Welcome Monthly updates from the Five College FOLIO Implementation Team (FIT)

Welcome to the first issue of the monthly FOLIO implementation newsletter for Five Colleges, brought to you by the FOLIO Implementation Team, also known as FIT (see our member list on page two). Each month we’ll share with you the current project accomplishments, which modules are being worked on, and some interesting facts about FOLIO and the open library community. Links to our communication channels and shared principles will always be included. Let us know what questions you have. We look forward to working with you on this exciting project!

Module: users
Loading and testing patron records

Work is beginning on mapping and migrating our Aleph patron records into the FOLIO user application. We have sent samples of User data from Aleph tables and a sample of data from the Aleph PLIF (Patron Loader Interface Format). User data covers the names, addresses, IDs and statuses of our patrons. This data serves as the foundation of circulation and other interactions users will have with FOLIO. Also this will be the first step in testing circulation and other resource access functionality.

Working with the FC Access Committee

This September FIT will start working with the Access Committee to create user personas and stories for the types of user transaction groups we need to create. This will be done during the normal time the committee meets, and be open to additional staff stakeholders to help us get a clear and comprehensive view of the user groups needed in order to have the transaction types we need. This will not be the end of the process, only the beginning, and we look forward to collaborating with this committee.

Accomplishments
Phase 1 kick off is complete!

Highlights:
- Provisioning of FOLIO with initial apps, with seeded data
- Creation/approval of a Communication Plan
- Kick off meetings both at an all-staff event and for two hours at each library.
- Establishing a relationship and timelines with local IT departments for software integrations to take place is Phase 4.
### Communication

**All staff are welcome to join**

- **Slack:** for chatting and announcements. Use the app or your browser. [Request a sign up link.](#)
- **Wrike:** project management software. Use the app or your browser. [Request an account.](#)

### The FIT is for you!

**FIT: FOLIO Implementation Team**

- **Abby Baines**  
  Systems & Discovery Librarian, Hampshire College
- **Kat Berry**  
  Discovery & Resource Management Systems Coordinator, UMass Amherst
- **Steve Bischof**  
  ILS Coordinator, Five College Libraries
- **Susan Kimball**  
  Head of Access Services, Amherst College
- **Rob O’Connell**  
  Director of Discovery & Access, Smith College
- **Erin Stalberg**  
  Director of Discovery & Access, Mount Holyoke College
- **Anya Arnold**  
  FOLIO Implementation Consultant, EBSCO

### Did you know?

**About the FOLIO community**

- 9 development teams
- 74 developers
- 11 UX designers
- 18 product owners
- 117 librarians actively working on FOLIO development
- 676 people on Slack
- 59 libraries have an interest in migrating to FOLIO

### Bee factual

**Fun facts about bees every month**

- Honey bees communicate with one another by dancing.
- Honey bees have been producing honey in the same way for 150 million years.

Learn more from Patrick Zinn, Director of Marketing, University Libraries at Texas A&M about the story behind the creation of the new FOLIO logo.

### Shared Five College Principles

The principles guide our work and our interactions. We'll share them regularly.

- **Shared resource:** The Five College libraries collections make up a single and shared library resource.
- **Best practices:** In an agile manner, standardize, streamline and improve best practices.
- **Alignment:** FOLIO is an opportunity to align multiple systems and create a more unified presentation of Five College library data; enabling more seamless access to collections.
- **Additional functionality:** Once core functionality is established, improvements, and additional functionality can be explored and prioritized.
- **Communication:** Commitment to transparent communication throughout all stages of the project.
- **Respect one another:** When we debate and discuss differing opinions, we will always show respect to individuals. All of us will end up compromising on some aspects of the design or the project work. We recognize that this is hard work and time consuming. Many of us may be pushed outside of our comfort zone; however, we will remain respectful to one another. These guidelines are forward-looking and will guide Five College Library cooperation beyond the FOLIO implementation.

Learn more, get involved or contact FIT:

[www.fivecolleges.edu/libraries/folio](http://www.fivecolleges.edu/libraries/folio)