

*Heard Alert posting (September 27, 2018)*

## **New material type for Oversize and Folio materials**

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At the September 19 meeting of the Collegium of Catalogers, that group was asked what material type should be used for books of large and very large size, formerly designated Oversize and Folio. The group decided that in Alma, these would use the material type: Book.

In the old system, the material type and the location together were used to specify where the material could be found. An example of this practice in Central: Location 3rd-Floor and Item type Oversize were used together to indicate that the book was in the Oversize location on the 3rd floor.

In Alma, the Location alone is seen as an adequate description of where material can be found. Furthermore, the material type designation can only be viewed if the item information is expanded in the library catalog full record view.

The Collegium of Catalogers decided that material type, when divorced from a need for placement and circulation policy, should simply reflect the type of material. Oversize and Folio existed as “item types” in the previous system. Folio is not a material type designation in Alma and new material types cannot be added. So, part of our discussion had to do with whether we should continue the use of Oversize as a material type for books 30-40 cm in size but books that are over 40 cm have the material type of Book.

Our recommendation is that books that are larger than can fit on regular library shelving should be given the material type of Book, and that Oversize and Folio be relegated to the location or collection information.

We understand that some libraries do not have an Oversize location and would prefer to keep this material type designation of Oversize to help students/staff with locating larger books. We would welcome a conversation with libraries who do not have an oversize location to determine if this material type is still needed for their situations. Feel free to contact your cataloging liaisons for further information.