

Holdings bug in Aleph

26 February 2003

Circumstance:

A title exists in Aleph with only one item record and no holdings record. A cataloger adds a holdings record and:

- Aleph automatically adds to the new holdings record an 852 \$\$b that matches the sublibrary code in the existing item record.
- Aleph saves the holdings record to the server.
- Aleph automatically links that existing item record to the new holdings record.

No action can be taken to prevent this from happening.

Instructions for how to handle this situation are provided below.

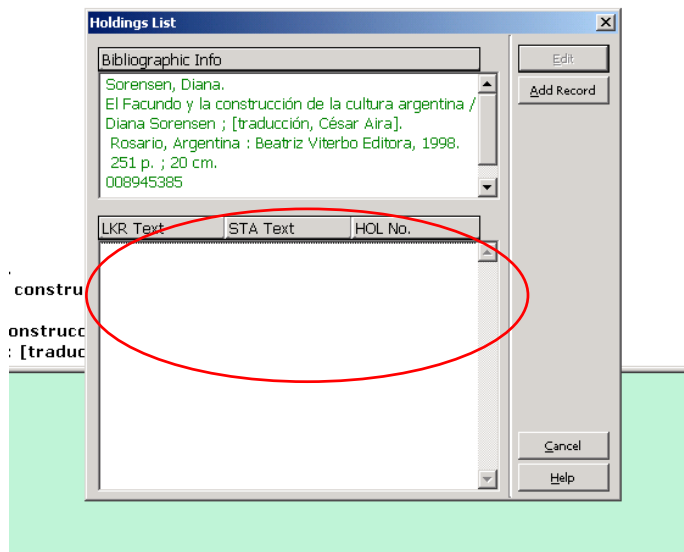
Harvard views this as a bug and it has been documented and reported to Ex Libris.

This circumstance is problematic if you did not intend to link the item to the new holdings record. It is a serious problem if the new holdings record is created for a sublibrary different from the one you intended.

How to identify and resolve this problem:

Please follow these directions carefully to prevent unnecessary loss or deterioration of data in Aleph.

1. Note that when creating the first holdings record, the Holdings List is initially empty (as illustrated in the screen shot below):



2. After choosing to “Add Record,” pay careful attention to the information that appears on this Holdings List:
 - If the Holdings List displays a new record identified only by record number, skip the rest of this document and continue your work.
 - If the Holdings List displays a new record identified by sublibrary, this is the important clue that an item record already exists and has been linked to the newly created holdings record.
3. Evaluate the sublibrary assigned to the new holdings record:
 - If the sublibrary is correct for your library, examine the item record to verify that it should be linked to the new holdings record. If it should not be linked, go to step 4 below.
 - If the sublibrary is not correct for your library, immediately open the items module and unlink the item record. *Do not edit the holdings record. To safeguard the integrity of another sublibrary’s item record, it is critical to unlink the item record before editing the new holdings record.*
4. To unlink the item record from the new holdings record:
 - Bring up the Item List and choose Retrieve HOL.
 - Choose Unlink Item.
 - You may now return to the Cataloging module to edit the new holdings record to reflect your library’s holdings.

Please contact your supervisor if you encounter any problems with this procedure.