Clarivate
Alma Cloud Apps
Explanation and Demo
Evita Rodrigues for ODIN | 2025

Agenda

Introduction

Accessing and Activating Cloud Apps in Alma

Demo

Documentation

Clarivate

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Introduction

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Introduction

- **What are Cloud Apps?**
  - Applications written either by Ex Libris or by members of the Alma community that run inside Alma, to add features beyond the core functionality found in the product itself.
- **Why are Cloud Apps relevant?**
  - They help achieve efficiencies in Alma by going beyond core functionality, integrating with other systems, and providing shortcuts and efficiencies for institution-specific workflows .
  - They enable a library to do more with less.
  - They don't require a library to have local development capabilities.
- **How can I know which Cloud Apps exist for Alma, and what they do?**
  - This page in the Developers Network lists/explains all available Apps for Alma (we'll cover it in more detail later)
- **Which ODIN institutions are using Cloud Apps?**
  - Per July 2025 data: Williston State College, University of North Dakota – Chester Fritz Library, Minot State University, North Dakota State University, University of Jamestown, University of North Dakota – Law Library, University of North Dakota – Medical Library, Trinity Bible College, Mayville State University.

Introduction

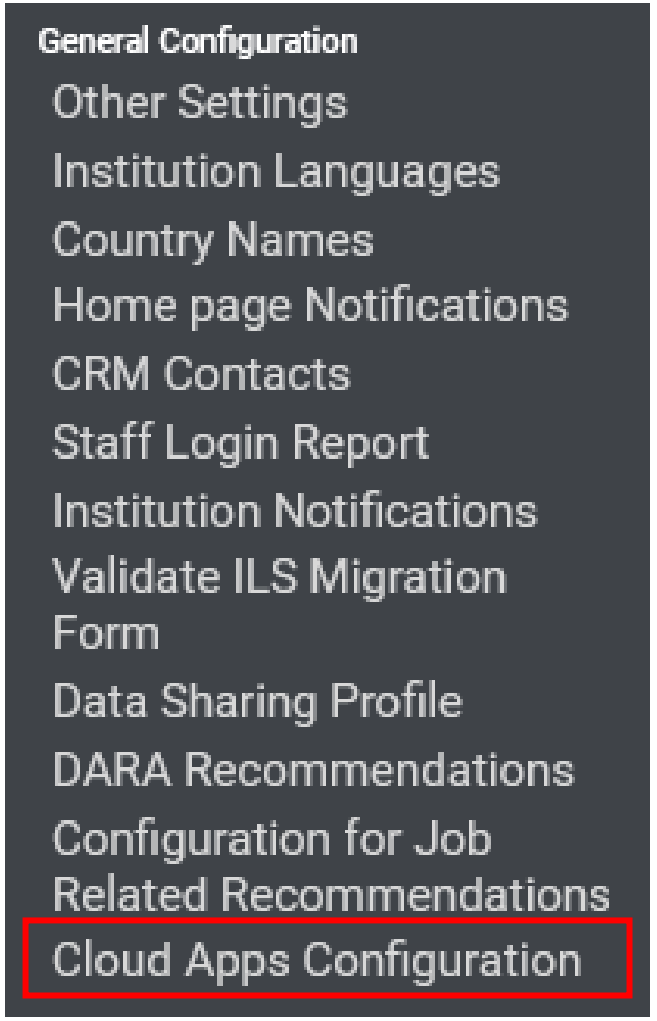
- Once enabled by an institution, Cloud Apps can be searched and activated by Alma staff users.

- Cloud Apps can respond to the context of the user's session, thereby offering additional functionality depending on the screen.

- Because Cloud Apps run in the Ex Libris cloud platform, there's no need to deal with the headaches of local server hosting or other local runtime environment.

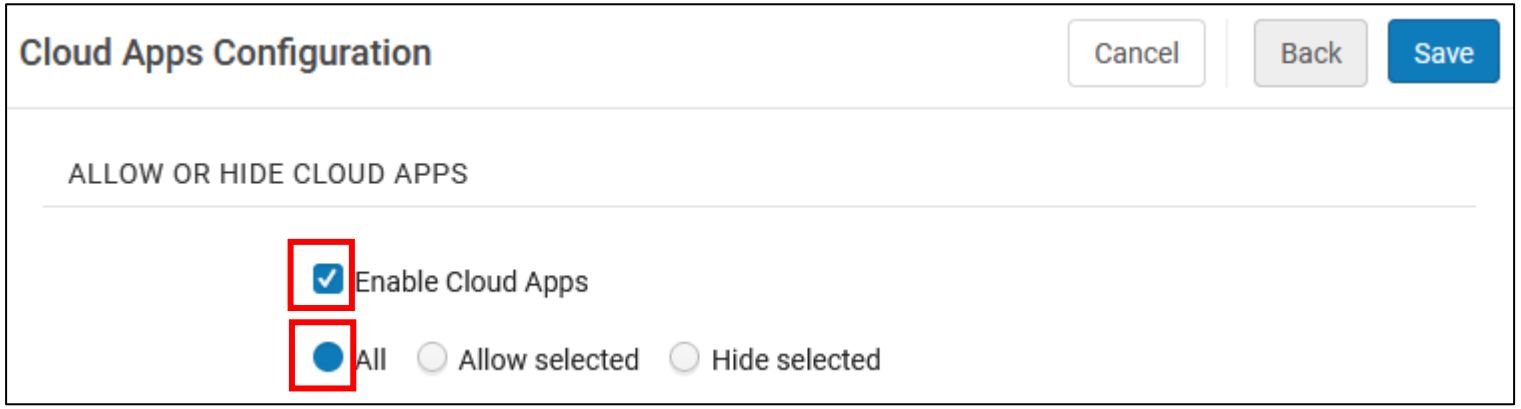
Introduction

- Enable Cloud Apps as described here.
- Configuration > General > General Configuration > Cloud Apps



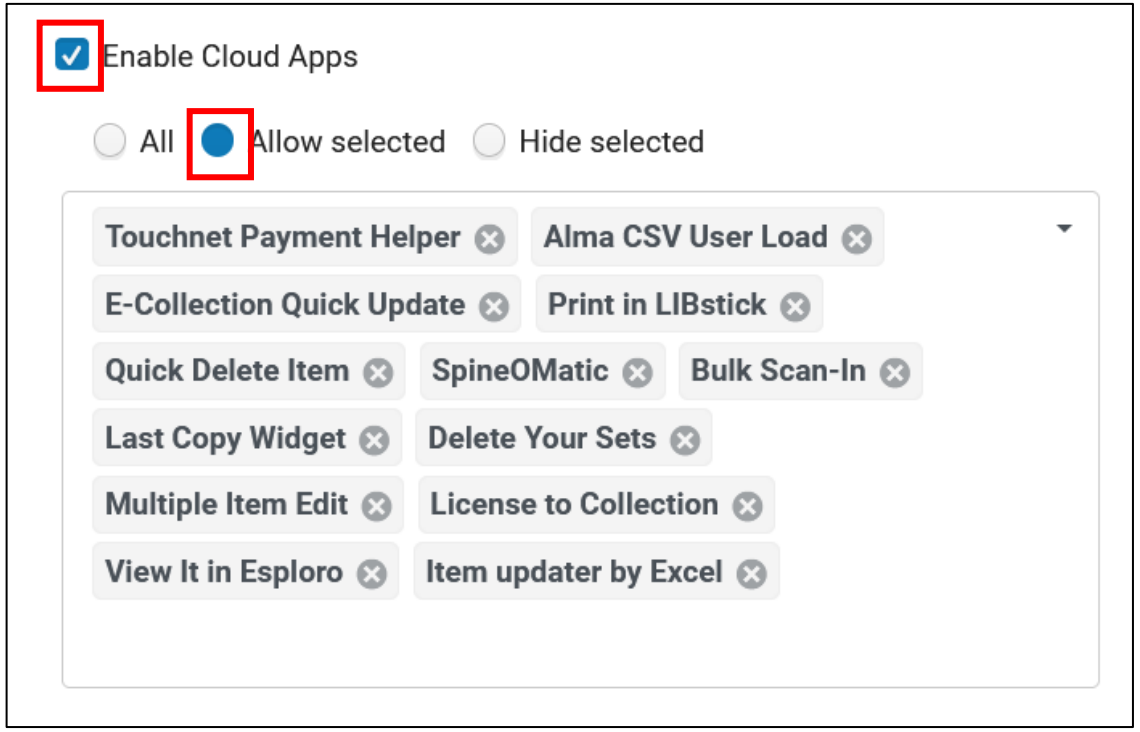
Introduction

- In this example all Cloud Apps have been enabled



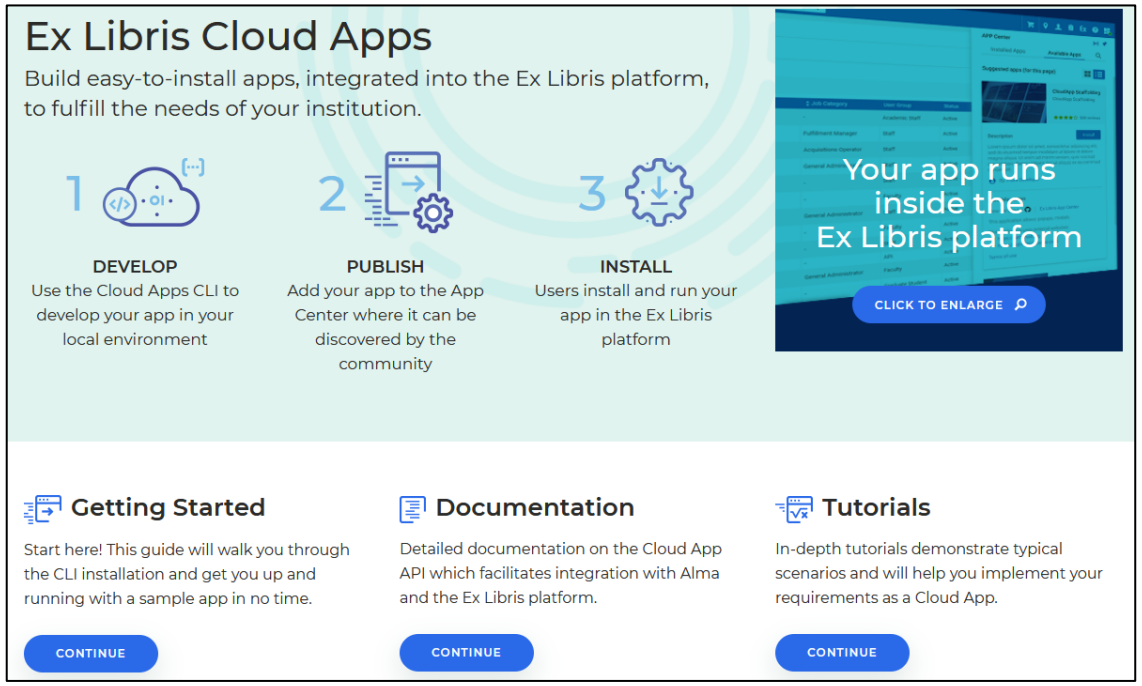
Introduction

- In this example, only selected Cloud Apps have been enabled



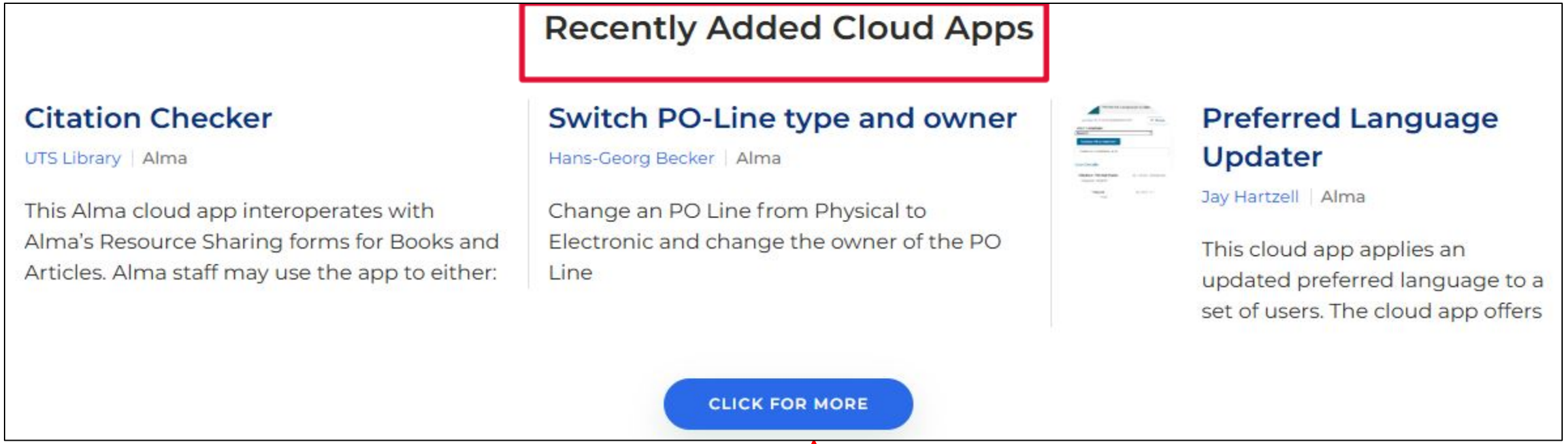
Introduction

- Information about Cloud Apps may be found on the Developers network at https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/cloudapps/



Introduction

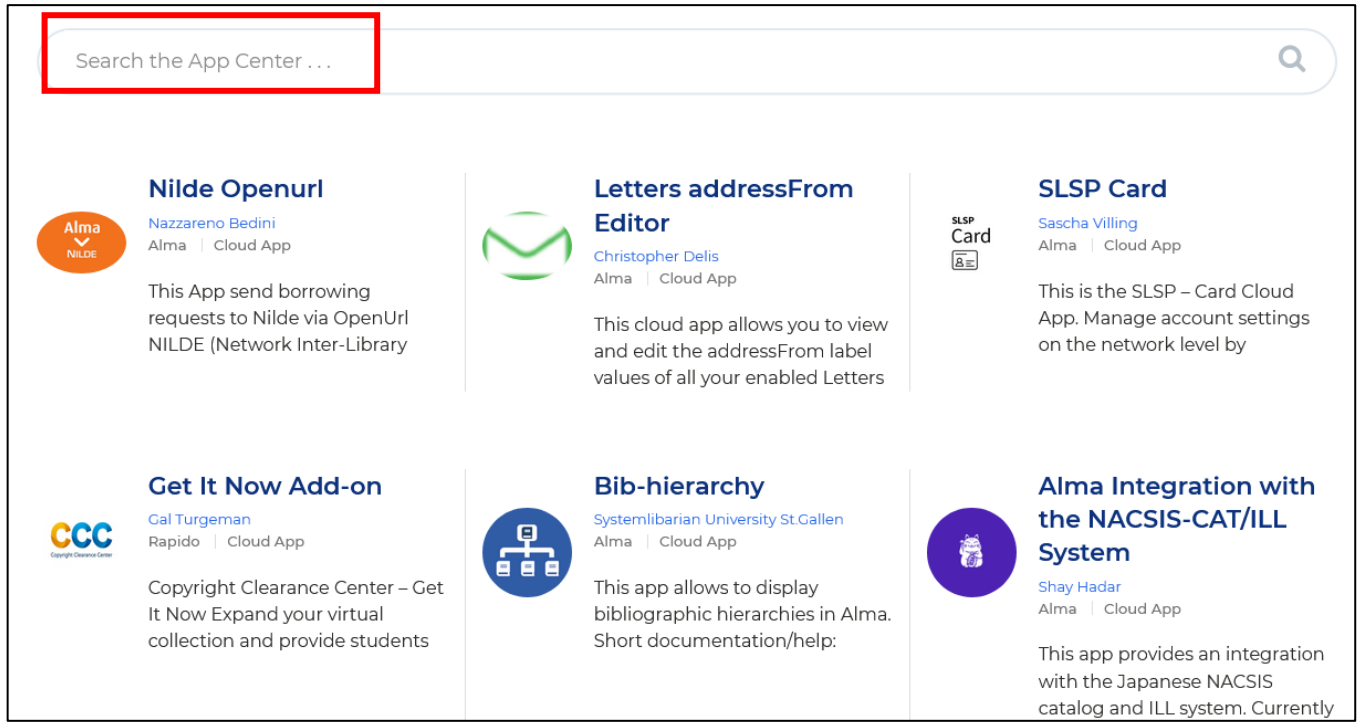
- Scroll to the bottom for a link to recently added Cloud Apps



Click here for a searchable list of all Cloud Apps

Introduction

- A searchable list of all Cloud Apps



Introduction

- Several Cloud Apps have a dedicated blog post showing how to install and use the specific Cloud App.

- See https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/blog/?tag=cloudapps-how-to/

- The next slide shows the beginning of the list

Introduction

How to use the Item updater by Excel cloud app to update the item barcode

by Yoel Kortick Ex Libris October 6, 2024

Before using this blog it is recommended to first see the blog How to activate and use the Item updater by Excel cloud app. We will assume here that the reader has already seen the blog How to activate and use the Item updater by Excel cloud app. In the example below we will change...

ALMA CLOUDAPPS CLOUDAPPS-HOW-TO

How to use the Alma Refine cloud app for service Homosaurus

by Yoel Kortick Ex Libris January 14, 2024

This blog post will discuss specifically How to use the Alma Refine cloud app for service Homosaurus. As we will see, the Alma Refine Cloud App, when used with vocabulary Homosaurus, can add the uri (Uniform Resource Identifier) of Homosaurus to subfield 1 of the heading, pointing to

ALMA ALMA-REFINE-CLOUD-APP CLOUDAPPS CLOUDAPPS-HOW-TO

Introduction

- Cloud Apps have been developed by **both** Ex Libris **and** the Alma Community

Digitization addon

Zahra Mousavi

Alma | Cloud App

Royal Danish library's addon to communicate with its digitization system, Maestro. The

Developed by Royal Danish Library

Alma Refine

Josh Weisman

Alma | Cloud App

Refine bibliographic records with services that adhere to the OpenRefine standard.

Developed by Ex Libris

CIL Namecard

Skúli Þór Bjarnason

Alma | Cloud App

This app allows staff to print the name and the library card number as a barcode on

Developed by CIL (Consortium of Icelandic Libraries)

JaTakk: Norwegian Repository Library

Audun Skorstad

Alma | Cloud App

Look up an item in the Norwegian Repository Library This cloud app is intended for use

Developed by BIBSYS Network in Norway

Widget Cloud App Demo

Ori Miller

Alma | Cloud App

Demo for a Cloud App which can be displayed as an Alma desktop widget. Please see the Cloud App

Developed by Ex Libris

Letters addressFrom Editor

Christopher Delis

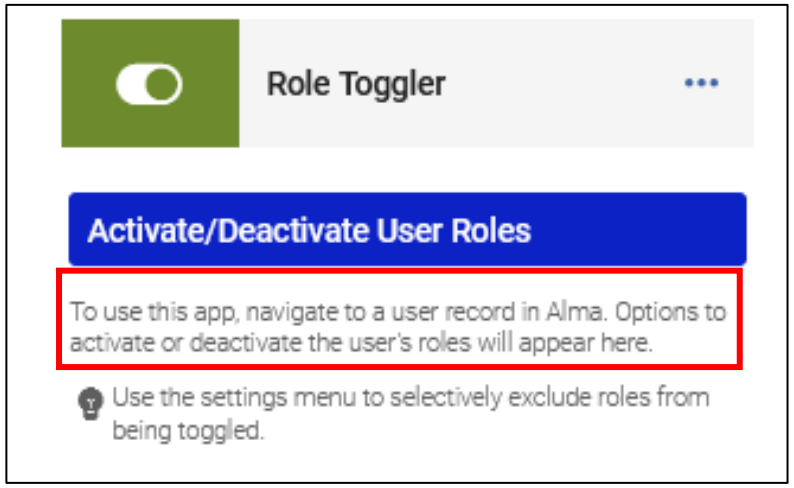
Alma | Cloud App

This cloud app allows you to view and edit the addressFrom label values of all your enabled Letters

Developed by CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois)

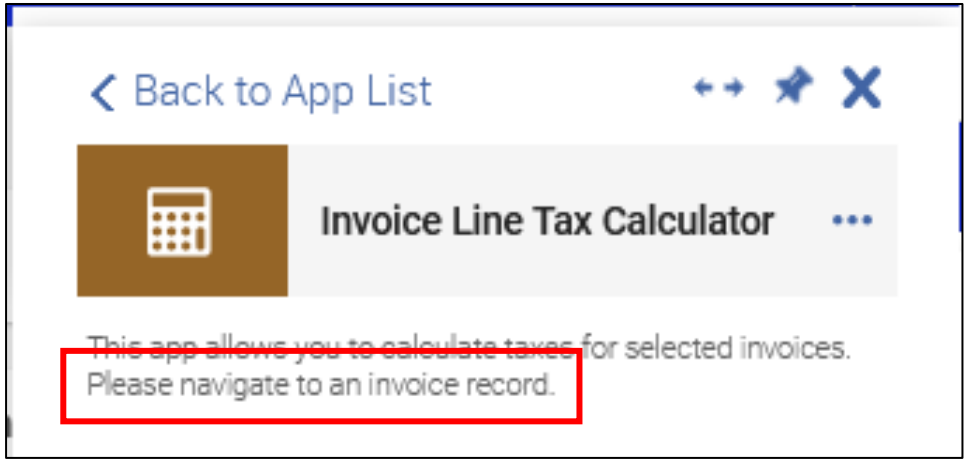
Introduction

- Users can use Cloud Apps based on their roles.
- For example, the Cloud App “Roles Toggler” requires that the staff user navigate to a user record.
- If the staff user does not have a role allowing them to navigate to a user record, they cannot use this Cloud App.



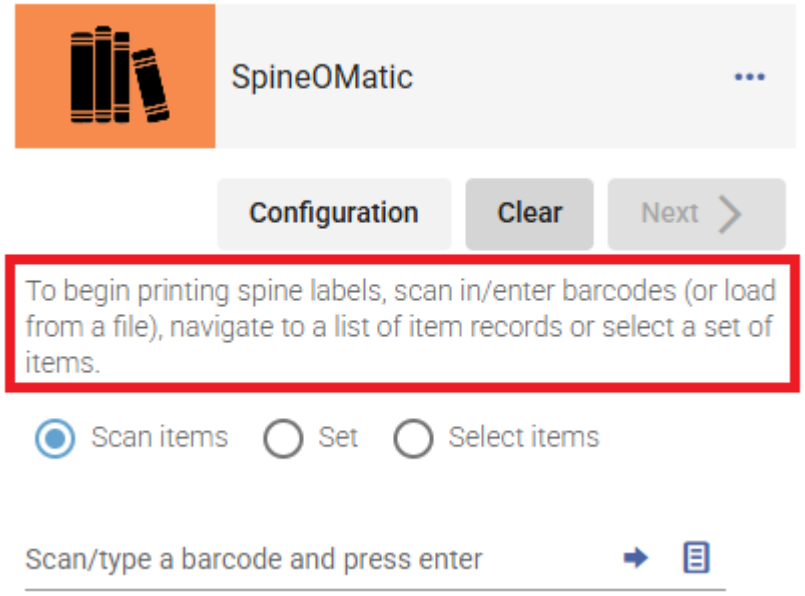
Introduction

- Similarly, the “Invoice Line Tax Calculator” Cloud App requires that the staff user navigate to an invoice.
- If the staff user does not have a role allowing them to navigate to an invoice, they cannot use this Cloud App.



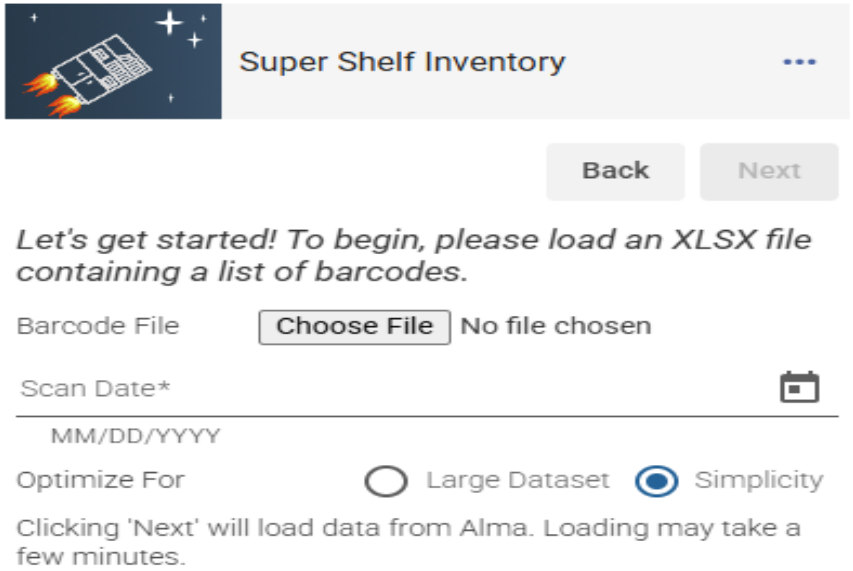
Introduction

- **SpineOMatic** Cloud App prints spine and other labels for items from Alma.
- Define layouts, templates, print barcodes and call numbers.



Introduction

- **Super Shelf Inventory** Cloud App to assist with a shelf inventory process.
- This app enhances shelf inventory by detecting more errors than built-in tools, allowing the scanning of misplaced items, and enabling configurable inventory marking for users with the appropriate system permissions.
- Complete user guide can be found here: Super Shelf Inventory Cloud App User Guide - Shared Systems - USMAI Member Portal



Introduction

- Cloud Apps run inside Alma and are **not "Browser Extensions".**

- Therefore, if a staff user activates a Cloud App, they will see that Cloud App in Alma when logging in **via any browser on any PC**.

- If a Cloud App is updated and a staff user has already activated that Cloud App, when they reopen Alma the Cloud App will **automatically be the updated version**. There is no need to check for updates.

Introduction

- This demo will focus on using existing Cloud Apps, and not how to build your own Cloud App.

- For information about building Cloud Apps see the links at Ex Libris Cloud Apps

- There is also a forum to get help if necessary: https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/forums/forum/cloudapps/

Accessing and Activating Cloud Apps in Alma

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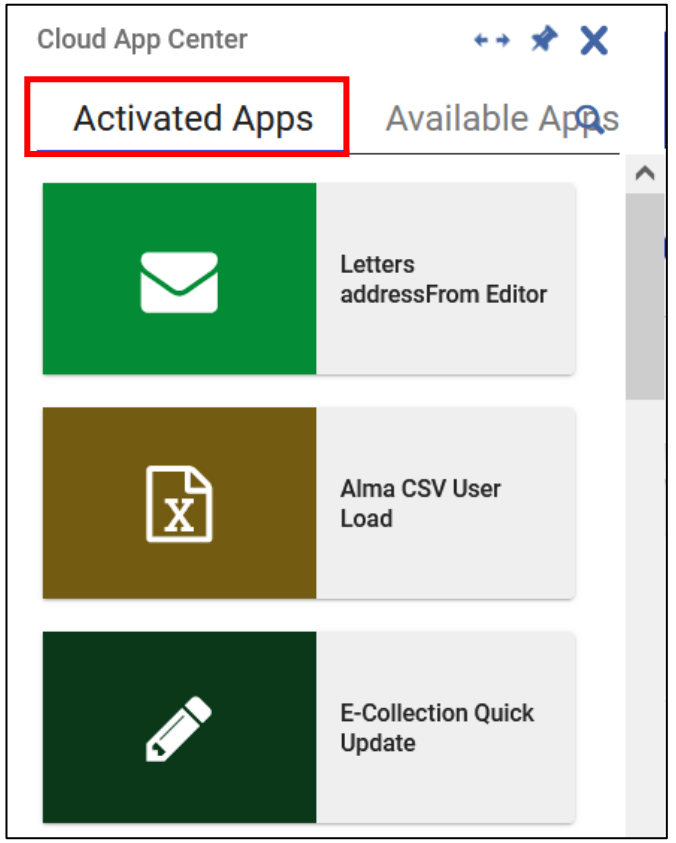
Accessing and activating Cloud Apps in Alma

- Within Alma the “Cloud App Center” is accessed from the “Cloud App Center” link on the top right.

Accessing and activating Cloud Apps in Alma

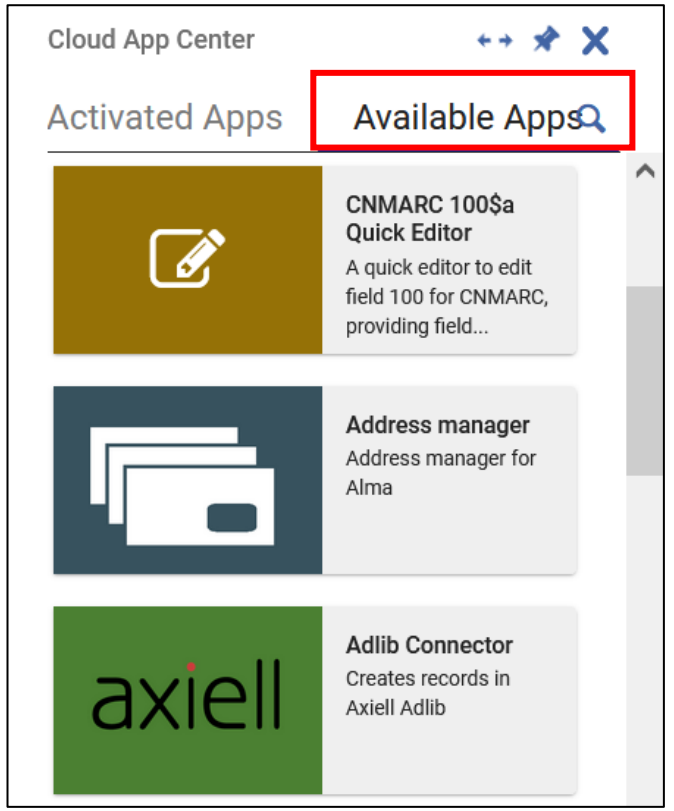
- The “Cloud App Center” has two tabs.

- The “Activated Apps” tab shows all Apps that the staff user has activated.



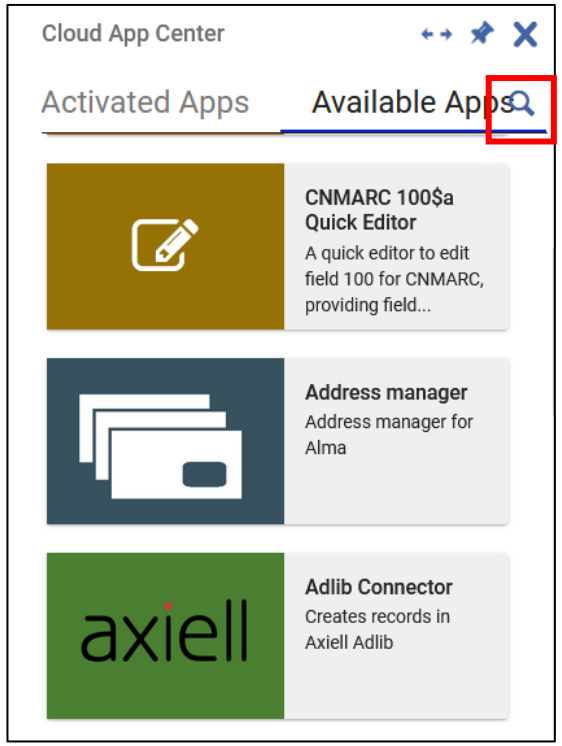
Accessing and activating Cloud Apps in Alma

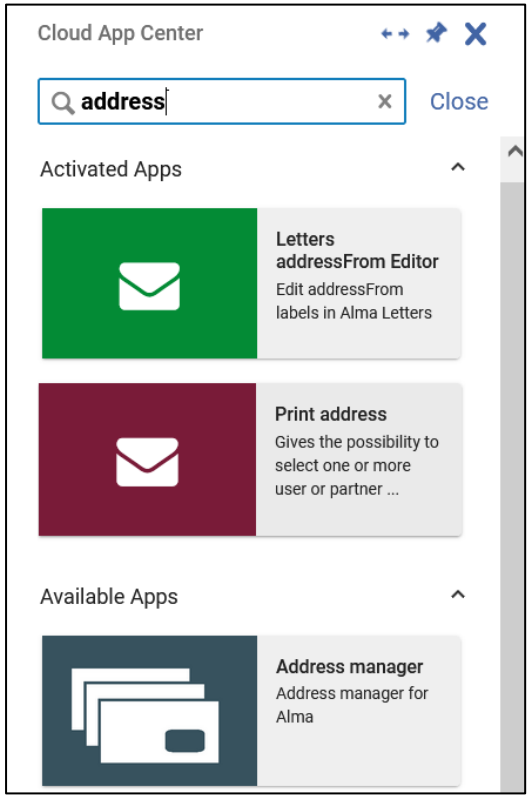
- The “Available Apps” tab shows all Apps that exist and can be activated.



Accessing and activating Cloud Apps in Alma

- The “Cloud App Center” in Alma can be searched





Demo

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Demo

We will now begin a demo of activating and using Cloud Apps, using these examples:

1. Items Creator by Excel – use an Excel file as an input file to add new Items to existing Holdings records in bulk

2. Alma Refine (for service Wikidata) - automatically add a subfield $1 with a Wikidata URI to BIB record field 100, to provide linked person data to Primo

Items Creator by Excel

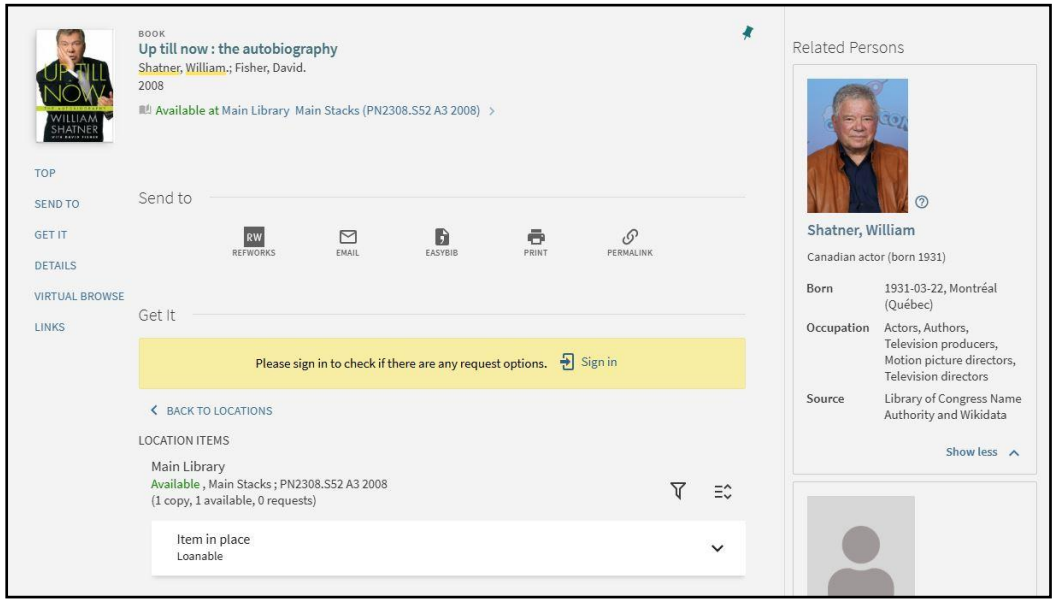
Use an Excel file to add new Items to existing Holdings records in bulk

- Documentation: How to activate and use the item updater by excel cloud app
- Pre-requisite: existing BIBliographic record with HOLdings record – so if they don't exist yet, create them first (such as by using the Metadata Editor)
- Create an Excel input file with headers per Ex Libris specs here: **Rest Item** (look under item_data)
  - File minimum headers: mms_id (= BIB record number), holding_id (= HOL record number)… + the item record fields you want to create (such as barcode, copy ID, receiving date, etc – check the specs above)
- Tips:
  - When creating the Excel file, select all cells and change the format to Text, to avoid situations where Excel transforms numbers (such as by adding decimal points)
  - Copy-paste of numbers in Excel is safer than "pull down" for numbers that should not change for several rows, such as mms_id (you don't want Excel to increment such numbers on its own)
  - For fields that have both a code and a description in Alma, use the codes in the Excel (not the description). For example, use code CHARG in the Excel instead of description Laptop Charger

Alma Refine (for service Wikidata)

Automatically add a subfield $1 with a Wikidata URI to BIB field 100

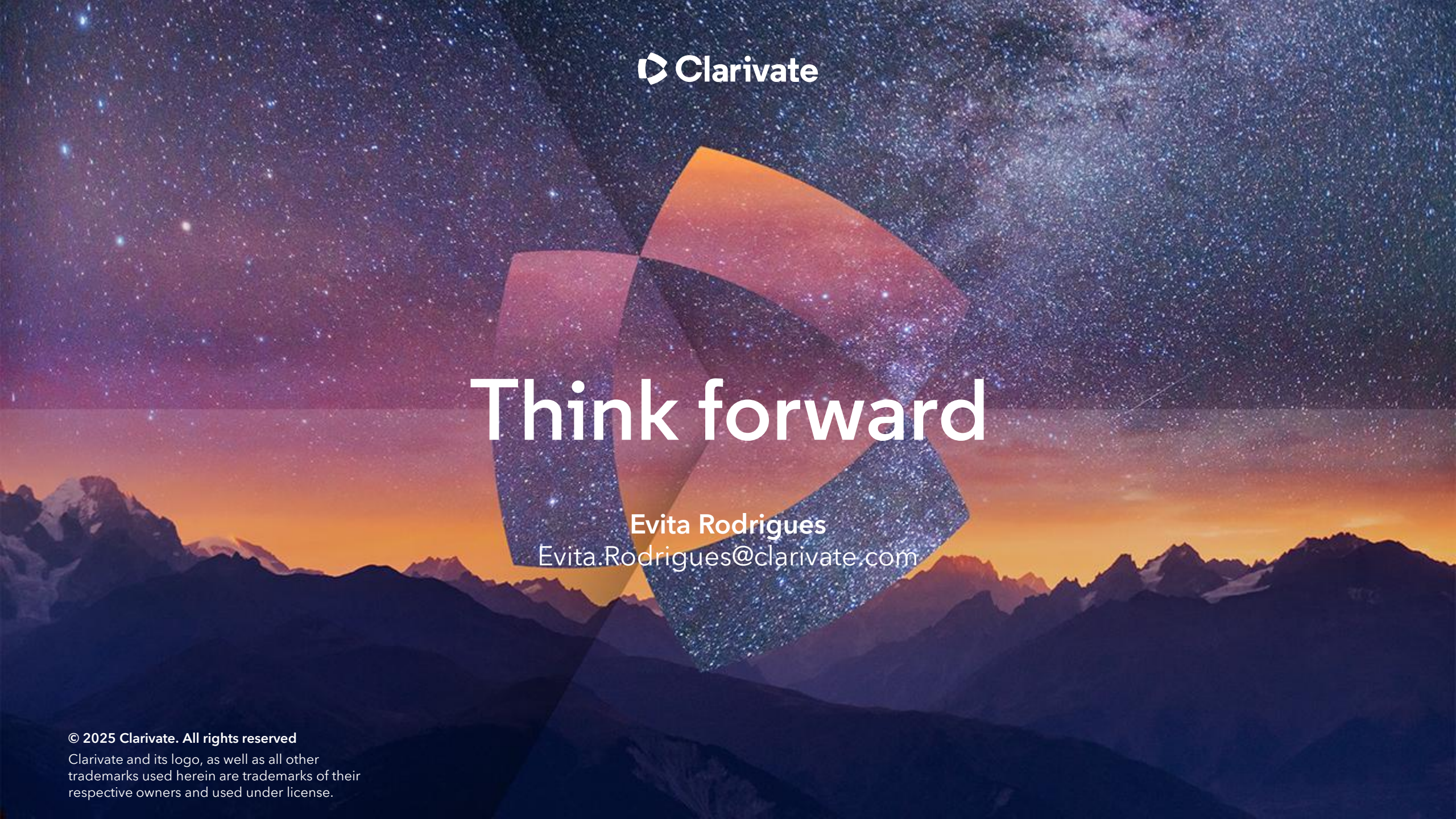
- Documentation: How to use the Alma Refine Cloud App for service Wikidata
- Why do it? To provide Linked Open Data (LOD)[1] for Primo:
  - Enriched data about the person show in Primo Search Autocomplete.
  - Person Info Card and Page show in Primo Results Page.
    - More info in this Primo documentation: Searching Linked Open Data - Person Entity.
    - Note: New and updated Wikidata pages take 1-2 days to appear in Primo VE. Currently, this functionality is supported in English only.
- Example: search this Primo for William Shatner: LOD have been added to his autobiography, *Up until Now*



[1] Linked Open Data (LOD): structured data that utilizes Web technologies to link related information, to enable users to discover additional information regarding a person (such as an author or historical figure) and to relate it to materials provided by your library.

Documentation on Cloud Apps

- **Videos**
  - Using Community Cloud Apps in Alma and the Ex Libris Higher Ed Platform (2020)
  - Getting Started with Ex Libris Cloud Apps (2020)
  - Cloud Apps in Alma (2021 short video)
  - What are Cloud Apps and how to use them in Alma (2022)
- **Presentations**
  - Alma Cloud Apps (2023 IGeLU)
- **Documentation by Ex Libris**
  - Main page: Developers Network
  - Searchable list of existing Apps for Alma
  - How-to blog entries for specific Apps
- **Documentation by Customers**
  - Cloud Apps in Alma (from CARLI consortium) – includes documentation on the app CARLI developed to facilitate editing the addressFrom field in Alma letters



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