



ExLibris
Part of Clarivate

Molloy College

Alma as a
Gamechanger
for a Small
Academic Library

The institution turned to Ex Libris to integrate its library services, streamline workflows and bring its system up to date – without breaking the bank.

About Molloy College

Molloy College is a non-profit institution located on Long Island, New York. Molloy offers over 50 academic undergraduate and graduate degree programs and has a Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) of over 3,700. Grounded in the Catholic faith of truth and respect for all individuals, Molloy places an emphasis on transformative education and ethical leadership and has been nationally acknowledged for its excellence in the field of nursing.

The James E. Tobin “JET” library at Molloy College operates a main branch in Rockville Centre, with an information commons and a satellite facility in Farmingdale at Molloy’s Suffolk Extension Centre campus. The library’s collections include approximately 32,000 physical items, over 200,000 ebooks, over 200 databases, and a digital institutional repository.

Technical Challenges in Managing a Combination of Solutions

Prior to the Alma migration, Molloy utilized Ex Libris Voyager for its Integrated Library System (ILS), Summon for discovery and 360 Core to manage ebooks and serials. Additionally, the JET Library leveraged open-source solutions such as VuFind as an ILS and discovery overlay and CORAL for electronic resources management. Due to a lack of in-house technical expertise, the library team found it increasingly difficult to independently maintain its open-source software.

With the increased importance of online services and resources in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the college also sought a cloud-based system to support remote staffing and circulation activity. As such, the JET Library prioritized finding a platform that would provide both a unified, comprehensive search experience as well as streamlined cloud-based library workflows.

Meeting the Library's Current and Future Needs

The JET Library sought a system capable of managing physical and electronic resources, patrons and staff, reporting and analytics, and supporting integration with systems within and beyond the institution. However, the search team noted a frustrating gap in the industry for viable and affordable options suited to small, stand-alone libraries. As such, despite the problems experienced during the pandemic they had all but decided to stay with their current solution set.

"The gamechanger for us," according to Judith Drescher, Library Director at the JET Library, "was that Ex Libris was sensitive to our concerns and crafted pricing, implementation and payment options for an Alma migration that would suit our budget and support the products moving forward."

Though Molloy College currently has modest needs, the search team felt very strongly that Alma, a robust, comprehensive cloud-based system, would preclude the need for migration to another system in the future.

”

Ex Libris Alma checks off all the boxes to meet our needs and leaves us with a lot of room for growth in the future.

Judith Drescher, Library Director

“

Alma's functionality and features meet the JET Library's current requirements, as well as providing the flexibility for growth and change.

The JET Library joined with two other small libraries and migrated to Alma and Primo VE as a cohort. The Ex Libris implementation project team met regularly with the cohort implementation teams throughout the process, providing updates and training. Throughout the process, the Ex Libris team was readily available to answer questions, while setting deadlines for milestones to keep the implementation on track.

Tim Hasin, the library's Head of Technical Services and Alma Project Lead notes:

”

The collaborative approach of the Ex Libris implementation team was instrumental to the success of our Alma implementation

“

The Alma Experience is Vital to Success



The migration to Alma took place during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which starkly highlighted the advantages of the cloud-based system. As a hosted SaaS solution, Alma also brought interoperability and comprehensive adaptability to the JET Library. The library services platform easily integrates with other systems in the larger academic environment at Molloy College, as well as with WorldCat, the Library of Congress, resource vendors, and more.



Library staff were quickly able to master the intuitive workflows in Alma's Acquisitions, Resources and Fulfillment modules and the change in discovery to Primo VE was readily accepted by faculty, students, and librarians. Alma Administrators found it easy to access dashboards and anticipate that the analytics reporting will prove useful in future decision-making.



An essential element of the success JET Library continues to enjoy in using Alma and Primo VE is the ongoing support provided by Ex Libris, especially the Alma Success Program.



"The commitment to support that Ex Libris has demonstrated is vital for the success of smaller libraries like ours," Judith explains, "where librarians and staff are required to wear many hats but may be somewhat lacking in deep technical knowledge and experience."

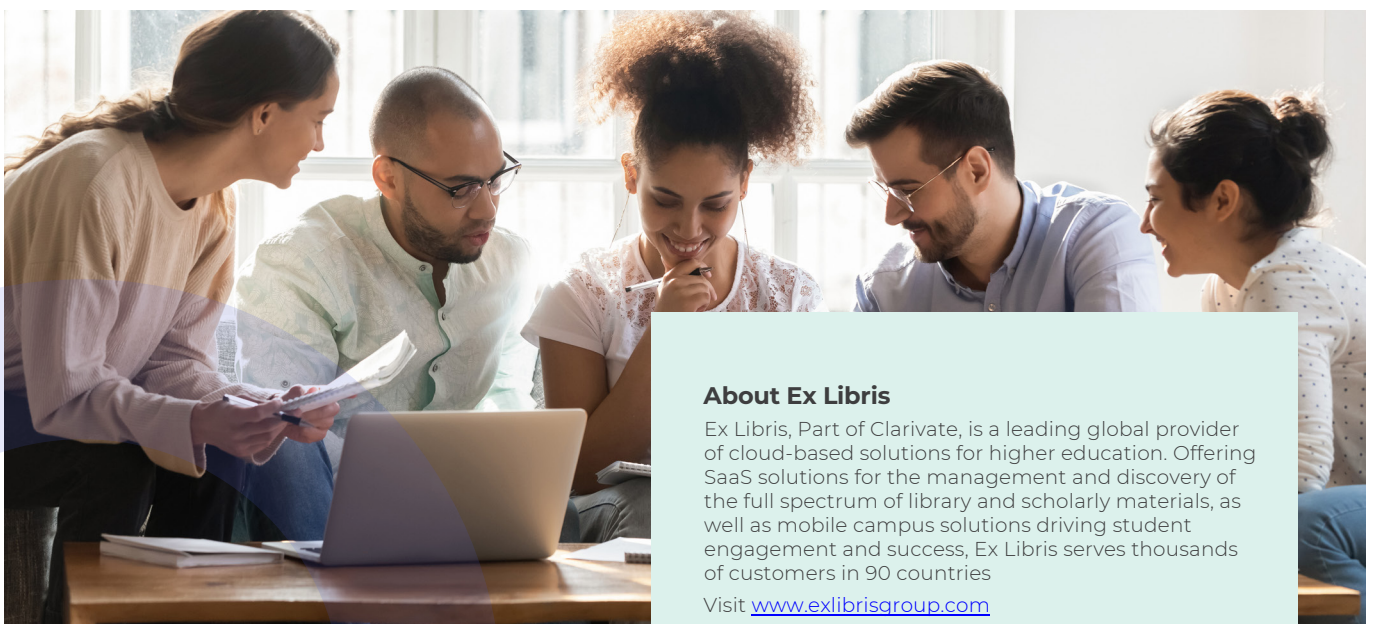
In addition to direct support, the Knowledge Acceleration Program, the wealth of training resources, and extensive Alma documentation found in the Ex Libris Knowledge Center have all been immensely helpful to the JET Library staff. A large community of Alma users have also been very generous in sharing their knowledge and experience with Molloy College librarians.

Commenting on the experience as a member of the broader Alma user community, Judith says,

”

I consider us quite fortunate to have developed the level of outreach and personal relationships that we have.

“



About Ex Libris

Ex Libris, Part of Clarivate, is a leading global provider of cloud-based solutions for higher education. Offering SaaS solutions for the management and discovery of the full spectrum of library and scholarly materials, as well as mobile campus solutions driving student engagement and success, Ex Libris serves thousands of customers in 90 countries

Visit www.exlibrisgroup.com