

SHARED LMS BENEFITS 2019/20

In 2016 the 9 Welsh higher education libraries, the National Library of Wales and NHS Wales libraries completed the implementation of Ex Libris' Alma and Primo. The benefits of sharing a Library Management and Discovery system continue to be realised.

COST SAVINGS

£150K saved each year on system subscription by purchasing as a consortium.

£7200 saved each year as the National Library of Wales provide Welsh translation for all the libraries' system interfaces.



WHELF RECIPROCAL BORROWING

The scheme, introduced in 2018, uses Alma ISO functionality to enable resource sharing between WHELF members. It continues to provide cost savings and maximise resources.

During library site closures due to Covid, it has provided alternative access to resources.

The scheme saw over £24000 savings and 3451 requests fulfilled in 2019/20.



ACTION PLAN

The LMS Board created a 2020-2023 action plan, aligned with the WHELF strategy. The plan focuses on Shared Analytics, Discovery, UX and Resource Sharing.

To inform future activities the WHELF LMS board completed a review of the LMS market and began preparatory work to upgrade to Primo VE.



SHARING BEST PRACTICE

Regular knowledge sharing sessions took place. These covered subjects including Reading Lists, Alma Analytics, adapting systems and services during Covid, CDI, customising Alma emails, normalisation Rules and Knowledge Base +.



ILL BEYOND WHELF

To build on the success of the reciprocal borrowing scheme, we started exploring opening the scheme to other Alma libraries. This included engaging with potential partners, stakeholders and exploring further functionality in Alma.

We started investigating Alma functionality to make it simpler for users to visit and borrow from other WHELF library sites.

This work is on hold due to Covid site closures.

