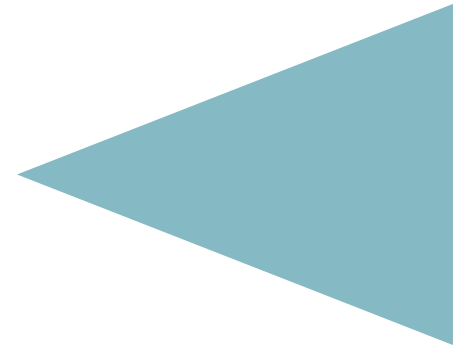


Cataloguing with AI in Alma

“Meet our Staff” Erasmus week 2025

Abstract

Presentation of AI within Alma : Alma CZ Metadata generator and how we will deal with Alma AI Metadata Assistant (presentation of the project and plans for implementation)



Alma Community Zone Metadata Generator



Community Zone Metadata Generator

Alma Community Zone (CZ)

- ❑ Records managed by Clarivate | Ex Libris
- ❑ Electronic resources
- ❑ 18 millions records for monographs
 - ❑ 17 millions books
- ❑ 2 millions records for serials

Around **600,000 titles** activated by ULiège Library



Community Zone Metadata Generator

Records enrichment from various sources:

- Providers
- Cooperative cataloguing programs (CONSER, BIBCO...)
- Clarivate|Ex Libris (exemple in 2025 : adding ISBN-13)

Provider neutral records

'Poor' records from incomplete Marc cataloguing flows:

- AI based solution by Clarivate: Use full text to create detailed metadata on the publication and extract the relevant information to generate Marc fields in the bibliographic record
- Program launched feb. 2024
- June 2025: about 245,000 records enriched, including almost 8,400 titles available at ULiège Library

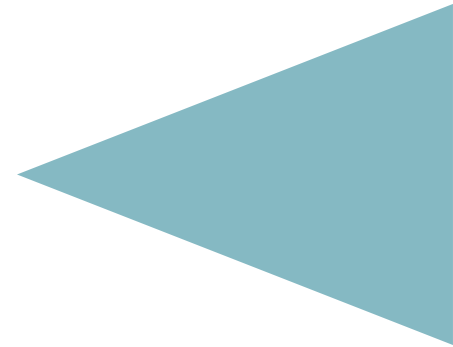


Community Zone Metadata Generator

- ❑ GPT4o + non AI tools + other LLM
- ❑ From PDF, EPUB, TXT formats

- ❑ Make sure that CZ records contain relevant metadata : **language, summary, subjects, table of contents...**
- ❑ Planned:
 - ❑ Dewey and LCC
 - ❑ Publication data
 - ❑ More authors and contributors
 - ❑ Identifiers

Improve records quality for making them more discoverable and accessible



Alma AI Metadata Assistant in the Metadata Editor



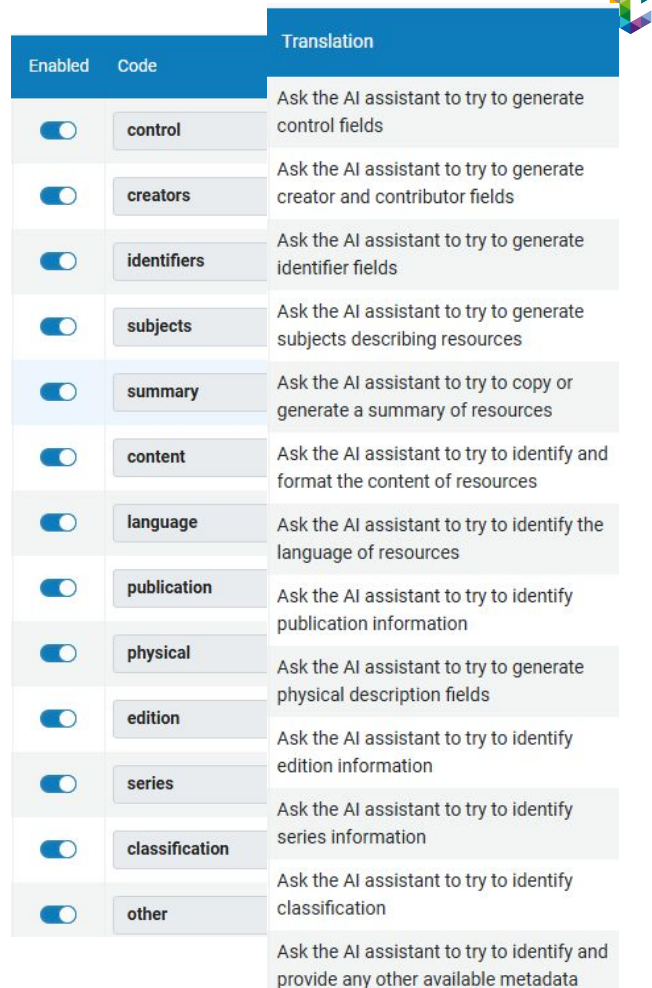
AI Metadata Assistant

- ❑ 1st testing aug. 2024
 - ❑ UPenn, Vanderbilt, Queensland, Leeds, Oslo...
 - ❑ ULiège Library joins the program in oct. 2024 (6 cataloguers involved)
- ❑ Enhanced functionality launched with general release: nov. 2024
 - ❑ All Alma customers... Marc21 customers
 - ❑ Go-live for ULiège Library
 - ❑ June 2025 with testing group (feedback?)
 - ❑ Sept.2025 for all (?)
 - ❑ A specific profile (role) for users: “AI Assisted Cataloging”
- ❑ Information provided by cataloguer is not used to train the AI

AI Metadata Assistant

❑ Currently

- ❑ Marc21 records
- ❑ Cataloguing language: english
- ❑ Subject headings: LCSH
- ❑ Quite accurate prompts
- ❑ Configuration options
 - ❑ Enable required metadata
 - ❑ Choose to generate summary from image provided or with IA own words
 - ❑ Normalization
- ❑ Cataloguer's choice
 - ❑ Can select only subject, or summary, or content, or additional metadata generation, or select all



The image shows a configuration table for the AI Metadata Assistant. The table has three columns: 'Enabled', 'Code', and 'Translation'. The 'Enabled' column contains toggle switches, all of which are turned on. The 'Code' column lists various metadata codes. The 'Translation' column provides a description for each code. The table is styled with a blue header and alternating light blue and white rows.

Enabled	Code	Translation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	control	Ask the AI assistant to try to generate control fields
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	creators	Ask the AI assistant to try to generate creator and contributor fields
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	identifiers	Ask the AI assistant to try to generate identifier fields
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	subjects	Ask the AI assistant to try to generate subjects describing resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	summary	Ask the AI assistant to try to copy or generate a summary of resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	content	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify and format the content of resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	language	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify the language of resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	publication	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify publication information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	physical	Ask the AI assistant to try to generate physical description fields
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	edition	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify edition information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	series	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify series information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	classification	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify classification
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other	Ask the AI assistant to try to identify and provide any other available metadata

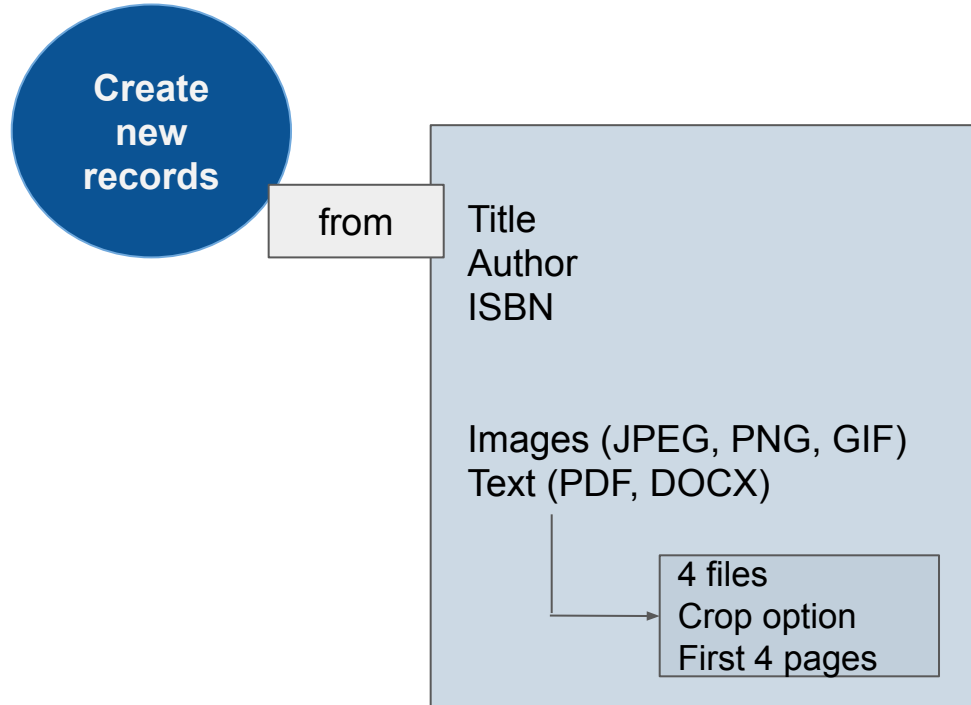


AI Metadata Assistant

- ❑ Planned:
 - ❑ Other cataloguing languages
 - ❑ ULiège Library: mainly french
 - ❑ Other vocabularies for subject indexing
 - ❑ ULiège Library: RAMEAU french vocabulary via IDREF authority file
 - ❑ Bulk creation
 - ❑ For uncatalogued resources



AI Metadata Assistant



Can add:
Content note
Summary note

Can expand from cataloguing template

Can choose metadata to be generated:
Summary
Content
Subject
Additional information (publication data...)

AI Metadata Assistant

New record

Very minimal information
needed

Can just work with
attachments

Images can be dropped or
browsed from the computer, or
you can open the camera



New Record From AI Assistant

Enter the metadata and/or images you want to use to generate the record. The new record draft will be pushed to MDE when ready.

Title*	Summary Note
<input type="text" value="RDA"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Text Here"/>
Author	Record Format
<input type="text" value="Enter Text Here"/>	<input type="text" value="Marc21"/>
ISBN	Expand from Template
<input type="text" value="Enter Text Here"/>	<input type="text" value="Livres_RDA"/>
Content Note	Requested Metadata*
<input type="text" value="Enter Text Here"/>	<input type="text" value="Requested Metadata: All"/>

Attachments

Upload up to 4 images of the book (e.g. back cover, colophon)

	File Name	
1	 captured-image.jpeg	...
2	 captured-image.jpeg	...
3	 captured-image.jpeg	...
4	 captured-image.jpeg	...

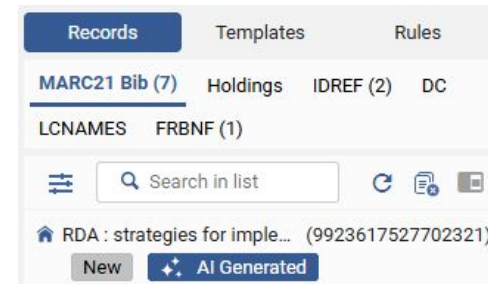
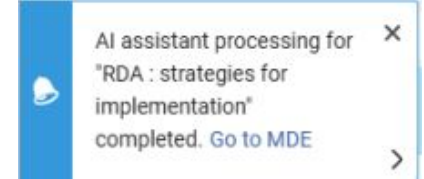
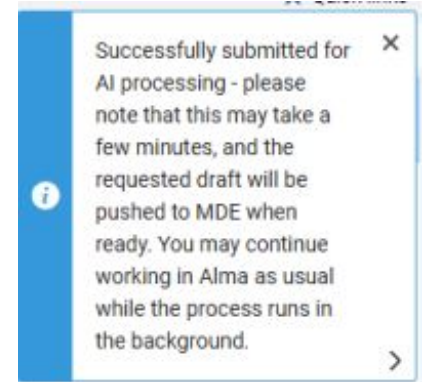
Cancel

Generate Record



AI Metadata Assistant

- ❑ Record generation works in background
 - ❑ Cataloguer can choose to do another task
 - ❑ Or can wait a few tens of seconds or a few minutes without doing anything
- ❑ Real -time notifications
 - ❑ Displayed at the beginning and at the end of the process
- ❑ The record is ‘tagged’ in the list of records
 - ❑ A draft New record AI Generated





AI Metadata Assistant

RDA : strategies for implementation Magda El-Sherbini. (9923617527702321)

Level [00]: [00] Default Level | Record | New | AI Generated | 81 | MARC21 Bib

Feedback

LDR	#####nam#a22#####i#4500
003	BeLU
008	#####s##### ##/#N#d
020	\$\$a 978-1-85604-834-7
040	\$\$a BeLU \$\$b \$\$c BeLU \$\$e rda
041	\$\$a eng
100 1	\$\$a El-Sherbini, Magda \$\$e author
245 1 0	\$\$a RDA : \$\$b strategies for implementation \$\$c Magda El-Sherbini.
250	\$\$a First edition.
264 1	\$\$a London \$\$b Facet Publishing \$\$c 2013.
336	\$\$a text \$\$b txt \$\$2 rdacontent
337	\$\$a unmediated \$\$b n \$\$2 rdamedia
338	\$\$a volume \$\$b nc \$\$2 rdacarrier
520	\$\$a Publisher description: "El-Sherbini tackles key questions about how the new cataloguing standard will be implemented by cataloguing professionals, offering an orientation in the conceptual background and the structure of RDA: Resource Description and Access from a technical perspective, including a detailed comparison with AACR2. Firmly rooted in the concrete application of RDA, with numerous sample records, this book: Covers FRBR-driven tasks, FRBR-Group relationships, and principles of FRAD, including how FRAD impacts the RDA application; Analyses the roles of manifestations and items, such as pre-cataloguing decisions, preferred sources of information, and mandatory elements of description; Discusses works and expressions for specific library materials, from methods of recording primary relationships to constructing the authorized access point and recording relationships; Offers advice for using RDA Toolkit, with tips for efficient navigation in RDA Toolkit using workflows and searching techniques; Digs deeply into a variety of technical issues, including: RDA's effect on OPAC displays; implementation of the new RDA fields that represent adding new elements; adjusting systems to accommodate the new MARC21 fields; integrating new records using RDA with older records; when to re-catalogue a set of manifestations; exporting an RDA-based bibliographic record from OCLC into the OPAC; choosing RDA elements to describe your library materials (core vs full elements) and upgrading OCLC records to RDA." \$\$7 Generated by AI
505 0	\$\$a History and Background -- The Need for a New Cataloging Code -- RDA Objectives -- RDA Principles -- RDA's Impact on Cataloging
588	\$\$a Part of the metadata in this record was created with the help of AI Metadata Assistant
650 0	\$\$a Cataloging. \$\$x Standards. \$\$2
650 0	\$\$a Library science. \$\$x Data processing.
650 0	\$\$a Bibliographic control.
650 0	\$\$a Information organization.

Alma internal bibliographic ranking > 75 = quite a good quality record

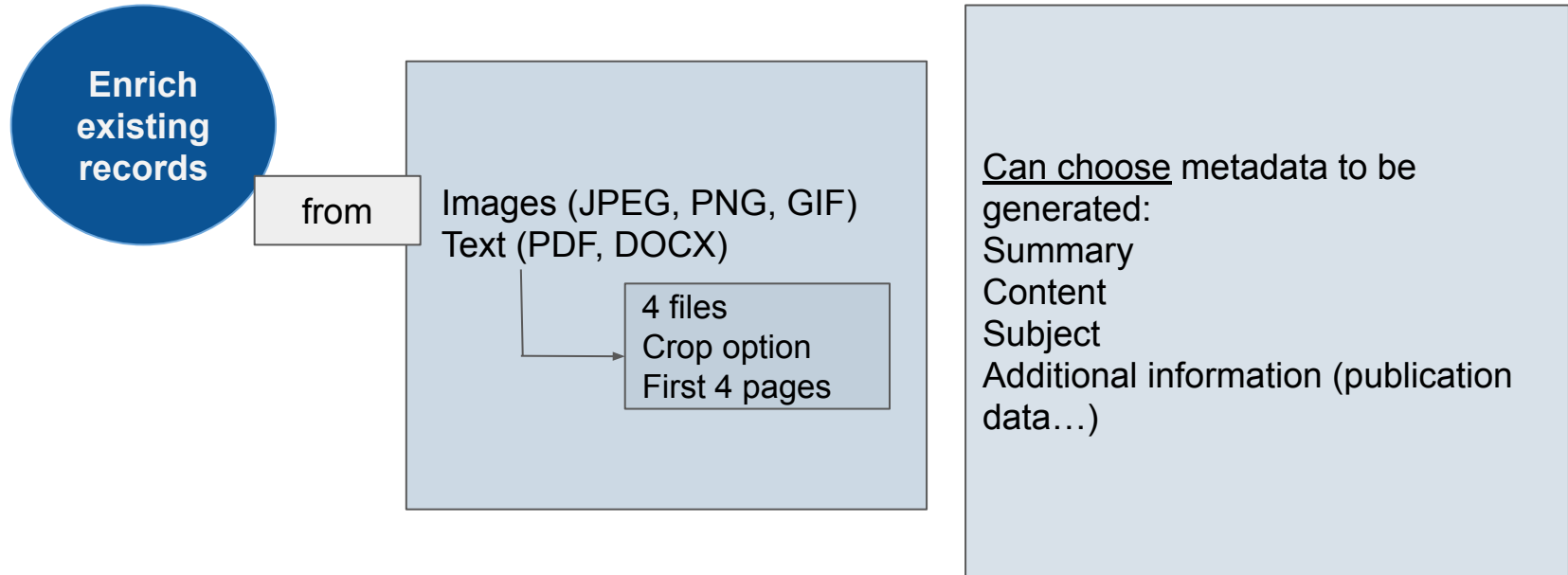


AI Metadata Assistant

- ❑ Cataloguers (test group)
 - ❑ check metadata quality
 - ❑ check relevance of information (subject headings, summary)
 - ❑ check completeness (content note)
 - ❑ check headings against authority files
 - ❑ give feedback to Clarivate
 - ❑ give feedback to catalog admin
- ❑ Catalog administrators
 - ❑ set up normalizations
 - ❑ refine metadata configuration (lists of values...)



AI Metadata Assistant





AI Metadata Assistant

- ❑ A record opened in the metadata editor
- ❑ Cataloguer can enrich the record according to the metadata already available
- ❑ Can enhance a record created by the Assistant by adding new images or text file

✦ Enrich Record With AI Assistant

Enrichment will be done according to the metadata in the record. You may also upload images of the book. In order for the AI assistant to be able to enrich the record, it will be released and locked for editing. The enriched draft will be pushed to MDE when ready.

Title

Jean Ziska : épisode de la guerre des Hussites /

Requested Metadata*

Requested Metadata: Request Content Information ✕

Request Subjects ✕ Request Summary ✕

Q Search...


Requested Metadata

Request Content Information

Request Additional Metadata

Request Subjects

Request Summary

back cover, colophon) 

Upload a file or [Browse files](#)

Cancel **Enrich Record**



AI Metadata Assistant

- ❑ Added valuable content
- ❑ But need to be checked, need to be linked.
- ❑ Waiting for language adaptations

Records Temp

MARC21 Bib (6) Holding

LCNAMES FRBNF (1)

Search in list

Jean Ziska : épisode d...

AI Enriched

Essais et tests / par le [

On finite gk-dimensiona

Experimentelle Untersu

LDR	00463nam#a2200145i#44500	...
001	990011130320502321	
005	20250617102828.0	
008	900721s1843####be# ##### 1 fre#d	
040	\$\$a BeLU \$\$b fre \$\$c BeLU	
041 0	\$\$a fre	
044	\$\$a be	
100 1	\$\$a Sand, George, \$\$d 1804-1876 \$\$2 idref \$\$0 (IDREF)027121577 \$\$1 http://www.idref.fr/027121577/id	
245 1 0	\$\$a Jean Ziska : \$\$b épisode de la guerre des Hussites / \$\$c George Sand.	
260	\$\$a Bruxelles : \$\$b Lebègue, \$\$c 1843.	
300	\$\$a 167 pages	
520	\$\$a Publisher description: "EPISODE DE LA GUERRE DES HUSSITES. Mon récit commence à la fin de ce fameux et scandaleux concile de Constance, où les bûchers de Jean Huss et de Jérôme de Prague vinrent apporter un peu de distraction aux ennuis des vénérables pères et des prélats qui siégeaient dans la douce assemblée. On sait qu'il s'agissait d'avoir un pape au lieu de deux qui se disputaient fort scandaleusement l'empire du monde spirituel. La discussion fut longue, fastidieuse. Les riches abbés et les majestueux évêques avaient bien leurs maîtresses; Constance était devenue le rendez-vous des plus belles et des plus opulentes courtisanes de l'univers; mais que voulez-vous? On se lasse de tout. L'Eglise en ce temps là n'était pas née pour..." \$\$7 Generated by AI	...
588	\$\$a Part of the metadata in this record was created with the help of AI Metadata Assistant	
650 0	\$\$a Religious disputations \$\$v Fiction	
650 0	\$\$a Church history \$\$v Fiction	
600 1 0	\$\$a Zizka, Jan, \$\$d ca. 1360-1424 \$\$v Fiction	
655 7	\$\$a Historical fiction \$\$2 lcgft	

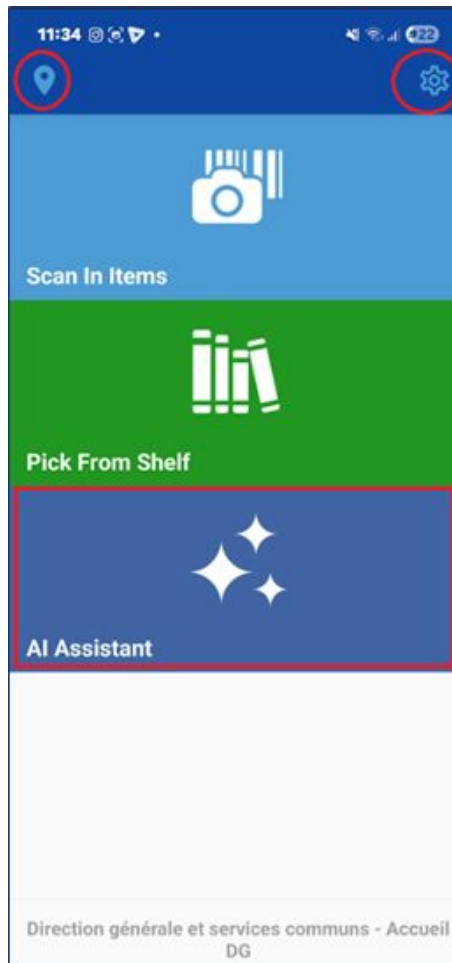


Alma AI Metadata Assistant with Alma Mobile



Alma Mobile

- ❑ Alma app for mobile phones or tablets
- ❑ Specific role “AI Assisted Cataloging” needed
- ❑ The AI Metadata Assistant has been added to the core functions of the App
 - ❑ Can create new records
 - ❑ Can enrich existing records





Alma Mobile

- ❑ Record can be retrieved by scanning the barcode
- ❑ Easy to manage photographs
- ❑ Works in the same way as if you were starting from the Metadata editor

15:25 85%

Enrich Record

Create Enrich

Barcode *
2503993 Go

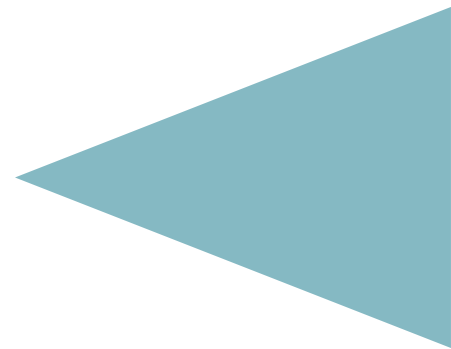
Une histoire de l'imprimerie et de la chose imprimée /

Requested Metadata *
ALL

PICK IMAGES OPEN CAMERA

SUBMIT

< AI Assistant

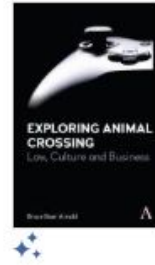


How to retrieve AI records?



AI records

- ❑ Specific AI icon in the Metadata Editor and in search results
- ❑ Marc21 specific fields and subfields used to record the information about AI-generation
 - ❑ 588 - Source of description note
 - ❑ \$7 - Data provenance
- ❑ New Indexes
 - ❑ “Enriched with AI metadata by CZ”
 - ❑ “Processed with Alma AI tools”
 - ❑ Created
 - ❑ Enriched



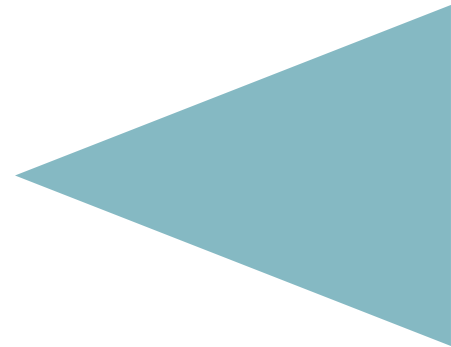
Exploring Animal Crossing : Law, Culture and Business.

By Arnold, Bruce Baer. (London : Anthem Press, 2024.)

MMS ID 9923615166802321

 [Linked to Community](#)

 [Add Labels](#)



ULiège - Before Go-Live



Before Go-Live

- ❑ Create records for different types of resources
 - ❑ old printed books
 - ❑ manuscripts?
 - ❑ non latin characters
 - ❑ less common languages
 - ❑ complex title page, many information
 - ❑ ...
- ❑ Enrich poor or low bibliographic ranked records
 - ❑ select metadata
- ❑ Test different types of attachments
- ❑ Test multiple enrichments workflows
- ❑ Test the App
- ❑ Identify uncatalogued sets of books
- ❑ Identify which resources would benefit from enrichment



Let's think about it

- ❑ At what stages of resource management will we apply AI Metadata Assistant?
 - ❑ Acquisition task?
 - ❑ New books or retrospective cataloging?
 - ❑ Current cataloging workflow?

- ❑ Can we further improve the way we use the Assistant?
 - ❑ More automation
 - ❑ Bulk creation or enrichment
 - ❑ Deduplication processes
 - ❑ Item creation



Let's think about it

- ❑ How to manage the use of the Assistant?
 - ❑ Who?
 - ❑ Different levels of expertise
 - ❑ Staff training?
- ❑ Evaluate which method is the most effective: AI help or 'classic' manual cataloguing?
- ❑ How can we increase the skill level of judgement for quality control and metadata validation?
- ❑ How can we convey staff that this is a value-added task aimed at increasing the discoverability of resources?



Let's think about it

- ❑ Test other workflows including additional tasks?
 - ❑ Check repository and identify poor records
 - ❑ Check repository and identify format validation issues
 - ❑ Automatically fix errors
- ❑ Clarivate|Ex Libris has recently launched LibOW
 - ❑ “a low code/no-code automation solution”
- ❑ Other libraries have set up workflows based on Microsoft PowerAutomate
 - ❑ For catalog revision, quality control, metadata enhancement
 - ❑ (State Library Victoria) (KBR)



Thanks!