

# Important info on imports

January 10 2022

Did you get new books for the new year? Adding records to Alexandria is probably something you're pretty familiar with. But do you know all the great resources we have in our support center to help make importing a breeze?

The screenshot shows the Alexandria import interface. On the left is a 'Categories' sidebar with links to Patrons, Items, Textbooks, Circulation Groups, Images, and Special. The main area has two tabs: 'Quick' and 'Saved'. The 'Imports' tab is active, showing a 'Choose File' button (labeled 'No file chosen') and a 'Field Mapping' button. Below these is a note: 'All tab delimited format import files that do not have a header will require field mapping.' The 'Settings' tab is also visible, showing 'Import Settings' (with a 'Skip First Record' checkbox), 'Defaults' (with dropdowns for Site, Patron Policy, and Security Group), 'Barcode Handling' (with a 'Starting Patron Barcode' field and radio buttons for 'Assign new Barcodes' and 'Use Barcodes in Import File'), and 'Patron Updates' (with radio buttons for 'Always Create New Records on Import' and 'Allow Import to Modify Existing Records'). At the bottom right of the settings area are buttons for 'Create Saved Import' and 'Run'.

First, let's review best practices for running imports.

- We recommend that you schedule imports when Alexandria is not busy, because large imports can slow down your system. This also makes it easier to track down any problems later on, as it isolates activity during that time.
- Files should be smaller than 50 MB.
- The format of the file may be MARC, MicroLIF, or tab-delimited. In the case of tab-delimited, we recommend using [Item Field Mapping](#). Otherwise, you'll need to manually adjust it by clicking Field Mapping for each import.
- Create Saved Imports to save the settings you use most often, including Field Mapping (v7 only).

## More *important* resources...

- [Importing MARC Records from a Vendor](#)
- [Refresher—Adding records](#)
- [Import](#)
- [Import eBooks](#)
- [Quick Items Import](#)
- [Move Copy to This Title](#)

As always, you can contact our stellar support team for assistance at [support@goalexandria.com](mailto:support@goalexandria.com), with any additional questions you may have.



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