# THE FUNDAMENTALS OF MERGING RECORDS IN ALMA

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#### Merge Rule Basics in Alma

- 1. Roles Required to merge bib records in Alma:
  - a) Cataloger
  - b) Cataloger Extended role
- 2. NZ Records in Alma match on the OCLC #
- 3. Merging records can occur upon:
  - a) Importing bib records using an import profile or API integration profile
    - a) Multi-matches are merged based on how it is configured
  - b) Import bib records from OCLC
    - i. OCLC Export multiple records in the NZ with the same OCLC # cannot be exported
    - ii. OCLC Nightly Jobs: multi-matches are either automatically or manually merged and the inventory is combined
  - c) Merging two existing bib records in the MD Editor
  - d) Copy cataloging using External Resources in the MD Editor

#### Merge Rule Basics in Alma

- 4. Merge rules are used to determine how matching bib records will be merged
- 5. Bib records need to be in the same zone to be merged
  - a) Matching records with the same OCLC maybe found in different zones, but "Merge Records and Combine Inventory" in the MD Editor will be grayed out
    - a) Example; IZ record will match to an NZ bib record with the same OCLC # if no matching IZ record exists
- 6. Merging two bib records will move all the associated inventory to the primary record (PO line, Physical items, Loans, Requests, Reading lists, Related record relationship)
- 7. There is always a primary and secondary record when merging

#### Primary and Secondary Record Behavior When Merging

#### 1. Primary Record

- a) Contains all the merged information
- b) Merge rules either remove information in the primary record or copies information from the secondary record to the primary record

#### 2. Secondary Record

- a) Contains information that can be merged into the primary record
- b) Merge rules do not change the secondary record
- The secondary record should be deleted or else it remains in the repository causing a match to be found again

## Primary Record Behavior When Merging

Primary Record for Merging	
Scenario	Primary Record
Importing records using a profile	The existing record in Alma
(see Importing Records Using Profiles)	
Importing records from OCLC Connexion	The existing record in Alma
(see Importing Records from OCLC Connexion)	
Merging two already existing records	The record on the left (opened first)
(see Merging Bibliographic Records)	
Copy cataloging using an external resource	The external resource
(see Searching External Resources)	

Note Since the primary records for importing profiles and copy cataloging (as in Searching External Resources) are essentially the opposite, a merge rule written for an import profile cannot work for copy cataloging (and vice versa). You require two sets of merge rules, one for import profiles and another for copy cataloging. An example of each type of rule can be found in Examples of Rules for Import Profiles and Copy Cataloging.

#### Possible Workflows to Merge a NZ Brief Bib with an NZ Bib Record

1. Merge Record & Combine Inventory - USE

#### **Roles Required:**

- Cataloger
- Cataloger Extended

#### Pros:

- Retains the POL and associated inventory
- Can deletes the secondary bib record
- Other campus holdings are merged
- No duplicate bib records are created

#### Cons:

- Call number in the holdings record may need to be updated
- Change Bib Reference for the POL if title differs
- Records can be merged incorrectly if the incorrect merge routine is used

#### Possible Workflows to Merge a NZ Brief Bib with an NZ Bib Record

2. Copy & Overlay - DO NOT USE

#### **Roles Required:**

- Cataloger
- Cataloger Extended

#### Pros:

- Overlays all the MARC fields in brief bib with the secondary record's MARC fields
- Retains POL and associated inventory

#### Cons:

- Does not merge inventory
- Creates a duplicate bib record in the NZ
- Does not retain local notes
- Call number in the holdings record needs to be updated

3. Copy and Merge - DO NOT USE

#### **Roles Required:**

- Cataloger
- Cataloger Extended

#### Pros:

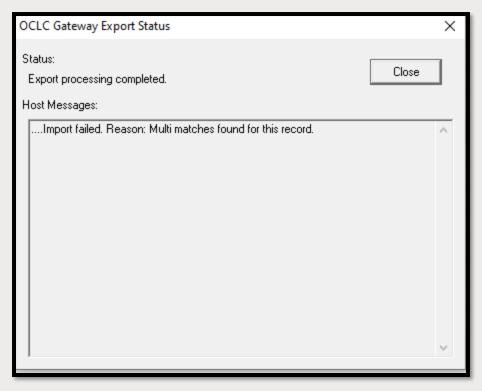
- Merges MARC fields in the primary and secondary records
- Maintains local notes
- Retains POL and associated inventory

#### Cons:

- Brief bib MARC fields are retained
- Does not merge inventory
- Creates a duplicate bib record in the NZ
- Call number in the holdings record needs to be updated
- Leaves user in a loop matching to the original full NZ bib record

### OCLC Export Behavior with Matching OCLC Records

- OCLC cannot export a bib record into Alma when there is more than one bib record with the same OCLC # it can match on
- When you attempt to export a bib record to Alma with multiple matches you will get the following error:



## MATCH CONFIGURATIONS

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#### Match Configurations

The settings below were configured by the NZ Coordinator for your institution. They match the Network Zone (NZ) and they will reduce the number of matching records that will be found in the MD Editor:

- 1. Go to Configuration>Resources>General>Other Settings
- 2. The following fields in your IZ match the settings in the NZ
  - a) non\_serial\_match\_profile: com.exlibris.repository.mms.match.OCLCMatchProfile
  - b) serial\_match\_profile: com.exlibris.repository.mms.match.OCLCSerialMatchProfile
  - c) Ignore\_cz\_records: true

## MERGE VS. OVERLAY

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#### Merge vs. Overlay

- 1. Merge as defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary "to cause to combine, unite, or coalesce"
  - a) Combines MARC fields from the secondary record with the primary record
  - b) Fields that are combined with the primary record depends on the merge rule
- 2. Overlay as defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary "to lay or spread over or across"
  - a) Over-writes all MARC fields in the primary record with the MARC fields from the secondary record, including local notes

## MERGE RULES

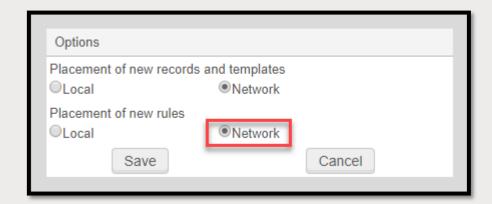


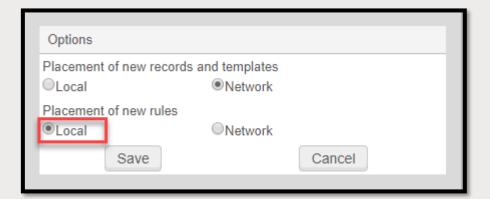
#### Merge Rules

- Merge rules can:
  - a) Add
  - b) Remove
  - c) Replace
- Existing Ex Libris merge rules can be used, but you want to make sure to click on "show merge preview" to make sure the merge rule works as expected
  - a) Conditional subject headings
    - i. Merges all fields from the secondary record to the primary record
    - ii. Retains the subject headings from the primary record, which may create duplicate subject headings
  - b) Keep only old value
    - i. Retains only the fields in the primary record, including local fields
  - c) Overlay all but local fields
    - i. Overlays all MARC fields in the primary record with the secondary record
    - ii. Retains the local fields in the primary record
  - d) Replace 245 and 035 OCoLC if exist –it will replace the 245 and 035 in the secondary record with the 245 and 035 from the primary record

#### Merge Rules

- Campuses can create their own merge rules if an existing merge rules does not meet their needs
  - IZ only records require an IZ merge rule
  - NZ records require an NZ merge rule
- To create a merge rule to use with NZ bib records
  - The "Placement of new rules" needs to be set to Network
- To create a merge rule to use with IZ bib only bib records
  - The "Placement of new rules" needs to be set to Local

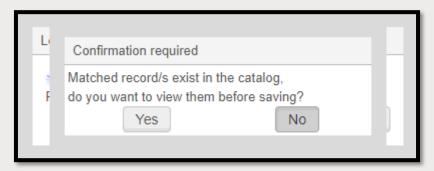




# MERGE RECORDS AND COMBINE INVENTORY WORKFLOW



The following message will appear if there is a matching record while updating a bib record in the MD Editor after saving or saving and releasing the record:



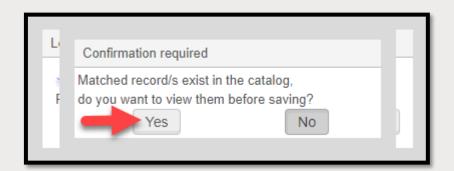
You can do one of the following things:

- 1. Click Yes
- 2. Click No

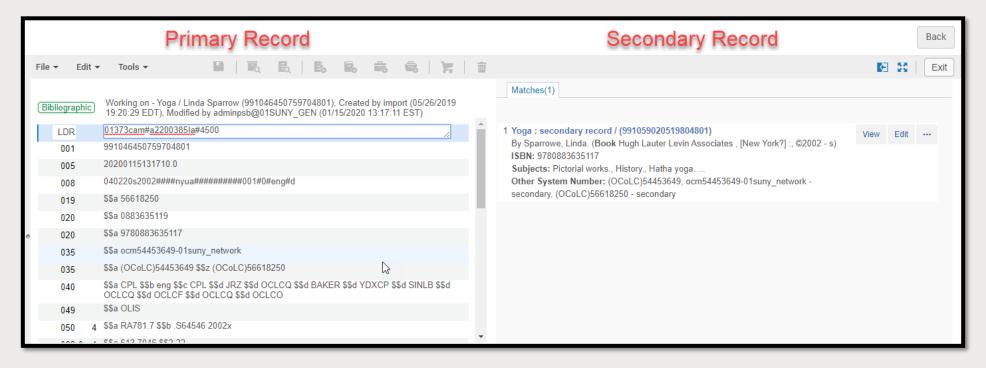
# CHOOSING "YES" WHEN A MATCH IS FOUND WORKFLOW

Choosing "Yes" in the MD Editor when a match is found worklfow:

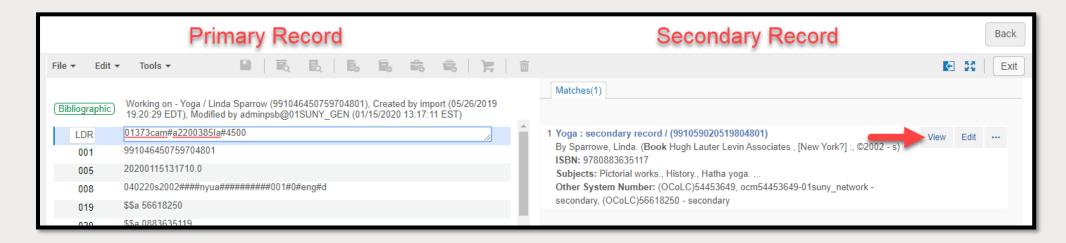
1. Click Yes when the following confirmation message appears: "Matched record/s exist in the catalog, do you want to view them before saving?"



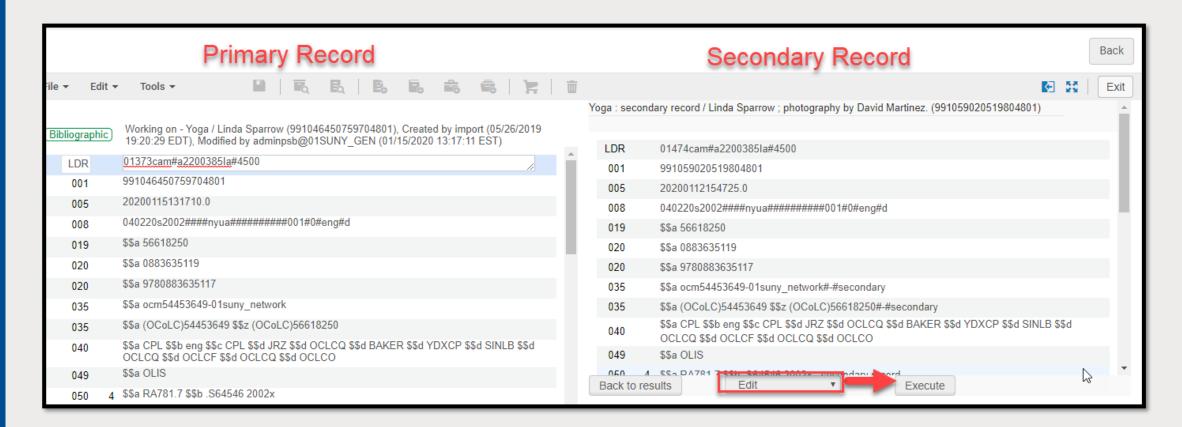
2. Both records will display in the MD Editor



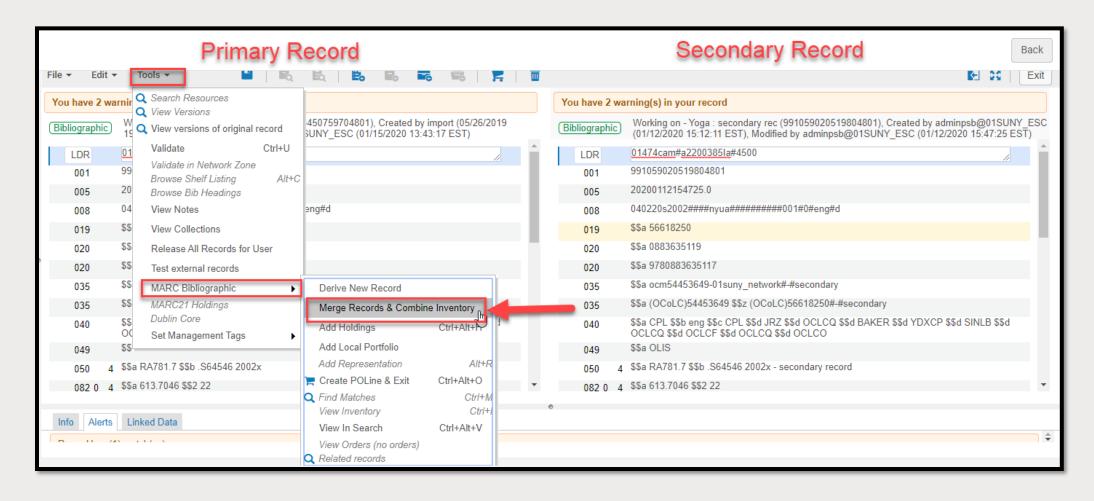
- 3. Click *View* from the secondary record
  - a) Viewing the record allows you to determine which should be the primary record
  - b) The primary record may not be as big of a concern because bib records are matching on the OCLC #



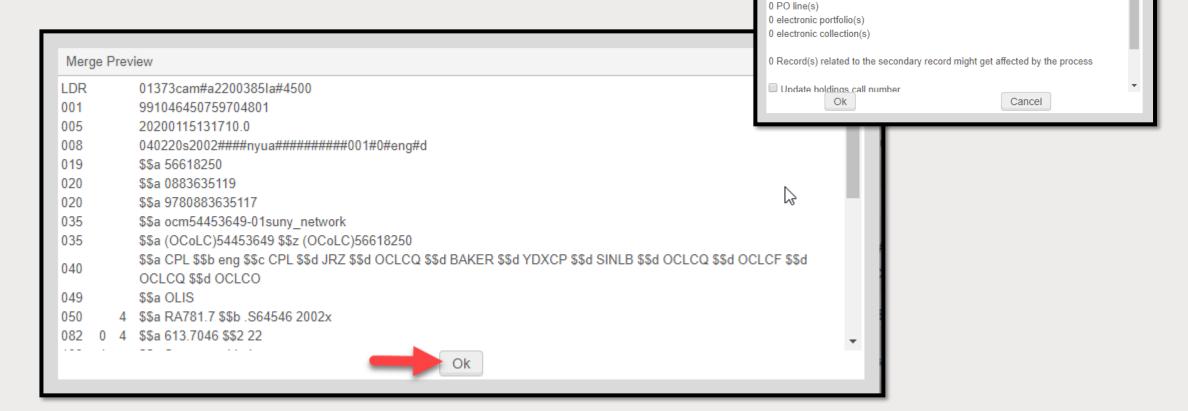
- 4. Make sure the middle drop-down box is on Edit
- 5. Click *Execute* after viewing the bib record
  - a) Execute opens the record in the MD Editor so that is can be edited



6. Go to Tools>MARC Bibliographic>Merge Records & Combine Inventory



- 7. The Merge Records & Combine Inventory screen pops-up
  - a) Choose merge routine: [select the merge rule]
  - b) Click "Show merge preview"
    - i. Preview the merge behavior
    - ii. Click Ok



Merge Records & Combine Inventory

(MMS ID: 991046450759704801). Choose Keep only old value

You are about to move the following:

0 digital remote representations(s) 0 digital representations(s)

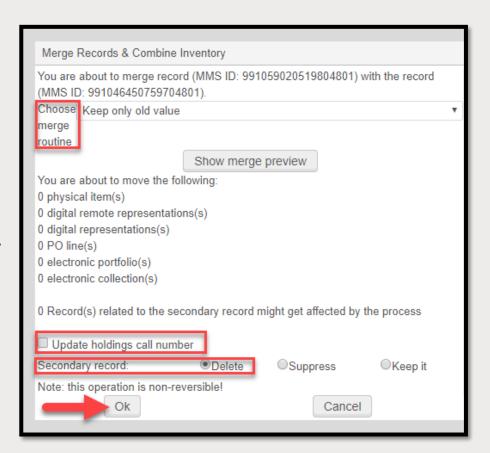
routine

0 physical item(s)

You are about to merge record (MMS ID: 991059020519804801) with the record

Show merge preview

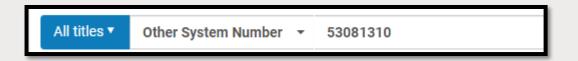
- 7. The Merge Records & Combine Inventory continued
  - c) Update holdings call number
    - Depends on the merge routine and if the holdings call number needs to be updated
  - d) Secondary record: Delete
    - Always select delete so the duplicate bib record no longer exists in the NZ
  - e) Click Ok
- 8. The newly merged bib record opens in the MD Editor
- 9. Click File>Save and Release Record (Ctrl+Alt+R)

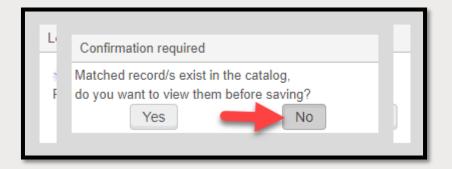


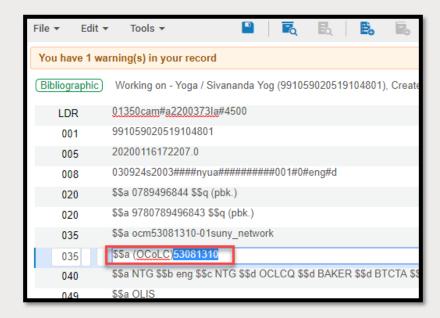
# CHOOSING "NO" WHEN A MATCH IS FOUND WORKFLOW

Choosing "No" in the MD Editor when a match is found workflow:

- 1. Click "No" when the confirmation box appears with the following message" "Matched record/s exist in the catalog, do you want to view them before saving?
- 2. Copy the OCLC # from the record in the MD Editor
- 3. Click **Back (<)** 
  - a) Do not release the bib record from the MD Editor
- 4. Perform an All Titles repository search by Other System Number







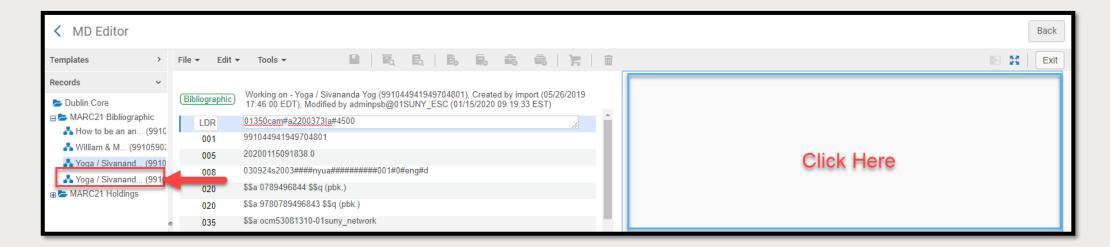
5. Click *Edit Record* from the matching bib record that is not linked to the IZ



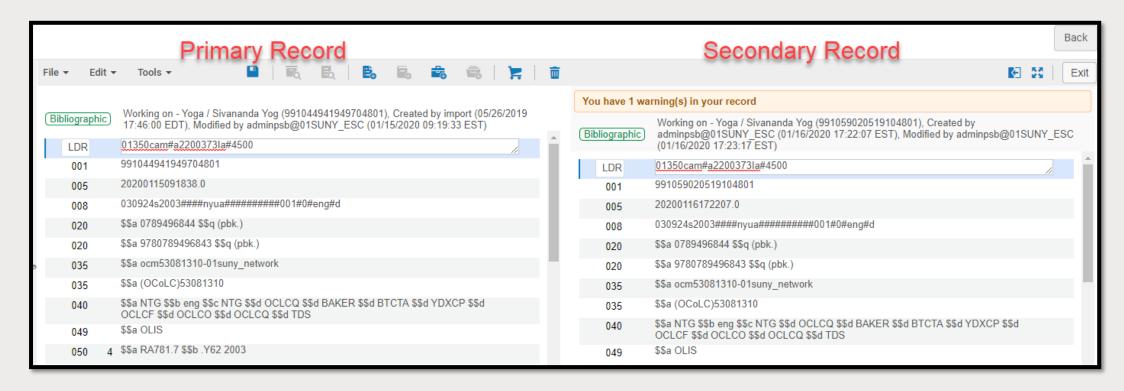
6. Click on the **Split Screen** icon



- 5. Click into the right-side of the MD Editor
- 6. Click on the NZ linked bib record from Records>MARC21 Bibliographic



- 7. Both records open in the MD Editor
  - a) See the workflow on how to make a secondary record a primary record if applicable

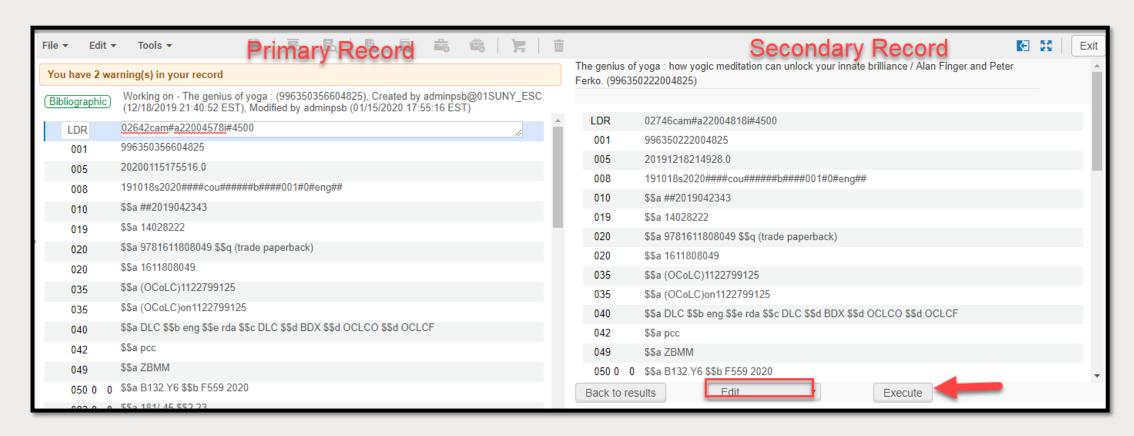


8. Continue with the Merge Records & Combine Inventory Workflow

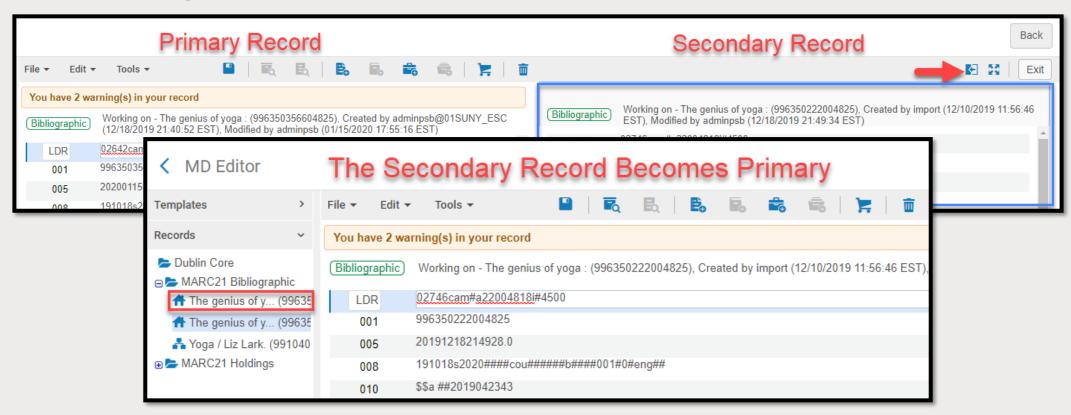
# HOW TO MAKE THE SECONDARY RECORD THE PRIMARY RECORD

When you want to make the secondary record the primary record

1. After viewing the secondary record make sure the middle drop-down box is on **Edit** then click **Execute** 



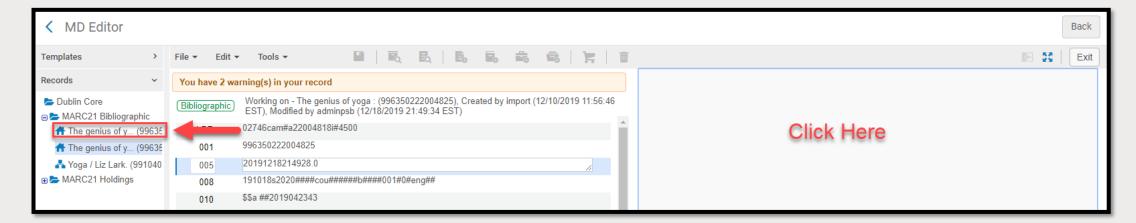
- 2. Click into the right-screen of the MD Editor with the secondary record
- 3. Click on the Split Screen icon
  - a) This will open the secondary record into the main screen of the MD Editor
  - b) The previous primary record will still be "locked" and found under *Records>MARC21 Bibliographic*



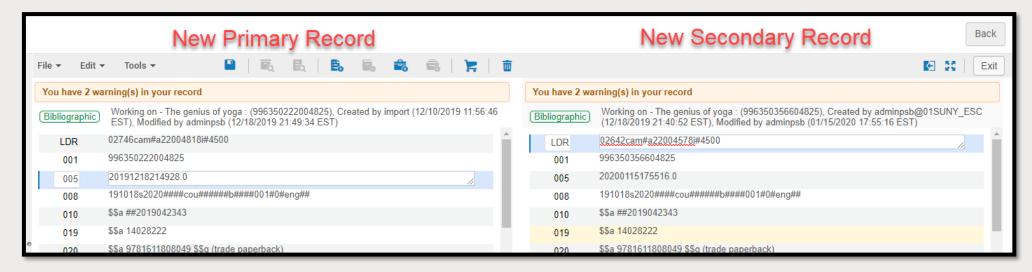
4. Click on the Split Screen Icon



- 5. Click on the right-screen of the MD Editor
- 6. Click on the "original" primary record from Records>MARC21 Bibliographic



7. Both records will display in the MD Editor

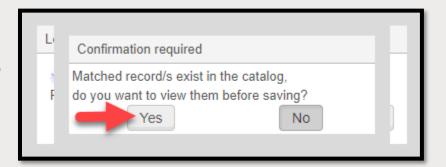


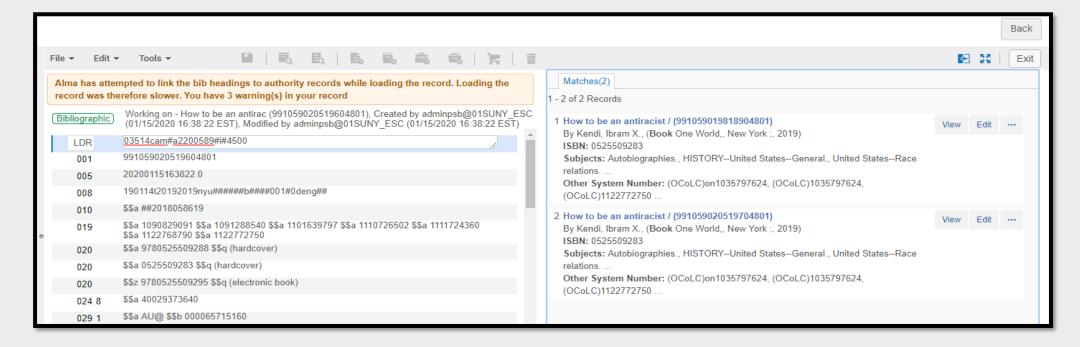
8. Continue with the Merge Records and Combine Inventory workflow

# MERGE WORKFLOW FOR WHEN THERE IS MORE THAN ONE MATCHING RECORD

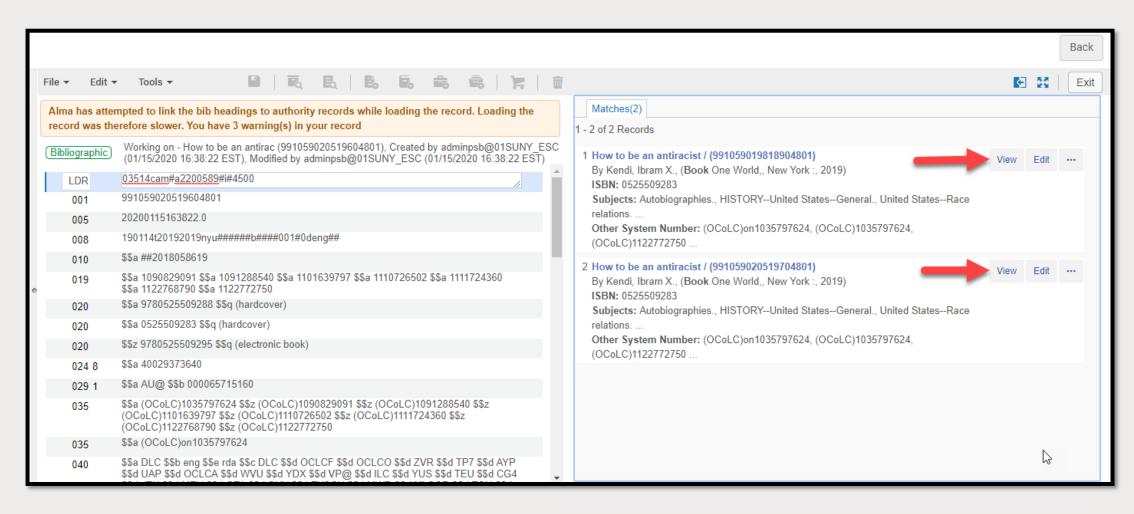
When there is more than one matching bib record

- 1. Click Yes when the following confirmation message appears: "Matched record/s exist in the catalog, do you want to view them before saving?"
- 2. All records will display in the MD Editor

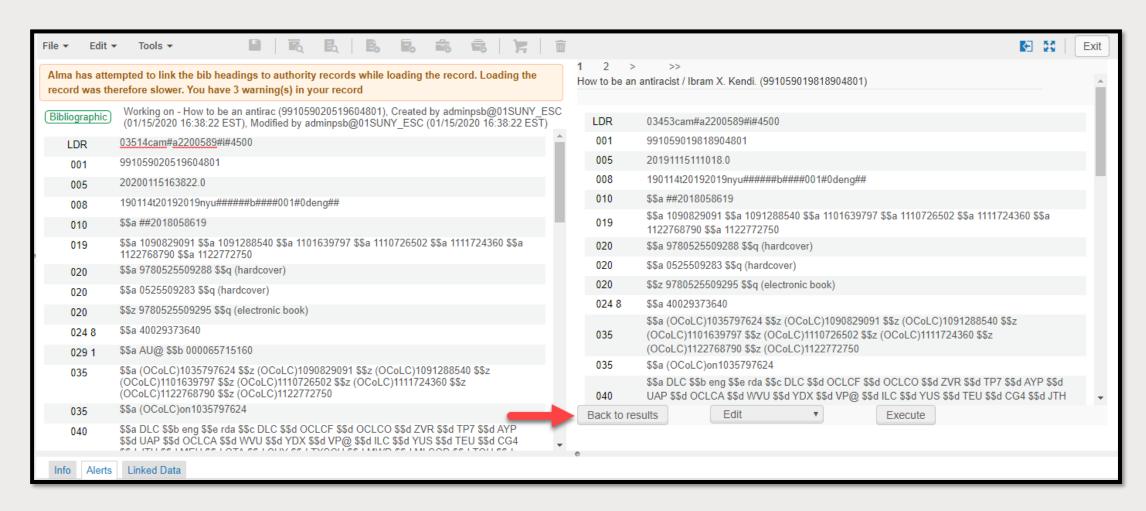




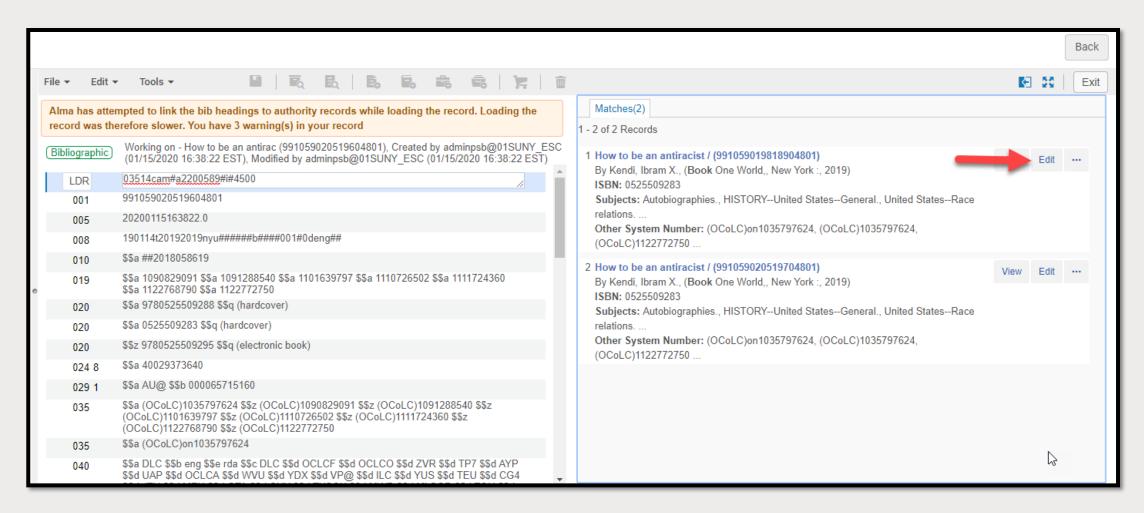
#### 3. Click View each record



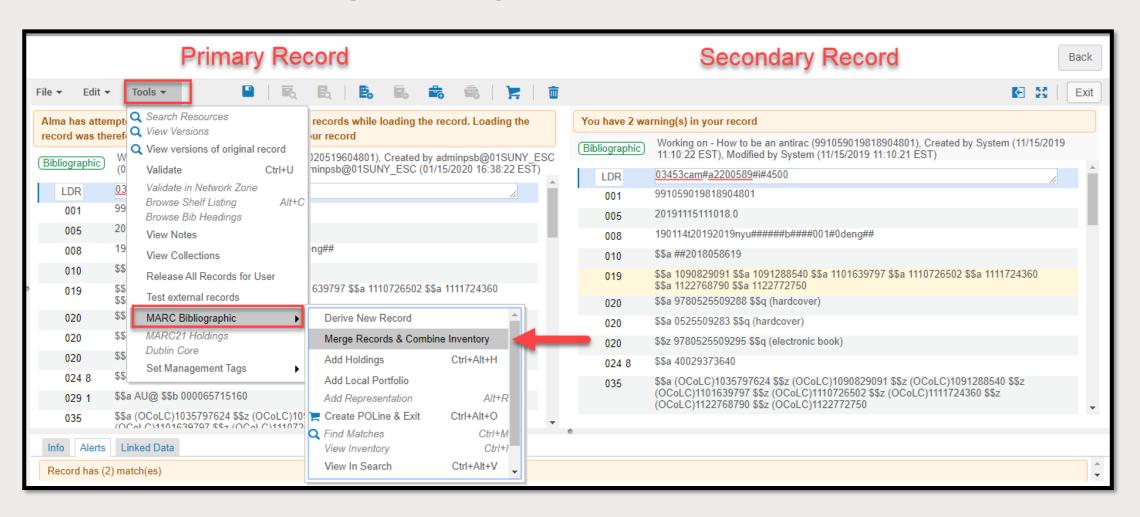
4. Click Back to Results to view the other record and/or to select the record to merge with



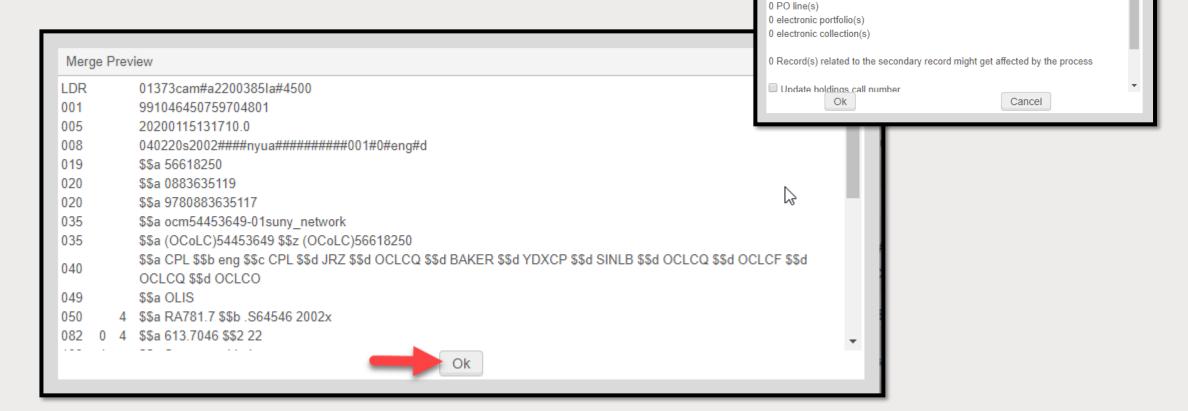
5. Click Edit from the record that has been chosen to be merged with



6. Go to Tools>MARC Bibliographic>Merge Records & Combine Inventory



- 7. The Merge Records & Combine Inventory screen pops-up
  - a) Choose merge routine: [select the merge rule]
  - b) Click "Show merge preview"
    - i. Preview the merge behavior
    - ii. Click Ok



Merge Records & Combine Inventory

(MMS ID: 991046450759704801). Choose Keep only old value

You are about to move the following:

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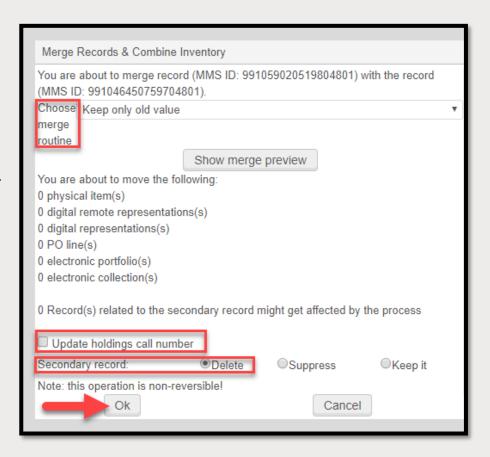
routine

0 physical item(s)

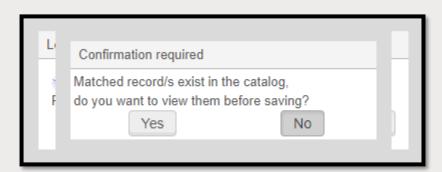
You are about to merge record (MMS ID: 991059020519804801) with the record

Show merge preview

- 7. The Merge Records & Combine Inventory continued
  - c) Update holdings call number
    - i. Depends on the merge routine and if the holdings call number should be updated
  - d) Secondary record: Delete
  - e) Click **Ok**
- 8. The newly merged bib record opens in the MD Editor
- 9. Click File>Save (Ctrl+S) or File>Save and Release Record (Ctrl+Alt+R)



- 10. Confirmation box with the following message appears because there are more matching records: "Matched record/s exist in the catalog, do you want to view them before saving?"
  - a) Yes follow the steps above to merge records
  - b) No leaves two bib records with the same OCLC in the IZ or the NZ



- If there is more than one matching NZ record:
  - Check to see if there if inventory on all the NZ bib records
    - Perform a repository search by "Other System Number"



- Submit the NZ record to be deleted to the NZ Coordinator if there is not inventory on a NZ bib record with the same OCLC #
  - Go to the SUNY Shared LSP Overview Libguide: <a href="https://slcny.libguides.com/">https://slcny.libguides.com/</a>
    - Click Communication Channels
    - Click Form and Contacts for SLSS
    - Click Request to Delete to Delete NZ Bib Records
    - Fill out the request form

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION



#### **Supporting Documentation**

- FAQ: How do I reduce the number of matching bib records a bib record is matching with in the MD Editor?
- Ex Libris Documentation: Merging Bibliographic records
- Ex Libris Documentation: Working with Merge Rules
- Ex Libris Documentation: <u>Configuring BIB Redirection Fields</u>