SCIS records just as you do now.
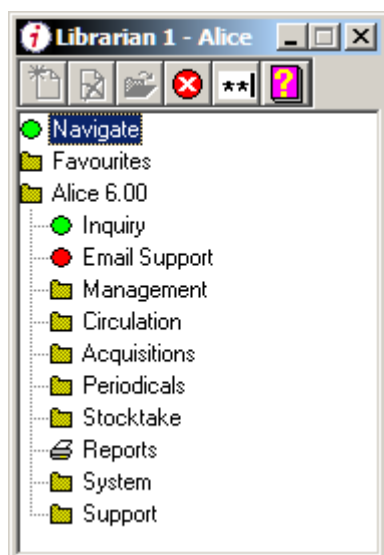
In most cases you will not notice any change. Books will still be assigned a GMD of 'text' and non-book resources will be assigned an appropriate GMD.

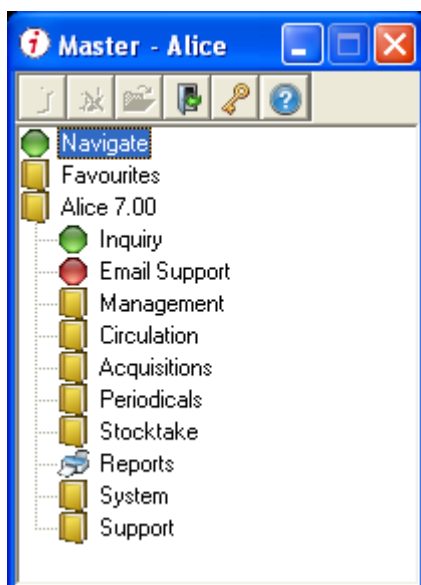### Borrower image display now available to all Alice sites

Catholic schools have long had this feature enabled as part of their licensing of Alice but it is now available to all Alice users.
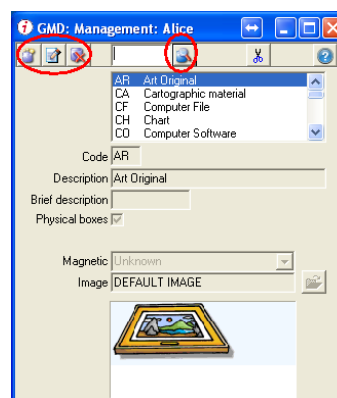
Shaded icons in the menu

The menu icons now have a new look as do the other icons within Alice 7

Alice 6   **Alice 7**   **Alice 7**

When can I get my Alice library upgraded to Alice 7?

I will phone you during the next fortnight to book a time to perform the conversion. Feel free to email (support@oasisextras.com.au) or phone (Freecall: 1800 821 281) me if you are impatient to get Alice 7.

The upgrade will take about an hour to complete and during this time it will not be possible to use Alice. In many cases it will be possible to perform the update out of hours to minimise library downtime.
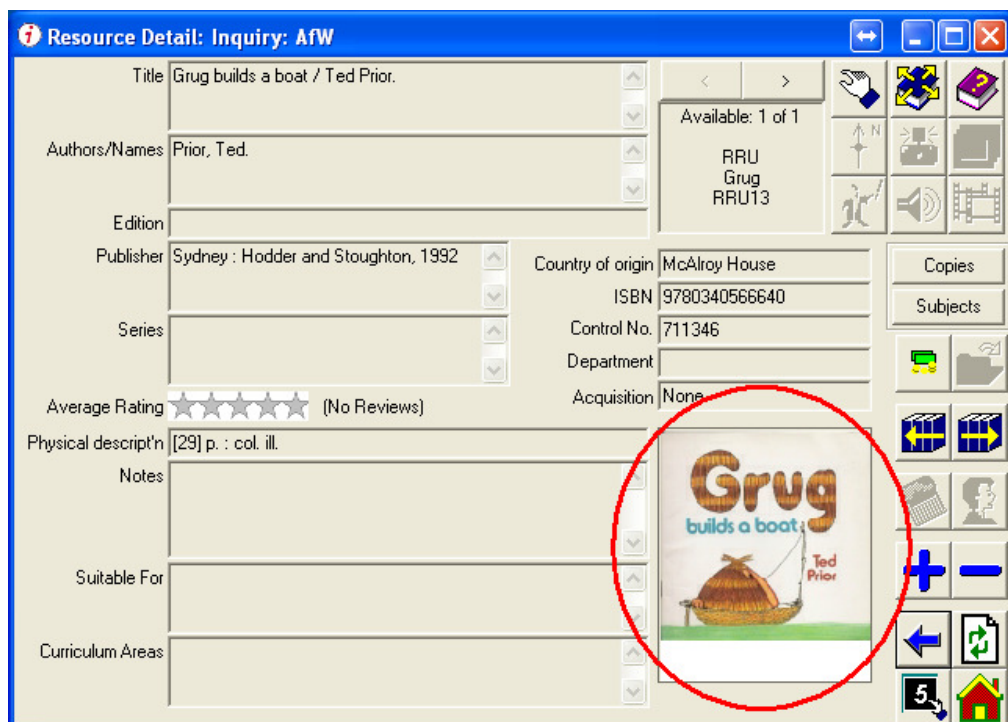
How will the upgrade be installed?

I'll use remote access to your workstation (or server depending on your setup), to install the upgrade and also perform some 'health checks' on your Alice library system. If you choose to have the upgrade installed out of hours, it may be necessary to install a password protected remote access client first. This process will only take a few minutes to complete.

Are there any prerequisites before Alice 7 can be installed?

1. **An external backup must be completed**. If you do not have the 'Purple Shield' icon to perform a backup to USB drive, let me know and I'll install this ahead of time.
2. **An Alice Stocktake cannot be 'in progress'**. If you are planning a stocktake this term, either have the Alice upgrade completed before you start or wait until you have completed the stocktake and finalised and then request the upgrade to Alice 7.

Cover Images Update

Alice can display a picture of a book's cover in Inquiry. To do this, image files for each title, named as the ISBN, need to be copied to the oasis\coverimages folder. The images for many titles can be downloaded from SCIS along with catalogue records or you can 'harvest' suitable images from the Internet one at a time.
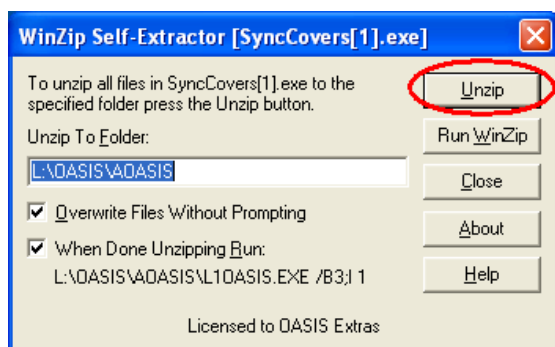

In the last newsletter I announced that I was working on an option to update automatically the book cover images in your Alice library from a collection of some 120,000 cover images. This feature is now ready for use. You can access it here:
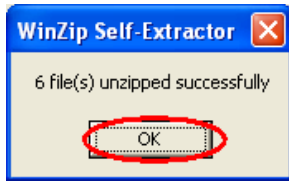
http://oasisextras.com.au/downloads/SyncCovers.exe

File Download and Security Warning: Select **Run**.
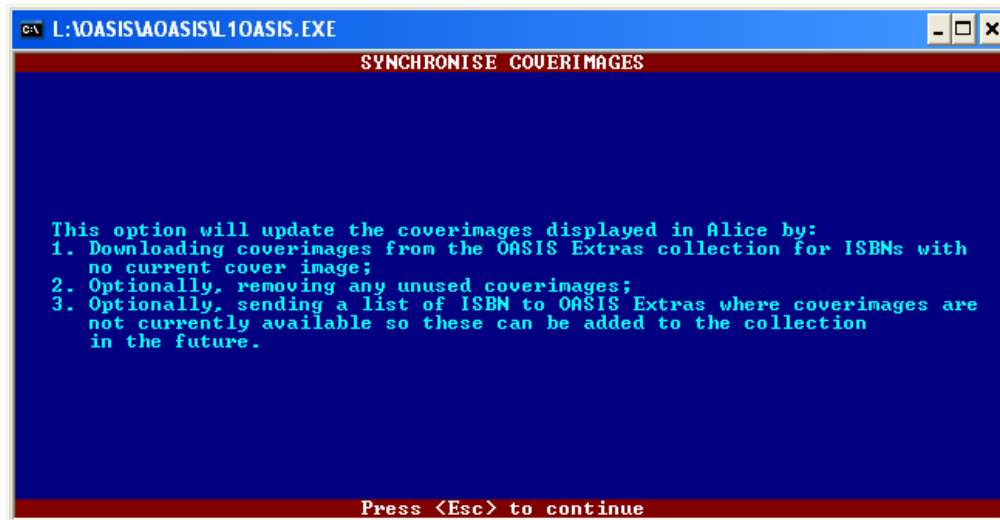When the download has completed **Publisher could not be verified warning**: select **Run.**

Note: If using **Internet Explorer 9 or 10** you will receive different warning messages. Click Here to view the steps required for these web browsers.
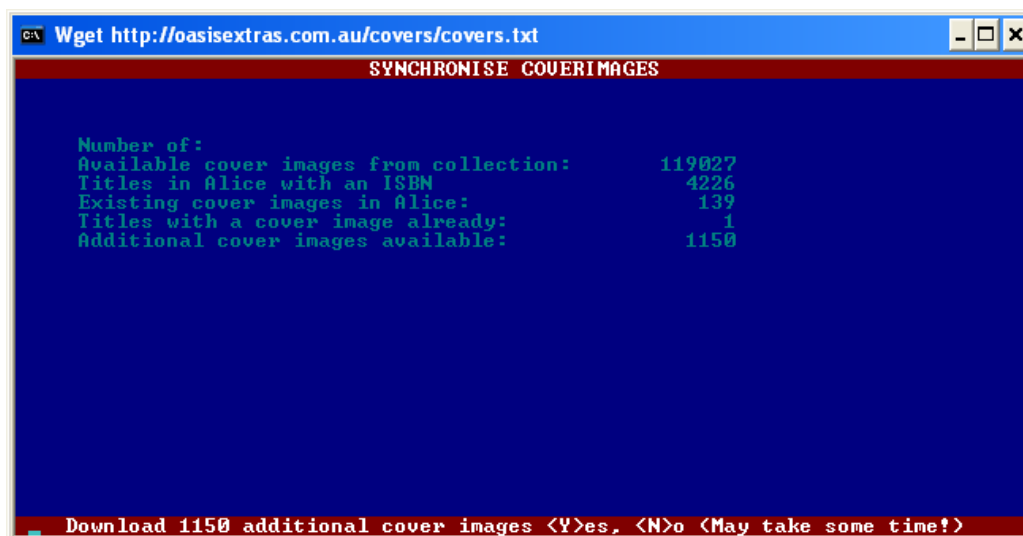

Click **Unzip**

Click **OK**

Press **Escape**.

The program will first check that Internet access is available to http://oasisextras.com.au.

Note: If your Internet access uses a Proxy Server that requires authentication, this program will not work without a proxy exception being made by your Internet manager to allow direct access to oasisextras.com.au. The proxy exception has already been put in place for Wagga Wagga Diocese Schools.

An index file listing the ISBNs of available cover images will be downloaded first. This may take a few minutes to complete but will not be required again unless the index file is updated.

Your Alice catalogue will be scanned to identify:

- **The number of catalogue records with an ISBN**. Only titles with an ISBN can have a cover image linked.
- **The number of existing cover images already in Alice**. This number will include any images that do not match the ISBN of a title in Alice.
- **The number of Titles with a matching ISBN**. In the example above, only one of the 139 existing cover images matches with a title in Alice. The other 138 images are unnecessary and will be deleted later on.
- **Additional cover images available to download**. For this library another 1150 cover images are available to be added to Alice.

This first time this program is run you can expect to add a large number of cover images to your Alice Library. The images will take quite some time to download. The precise time will depend on the speed of your Internet connection. Typically 1000 covers will require 30 – 50Mb of data to be downloaded.

The next time you run the program, only new cover images that have been added to the collection or images for new titles added to your catalogue will be downloaded.

Once the download of new cover images has been completed, you will be given the option to delete any unused cover images from Alice where an image exists but there is no title with a matching ISBN in the catalogue.

Questions and Answers

Q. Why didn't a cover download for {insert title here}?
A. Despite there being a large number of cover images in the collection and that have been harvested using ISBN lists from primary and secondary schools to reduce the number of irrelevant images, the collection does not contain cover images for every single book that has ever been printed. Also the collection was last updated in 2012 so newly published titles will not be included. Most schools will get covers for about 40% of their collection.

Windows 7 and Server 2008

Q. Will Alice work with Windows 7 64 bit?
Yes. Alice is a 32 bit application and works just fine with 64 bit versions of Windows. The Alice External Backup option 2.98c (Purple Shield icon) contains some 16 bit programs and will need to be updated to work under Windows 64 bit. Link to update: Alice Backup 2.98d.

Q. Is there some problem with Alice and Windows 7 with Server 2008?
Yes there is but the problem will not affect small libraries with just a single Alice workstation. Larger libraries with more than one Alice 'management' workstation may experience intermittent corruption of Alice data which will then require a recovery with significant loss of data. The problem is caused by the enabling by default of 'opportunistic locking' by Windows 7 and Server 2008, which is known to cause data corruption in the legacy DBF data files used by Alice. More information is available HERE.

Q. Will Alice Internet Inquiry work with Windows Server 2008 64bit?
In theory yes, but not without some additional configuration setup due to changes in the way Windows Server 64 bit behaves with 32bit content. Alice Internet Inquiry is a web server that allows the Alice catalogue to be searched from a web browser. Its 32bit ISAPI DLL will not run with the default settings of Windows Server 64bit. Information about setting up a separate Application Pool on Windows Server 64 bit server to allow a 32 bit ISAPI DLL to run (such as AFWIINQ.DLL used by Alice Internet Inquiry) is available HERE.

Bluetooth Wireless Barcode Scanner - 30% off

For a limited time, the Cipherlab 1560 Bluetooth wireless Barcode Scanner is available for 30% off the usual price of $649.

That is **just $499** (plus $18.50 postage and insurance) for this top of the range portable barcode scanner.

CipherLab 1560 Bluetooth Memory Scanner
The new standard in Memory Scanners
Replaces the successful 1166 scanner, with superior scanning, and even easier stocktaking.
•Bluetooth version of popular 1500 scanner
•No cable on scanner, potential 70m transmission
•Memory 32 000+ barcodes
•Ideal for libraries and retail
•Adjustable 3-in-1 stand, optional heavy based stand is recommended
•Includes rechargeable Li-ion battery, USB and power cables
•3 year manufacturer's warranty*

More Information

Click here to order now.