

Koha Serials: display a table of contents for an issue

In the Serials module of current versions of Koha email alerts can be sent to subscribing patrons when the status of a new issue is changed from “Expected” or “Late” to “Arrived”.

This great concept Libraries is somewhat let down by the way it is implemented. Firstly, only the patron can subscribe (and unsubscribe) themselves to email alerts. They do this through the OPAC but it is not very obvious how. Second, the notes field available to describe the current issue of the journal is too small to contain useful detail such as a TOC.

The Serials module also offers an ability to print a routing list of patrons for physical distribution of an issue, but no way to create, distribute or maintain a list of the articles in each issue – a table of contents.

Prosentient enhancement

Prosentient Systems has enhanced Koha’s native routing list functionality to:

- 1) automatically send an email to patrons on the routing list alerting them of a new issue’s arrival, and
- 2) provide more space in the notes field to hold greater detail, such as a TOC.

Procedure

To describe a newly arrived issue with a table of contents and have the details emailed to the patrons on the routing list, follow these steps:

- 1) ensure that a suitable email template is specified in the **Patron notification** setting within the Subscription record:

Patron notification: Journal alert ▼

Select a notice and subscribers will be notified when new issues are received.

In our example a template in the **Tools-Notices & Slips** section named **Journal alert** (with code RLIST) has been set up as follows:

Hi <<borrowers.firstname>> <<borrowers.surname>>,
 we are happy to advise the latest issue of the journal, <<biblio.title>>;<<serial.publisheddate>>, has arrived in the library.
 This issue contains the following articles...
 <<serial.sernotes>>
 Regards,
 Your librarian.

- 2) create a routing list for the subscription, selecting those patrons to be notified about this journal from Koha’s patron records (and naturally your patrons will need email addresses in the system).

This routing list will now being used to contact patrons by email when an issue of a journal they are following has been received; that is, when you change its status from “expected” to “arrived”. Whether you also continue to print out the routing list for physical distribution of the issue is entirely optional.

Edit routing list for *Incite*.

Issue: V.35 ISSUE. 1/2 (29/04/2014) ▼

Recipients:

Name	Rank	Delete
Edmund Balnaves	1 ▼	Delete
Rob Garnsey	2 ▼	Delete

[Add recipients](#) [Delete all](#)

Notes:

- 3) now create a plain text version of the table of contents for the issue you are about to receive. Tables of contents for journals and even abstracts of articles can be found online at sites such as <http://www.journaltoocs.ac.uk/>. With some copy and paste and search and replace these can be massaged into a form suitable for pasting into the issue's notes field. It should look something like this:

* Lost opportunity
 * Hipster librarians: Please explain
 * Is it an image crisis?
 * ALIA takes ADCA advocacy fight on the road
 * EEI: Energise, enthuse and inspire: You've got a lot of rules, lady!

- 4) finally, paste the TOC you have prepared into the Notes field for the current issue, change its status to "arrived" and click **Save**:

Serial edition <i>Incite. (34092)</i> (TOP Main)				
Numbered	Published on	Expected on	Status	Notes
Issue Vol 35, Issue 1/2	04/01/2014	04/01/2014	Late ▼	* Lost opportunity * Hipster librarians: Please explain * Is it an image crisis? * ALIA takes ADCA advocacy fight on the road

Results

Patrons on the subscription's routing list will receive a text email similar to the following and can then choose to request the journal, or maybe just a copy of a particular article.

Hi Rob Garnsey,

we are happy to advise the latest issue of the journal, Access Economics Monitor ;2009-11-19, has arrived in the library.

This issue contains the following articles...

1. The cultivation of scientific data specialists: Development of LIS education oriented to e-science service requirements 2. Building a platform for linked open thesauri 3. Developing and completing a library mobile technology survey to create a user-centered mobile presence 4. Media Commons: the process and value of centralizing services 5. Requirements for vocabulary preservation and governance 6. Evaluation of semantic retrieval systems on the semantic web 7. Classification of scientific publications according to library controlled vocabularies: A new concept matching-based approach 8. Proposal of a controlled vocabulary to solve semantic interoperability problems in social security information exchanges

Regards,
 Your librarian.

Further information

Further documentation about Koha Serials module can be made available on request by contacting Support and see our website for links to video tutorials on all aspects of Koha.