

Assigning Existing Handles to Alma Records

The workflow suggested by agent Sabine in December 2025...

Workflow for new digital titles without handles:

1. Create a set with the digital titles that need to receive a handle.
2. Run the Handle integration profile on this set with the following option: DC METADATA Upon Create
= Add new Handles to Metadata

The Devil Is In the Details... and Alma is Possessed!

Specifically...

- 1) Create a set, that's a no-brainer.
- 2a) Go to `Configuration`... yes, that's Alma Sense in Spades, you go to `Configuration` to run something. A no-brainer in a completely different sense.
- 2b) Then choose `General`.
- 2c) Then choose `External Systems / Integration Profiles`.
- 2d) Find the `Persistent Handle Identifiers for Digital Resource` profile and click on the name, not the ...'s.
- 2e) Choose the `Actions` tab.
- 2f) Enter the name of the set created in Step 1. Yes, this is another no-brainer Alma Sense thing... selecting a run-time parameter inside `Configuration`. Absolutely absurd, but that's Alma.
- 2g) Make sure `Action` is set to `Create and Update`.
- 2h) Scroll down to the `DC Metadata` section... yes, scroll DOWN, past everything else. We will return (scroll back up) in a few minutes.
- 2i) For `Upon Create` choose `Add new Handles to metadata`.
- 2j) Be sure to leave the `DC Identifier Prefix Field` empty/blank.
- 2k) Scroll back up. DO NOT click `Save`!
- 2l) Instead, look for the barely visible `Run` button toward the left center of the window.
- 2m) Click `Run` and hope like hell something good happens.
- 2n) Click `Save` if you like. I don't think this is necessary but it's a big RED button, so presumably (Alma Sense) they want you to click it.
- 3) Test the living shit out of your new Handles. Hopefully your set (see Step 1) contains 100 or fewer objects because the process goes ape shit crazy if you give it more than that to chew on.

Earlier Guidance

The earlier workflow suggested by support agent Anchi Hsu is...

1. Create a title set that already includes a handle identifier. (record 991011592645304641 is the only member of set 7333418150004641)

2. Admin > Run a job > search name: Copy dterm to dc:identifier > wait for it to finish, and go to the next step (ran process ID 7333418330004641)
3. Admin > Run a job > search name: DG Handle Migration > wait for it to finish, and go to the next step (ran process ID 7333418800004641)
4. Configuration > General > Integration Profile > Persistent Handle Identifiers for Digital Resource > Actions > Run

Workflow with Screen Captures

That workflow in practice looks something like this:

1. Build an itemized set of titles from a list of MMS IDs. In my case the set named **Handles – First Batch from mms_ids.csv** was created with 6040 digital titles.
2. Next, as suggested **Admin > Run a job** find the **Copy dterm to dc:identifier** job and run it with the set defined above. The suggested process would look like this...

Name	Description	Content Type	Type
Copy dterm to dc:identifier	copy dterms:identifier to dc:identifier	Bibliographic title	DC Application profile 1 normalization

Name	Type	Content Type	Content Origin	Create Date
Handle Assignment - First 5400 Records	Itemized	All Titles	Institution only	05/08/2025 09:37:35 CDT

Some Records Skipped

If our **change-bib-by-request** process is not run ahead of step 2 all records may not have the necessary **dc.identifier: http://hdl.handle.net/11084...** value. In this instance I had to run **change-bib-by-request.py** which produced the attached **change-bib-by-request.log** file for review. It shows no errors.

Once the script and subsequent job are complete and successful proceed to step 3.

3. From **Admin > Run a job** find the **DG Handle Migration** job, edit it to include the set defined in step 1, and run it like so...

The screenshot shows two consecutive screens from the Alma Production interface:

- Run a Job - Select Job to Run:** A table lists two jobs. Job 1 is "Export Handles" (Digital title, Export). Job 2 is "DG Handle Migration" (Bibliographic title, DC Application profile 1 normalization). The second row is selected.
- Run a Job - Select Set:** A table lists three sets. Set 1 is "Handles - First Batch from mms_ids.csv" (Itemized, All Titles, Institution only, Create Date 05/08/2025 13:13:47 CDT). This set is selected.

Submit the job and when it is complete and successful proceed to step 4

**Attention: There was indication of a problem here. Many of the records did NOT process successfully because of the condition illustrated below.

The **dc:identifier** field should NOT have a **dcterms:URI** attribute! Those attributes need to be removed before handle assignment will work!

Once that error was corrected the results were...

The screenshot shows the "Job Report" page for the "DG Handle Migration - Handles - First Batch from mms_ids.csv - 05/08/2025 13:20:41 CDT".

Completed Successfully		Started on	05/08/2025 13:20:45 CDT
Process ID	7335859190004641	Total run time	1 Minutes 7 Seconds
Finished on	05/08/2025 13:21:52 CDT	Status date	05/08/2025 13:21:52 CDT
Status	Completed Successfully	Records with exceptions	0
Records processed	6040		
Job ID	6		

Statistics: Records skipped 99

Errors: Records with exceptions 0

Examining some of the 99 skipped records shows statements consistent with...

Record 991011592644004641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011592644004641 already has a handle identifier 11084/34662 05/08/2025 13:21:24 CDT Information Repository System 2

Record 991011592643604641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011592643604641 already has a handle identifier 11084/34664 05/08/2025 13:21:24 CDT Information Repository System 3

...and those records do indeed already have working handles. So, it's all good!

4. The final step from Configuration > General > Integration Profile > Persistent Handle Identifiers for Digital Resource > Edit > Actions > Run appears to work AFTER editing the Set name, like so...

The screenshot shows the 'Integration Profile' page in the Alma interface. On the left is a vertical navigation bar with icons for Alma Production, Acquisitions, Resources, Discovery, Fulfillment, User Management, General, and Analytics. The main area has a header 'Integration Profile' with a back arrow. Below it is a sub-header 'Persistent Handle Identifiers for Digital Resource'. There are three tabs: 'General Information' (selected), 'Actions', and 'Contact Info'. Under 'HANDLE INTEGRATION DEFINITIONS', there are fields for 'Active' (radio buttons for Active, Inactive), 'Control Number' (dropdown set to 'Digital.Grinnell Handles'), 'Set name' (text input set to 'First 100 Handle Fixes'), 'Action' (radio buttons for Create, Create and Update), 'Target URL' (dropdown set to 'Primo VE'), 'URL Domain Name' (text input set to 'grinnell.primo.exlibrisgroup.com'), 'Primo View' (dropdown set to '01GCL_INST:GCL'), and 'Schedule' (dropdown set to 'Not scheduled'). A 'Run' button is at the bottom.

Once the run completed the event report showed this:

The screenshot shows the 'Job Report' page. The left sidebar includes icons for Alma Production, Acquisitions, Resources, Discovery, Fulfillment, Admin, and Analytics. The main content area has a header 'Job Report' with a back arrow. It displays a summary for a 'Handle Integration' job. The summary table includes:

Completed Successfully	Process ID	7335930740004641	Started on	05/08/2025 13:31:13 CDT
	Finished on	05/08/2025 13:31:40 CDT	Total run time	27 Seconds
	Status	Completed Successfully	Status date	05/08/2025 13:31:40 CDT
	Records processed	99	Records with exceptions	0
	Job ID	272		

Below the summary is a section titled 'Counters' with the following data:

Handle was created successfully	99
Records failed	0
Records skipped	0

So, it looks like the workflow keeps processing ONLY the 99 records that were completed a couple of days ago?

Update

I started to run the entire 4-step workflow again, process ID 7337283030004641, this time using the full set of digital titles from set 7337283030004641... and after step 3, running the DG Handle Migration Job, I got this result:

The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL https://grinnell.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/ng/page;u=%2Finfra%2Faction%2FpageAction.do%3FxmlFileName%3Devents.events_report.xml&RenewBe. The page title is "Events Report". On the left, there is a sidebar with icons for Alma Production, Acquisitions, Resources, Discovery, Fulfillment, Admin, and Analytics. The main content area shows a table titled "Events Report" with the subtitle "1 - 20 of 11,442". The table has columns: Event Description, Event Date, Severity, Module, and Creator. The data shows six records, all of which were skipped because the BIB record MMS ID already has a handle identifier. The records are numbered 1 through 6.

	Event Description	Event Date	Severity	Module	Creator
1	Record 991011591649804641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011591649804641 already has a handle identifier 11084/13203	05/08/2025 15:58:23 CDT	Information	Repository	System
2	Record 991011591658204641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011591658204641 already has a handle identifier 11084/27960	05/08/2025 15:58:23 CDT	Information	Repository	System
3	Record 991011591647904641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011591647904641 already has a handle identifier 11084/19377	05/08/2025 15:58:23 CDT	Information	Repository	System
4	Record 991011591609704641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011591609704641 already has a handle identifier 11084/21208	05/08/2025 15:58:23 CDT	Information	Repository	System
5	Record 991011591660104641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011591660104641 already has a handle identifier 11084/18507	05/08/2025 15:58:23 CDT	Information	Repository	System
6	Record 991011591710504641 was skipped. Reason: BIB record MMS ID 991011591710504641 already has a handle identifier 11084/19443	05/08/2025 15:58:23 CDT	Information	Repository	System

The report says that all 11,442 records were skipped because they already have handles. Ok, so I started checking them again, spot checking about a dozen handles from various pages... AND THEY ALL WORK!

I am thrilled with this outcome, but still wondering why this didn't work on the previous attempt? For future reference I would dearly love to know if the 4-step sequence is correct, or is one of those steps out-of-order?

Resolved

I received this follow-up on the morning of May 12, 2025, and it confirms my suspicion that some operations were performed out-of-order.

A new comment has been added to case 07949018.

Case Title: Alma Chat – handle identifier request

Last Comment:

Dear Mark,

My name is Sabine. I work in the Alma Tier 2 Support Team and took over responsibility for your case.

I reviewed this case several times with Anchi.

I read through all the comments and checked the attached PDF file.

When I looked at the job history for 08/05/2025, I found that 3 jobs have been performed on a set with 11442 records.

I assume this is the set "All Digital Titles in DCAP01 Format"

1. job = Job 7336725260004641 = Handle integration

Submitted at 05/08/2025 14:09:45 CDT

2. job = 7337053600004641 = Copy dcterms to dcidentifier – All Digital Titles in DCAP01 Format – 05/08/2025 15:50:53 CDT

Submitted at 05/08/2025 15:50:56 CDT

3. job = 7337283030004641 = DG Handle Migration – All Digital Titles in DCAP01 Format – 05/08/2025 15:56:22 CDT

Submitted at 05/08/2025 15:56:26 CDT

The correct order would have been:

1. Copy dcterm to dcidentifier
2. DG Handle Migration
3. Handle integration profile

However, it might explain what you mention in the final 'Update' section in the attached PDF: the handles worked after process ID 7337283030004641, as they had been already handled by the integration profile job 7336725260004641

The message '.. already has a handle identifier ...' in the job events for the Handle Migration job can be ignored. It will always display this message for the migration of handles.

The records need to be checked only if the message says '... does not have a handle identifier'. In this case, the bib record needs to be checked to find out why the handle could not be migrated.

For already existing handles that should be redirected to Primo, it is necessary to

1. Create a set with these records
2. Run the Handle Migration job, using the control number sequence with the prefix used in the existing handles. Even if the records already have handles, this job is needed, as it copies the existing handles from the metadata to the handle identifier in the background.
3. Run the Persistent Handle Identifiers for Digital Resource integration profile on the set, selecting 'Create and Update' as action, and 'Do not add metadata' for the DC METADATA.

If you perform step 3 before step 2, the handles will not resolve correctly.

However, they will even if you perform step 2 after step 3.