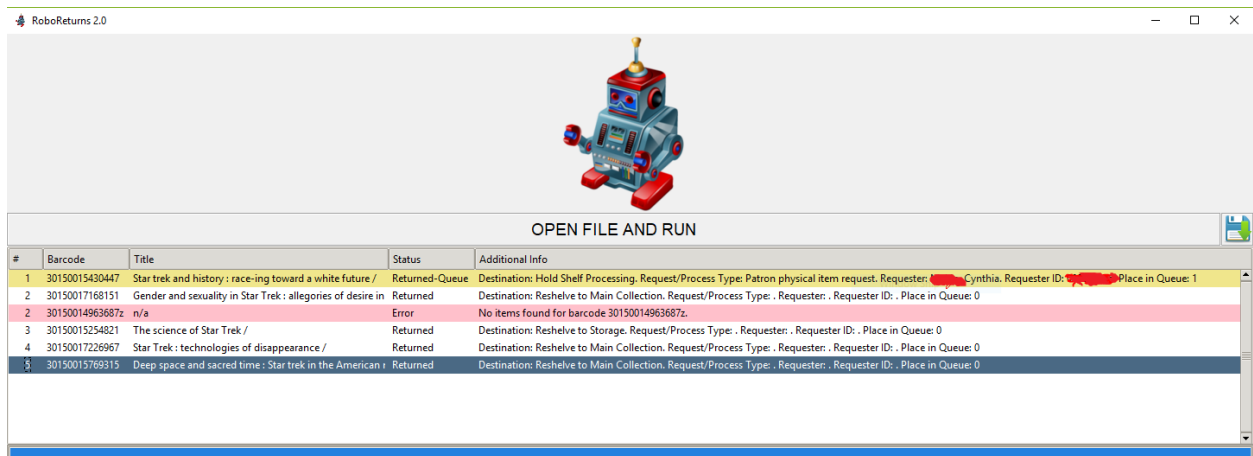




RoboReturns for Alma v 2.1

Overview



RoboReturns is for returning books in Alma in bulk. It takes a file of barcodes and checks in each item one by one.

Config.ini File

```
config.ini - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
[misc]
;PERMISSIONS NEEDED: BIBS (read/write)
apikey=12353434x34x56x656756x5x5x
version=2.0

[s spreadsheet]
;NOTE: directory must have ending "\"
spreadsheet_directory=C:\Users\your_user_name\Downloads

[alma]
library = LIB_MAIN
circ_desk = DEFAULT_CIRC_DESK

[log]
;NOTE: directory must have ending "\"
log_directory=C:\Users\your_user_name\Desktop\
```

To customize RoboReturn's settings, open up the config.ini file in a plain text editor.

Apikey

To use RoboReturns, you will need an Alma api key with the following permissions: Bibs read/write.

Spreadsheet and Log Directories

To find your barcode file, RoboReturns needs to know where to look for your file (as a default). For most people, the best choice is the downloads folder.

To save a log of RoboReturn's output, it's necessary to specify an output directory. For most people, the desktop is the best choice.

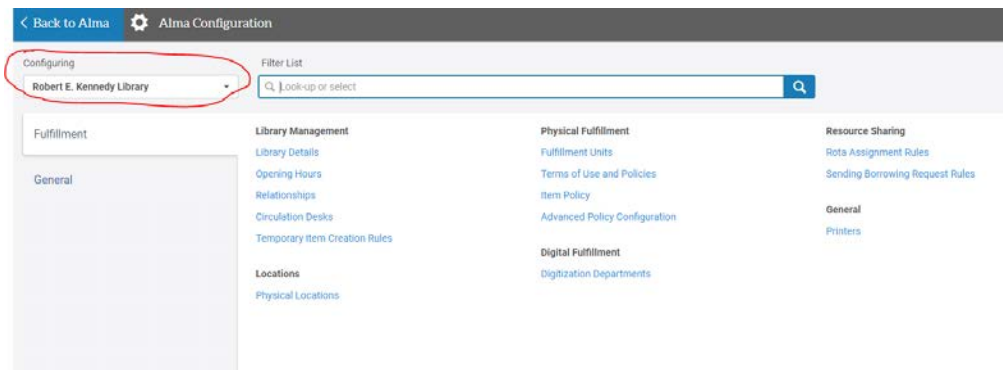
Alma Codes

For RoboReturns to check-in each item, it is necessary to supply the library code for the home library where the book lives and also the code for that library's circ desk (for most people, this is DEFAULT_CIRC_DESK).

You can find these codes, by doing the following:

Library code: Go to Alma Configuration (gear icon)

There is a drop down on the left. Make sure you have the returning library selected.



Click "Library Details" under Library Management. You can find your library code there at the top, under "CODE"

Circulation Desk: Go to Alma Configuration (gear icon).

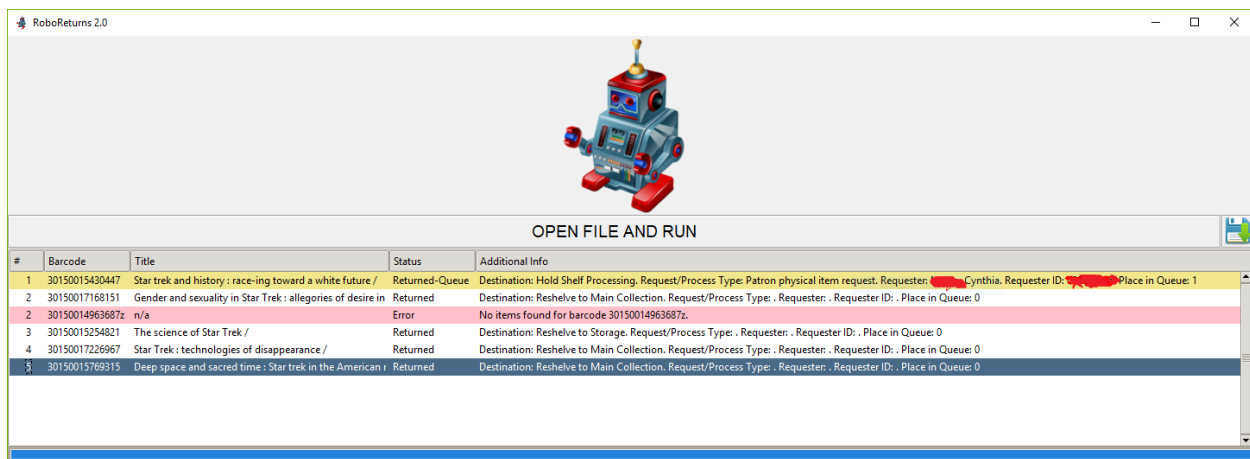
There is a drop down on the left. Make sure you have the returning library selected.

Choose “Circulation Desks” under Library Management and copy the code that matches your destination, for most it will be DEFAULT_CIRC_DESK.

Log File

RoboReturns can save a log file of its output as a worksheet for later review. The file is in csv format and can be opened in Excel. The file is generated by clicking the SAVE disc icon.

How to Use



The user clicks “OPEN FILE AND RUN” and chooses their spreadsheet. The file can be in either Excel (xlsx), csv, or tab-delimited (.txt) format.

IMPORTANT: To find the barcode column, RoboReturns requires that the column heading be either “barcode” or “Barcode”, no matter what format the file is in. If RoboReturns can’t find the column, an error message will be displayed.

As RoboReturns works through the input file, its progress will display on the screen, as well as how many lines are left to process. The status of each return will display on the screen.

Successful returns are marked as “Returned”. (NOTE: If any items on the list are already in place, they will be marked “Returned” by default). Any errors will display in red. If an item is marked to be routed to another patron, it will show up as yellow.

Troubleshooting

If you load a file of barcodes into RoboReturns and nothing happens, it is likely a problem with your apikey. At the moment, there is no error message that can be displayed in this instance. Make sure your apikey has the correct permissions (BIBS read/write) and that it is set to your Production Environment, not your sandbox.

Other Questions?

I'm glad to help you work out any problem you may be having using my program. Here's my contact info:

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