Details on the Upcoming SUNY*Connect* LMS "Sandbox"

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Sandbox, a web-based text editor created by the OLIS, is being expanded an re-written to provide enhanced functionality. The new version of Sandbox will become the interface fro access to the UNIX environment for campuses housed on the shared servers when Aleph v.18 becomes available. This change in access to the Aleph servers is due to concerns regarding security.

The SUNYLA Library Software Users Group (LiSUG) submitted questions to the OLIS on the functionality of the new version of Sandbox. Listed below are the questions from LiSUG and the responses provided by the OLIS.

List of Items Needed by Campuses for New Sandbox/Aleph 18 Access

I. Access to run all Ex Libris Aleph utilities a.including stop and start all aleph servers, batch queues, web server, indexing daemons, etc.
b.One utility of great importance is used to test PLIFs and other aleph sequential files.

> •**OLIS:** Not all utils are used. The necessary ones will be available in Sandbox and others only in the Aleph Staff GUI. Many of the utils available in the GUI have the advantage of providing log files that help with troubleshooting. The OLIS will provide a list of available utils and how to access them either through the GUI or in Sandbox.

II. Access to modify and change *all* configuration tables.
a.Includes all aleph library $data_tabs, z-server tables, web files, www_server.conf, pc_server.conf, icon directory.
b.Ability to add new indexes, modify OCLC match/merge rules, etc.

> •**OLIS:** All campus files will minimally have read access. Aleph files that have been reserved for Systems personnel from OLIS and ITEC will have read access.

> Configuration files impacting only the WebOPAC will be read only unless the campus library director provides authorization to edit. Some other files based on standards applied across all campuses will be read only. All other configuration files will have write permissions. The OLIS will provide a list of files that have read but not write permissions.

> •**OLIS:** v18 will be delivered with a suite of available indexes that includes what the campus had in v16 along with all other indexes that have been created for all campuses on the shared servers. Index codes will be standardized. Requests for new indexes beyond what would already be available will be reviewed with the OLIS. Campuses will be asked to submit requests through Footprints for modifications to OCLC match/merge rules. These changes will have the advantage of supporting cooperative data projects such as new book lists and periodical printout documents and will significantly aid troubleshooting.

III. Ability to create named backup files

> •**OLIS:** Currently, Sandbox has the capability to copy html files with the campus three character code. The functionality will be available in the revised Sandbox for those campuses that receive permission from their library director to edit WebOPAC related files.

> •**OLIS:** Please clarify if you are asking about other functionality. Examples would be helpful.

a.Date stamp in the filename so more than a single backup is possible.

> •**OLIS:** This feature is in the current Sandbox and will be carried over into the new Sandbox.

b.Revert function to any previous version of file

> •**OLIS:** The new version of Sandbox will allow for all versions of the file to be viewable

(those files updated directly on the server and those files updated through Sandbox). The ability to revert to any version will be possible.

IV. Ability to view all log files
a.$data_scratch, $alephe_scratch, $LOGDIR,etc.

•**OLIS**: These files will be available for viewing.

V.Ability to export or load any oracle table
a.To export $data_files using the aleph services (p_file_03)
b.To load any table using the aleph services (p_file_06) or (p_file_04)

•**OLIS:** All Aleph services will continue to be available through the GUI.

VI. Ability to download any output file
a.$data_scratch, $alephe_scratch, $data_files, etc.

•**OLIS:** Options will be supported to provide functionality to upload and download files to these directories from third party sources.

•**OLIS:** Sandbox will also enable files to be moved/copied across these directories for download through the GUI Task Manager.

VII. Access to PL/SQL to produce reports and update Aleph-related oracle tables.

•**OLIS:** Oracle report accounts will continue to be available and can be used with standard ODBC clients.

•**OLIS:** SQL based Oracle table updates (outside of capabilities through Aleph Services) will continue to be done through Footprints requests. These types of requests could also benefit other campuses and could be made available.

VIII. Ability to create and run shell scripts together with SQL that might be accessed via the web or the job_list.

•**OLIS:** This functionality will be available as needed. Requests would be made through Footprints with information on the script so that it can be added to Sandbox for the specific campus to run.

IX. Access to $alephe_root/apache/htdocs to place web files such as new book lists so they can be accessed by web browsers.

•**OLIS:** The v16 to v18 upgrade process will delete all files currently in the v16 htdocs directory and replace with new files for v18. One of these files will be a favicon.ico file. Campuses will have the ability to add a favicon file and add other files to htdocs directory but will be asked not to change any other files already there. Also, campuses would be responsible for maintaining any of the files they add to htdocs as campus additions may be impacted by service pack upgrades.

X.Access and ability to customize or add to all xml forms and templates

•**OLIS:** This functionality currently exists through the current Sandbox and will continue in the revised version.

XI. Access to code in $alephe_proc and other locations for aleph and custom reports.

•**OLIS:** The $alephe_proc is part of the Aleph a-tree which will not be viewable in Sandbox due to performance and resource considerations. Given that so few campuses have staff that work with SQL and custom reports, campuses will be asked to submit a Footprints request indicating the files and SQL code they are interested in viewing. Information will then be made available.

XII. Ability to upload files for services such as EDI, PLIF, Marcive and Currency
a.Issues with http file transfers for very large files
b.FTP can be automated which cuts down on work (and remembering to load currency, etc. periodically)

•**OLIS:** Capabilities for large file transfers will be available (also see comment on VI). Capability for automating the ftp of loads (PLIF, currency, etc.) can be setup for campuses as requested.

sand box

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