



Testing Alma's AI Metadata Assistant for Cataloging Korean Materials: Michigan Library Case Study

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Myung Hee Kim/ Korean Cataloger

The logo consists of a stylized yellow 'M' followed by a vertical bar and the word 'LIBRARY' in white capital letters.



Overview

- Alma AI Metadata Assistant
- Testing Project
- Project Objectives
- Observations
- Takeaways

What Is Alma's AI Assistant?



- Alma is our local library management system.
- Alma's AI assistant can support cataloging work.
- It can
 - Enhance existing cataloging records
 - Create new creating records

How Project Began in Michigan Library

- Full version released in February 2025
- Alma Coordinating Committee(ACC)
 - To explore the accuracy of this tool and implications for our work
 - To develop a framework for supported but voluntary use of the AI
 - As a proposal to broadly test, assess, and report on



Alma Metadata Editor

AI Assistant testing project

- Balancing Opportunity and Caution
- Alma Coordinating Committee(ACC) chairs hold diverse opinions on the use of generative AI
 - The opportunity to influence the adoption of new technology, and inform broader decisions related to AI use in our library
 - Carrying risks, such as potential hallucination and bias



Project Timeline

- Preparation phase took place in October 2025.
- Six-month testing period, running from November 2025 through April 2026
- Bimonthly meetings with the testing group.
- ACC chairs will prepare and share out a report.



Project Objectives

1. Testing the Metadata Editor AI Assistant

- Conduct a six-month evaluation
- Use materials from assigned cataloging work
- Apply outlined criteria to assess the tool
- Gather evidence to inform future decisions about AI use



Project Objectives

2. Evaluate the tool's general usability

- Identify strengths and limitations in day-to-day use
- Determine how well the tool supports existing metadata

workflows



Project Objectives

3. Assess Record Quality

- Evaluate accuracy, completeness, and consistency
- Identify common errors or areas
- Determine what training, guidance, or documentation for staff



Project Objectives

4. Measure Workflow Impact

- Track time spent updating records
- Measure time required to review and correct inaccuracies
- Compare perceived efficiency with actual correction needs



Project Objectives

5. Gather Tester Feedback

- Regular informal conversations with testers
- Encourage staff to share observations and concerns
- Use tester feedback to refine evaluation criteria and project direction



Testing guidelines



- Participants will spend 1-2 hours per week
- Use a google form for:
Format/Accuracy/Time/
Cognitive Load

The screenshot shows a Google Form in a web browser. The form has two main sections with radio button options and an 'Other' field for each.

Section 1: How successful were you in creating a record with the AI assistant?

- ☐ Not at all successful
- ☐ Somewhat successful
- ☐ Very successful
- ☐ Other: _____

Section 2: How insecure, discouraged, frustrated, irritated, stressed, and/or annoyed were you while using the AI assistant?

- ☐ I experienced many of these negative emotions using the AI assistant.
- ☐ I experienced a few of these negative emotions.
- ☐ I did not experience any negative emotions using the AI assistant.
- ☐ Other: _____

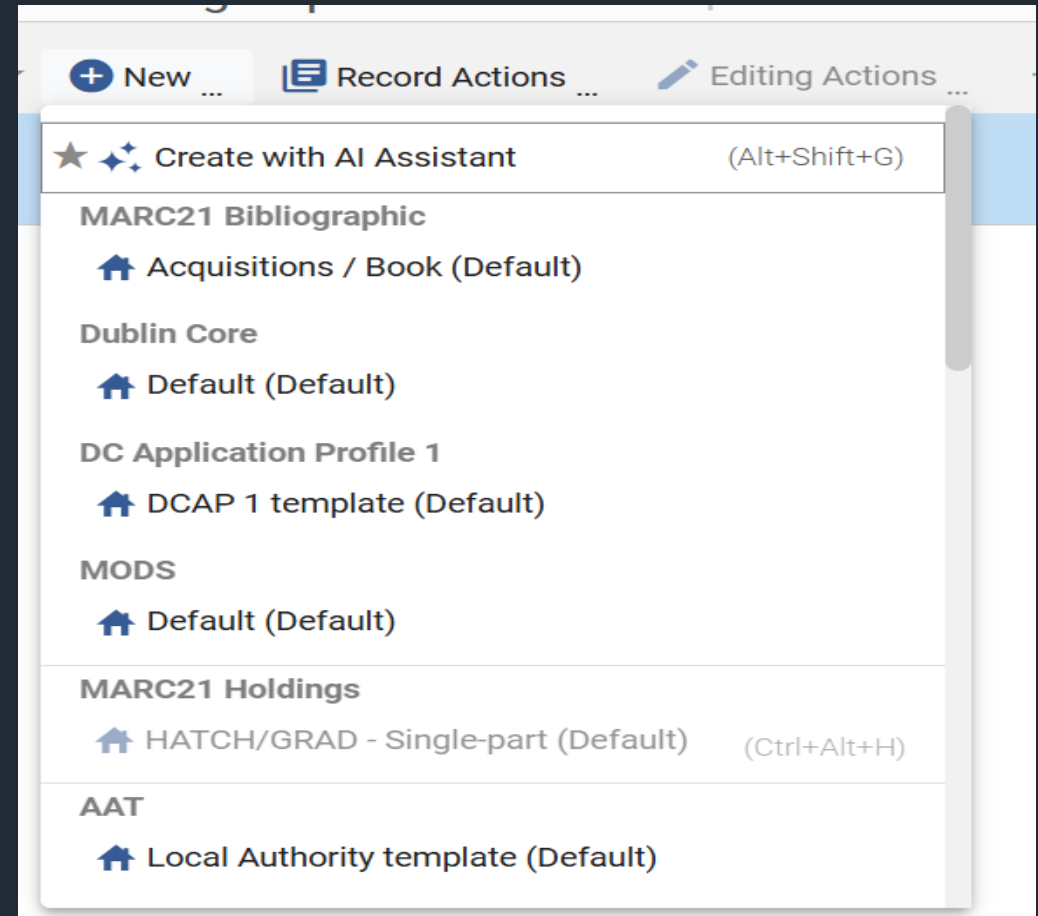
At the bottom, there is a text area with the prompt: 'Use this space to note specific limitations, other observations, or add your name if appropriate.'

appropriate.

Creating a New Record



- In the Metadata Editor, under **New**, select **Create with AI Assistant**.



include a caption and alt text for images when appropriate.

Creating a New Record



1. Enter information into a template

- Generates a brief record

2. Upload book images

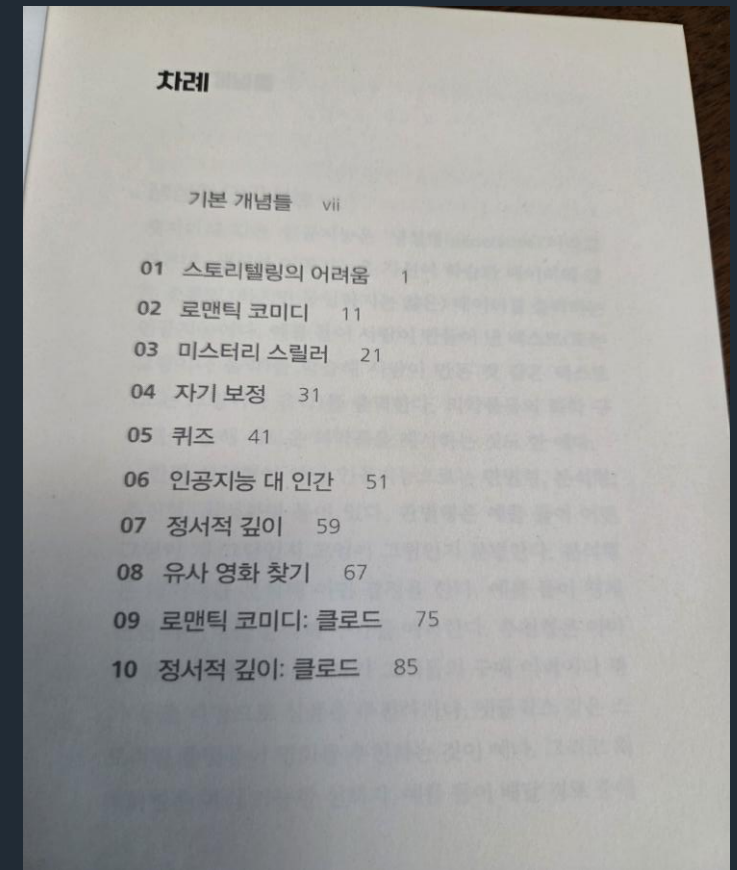
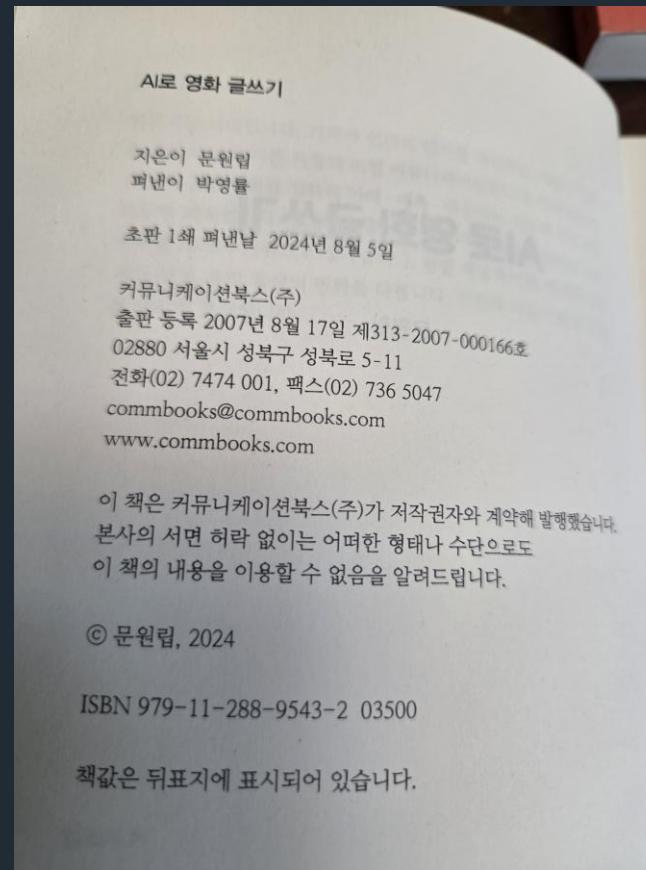
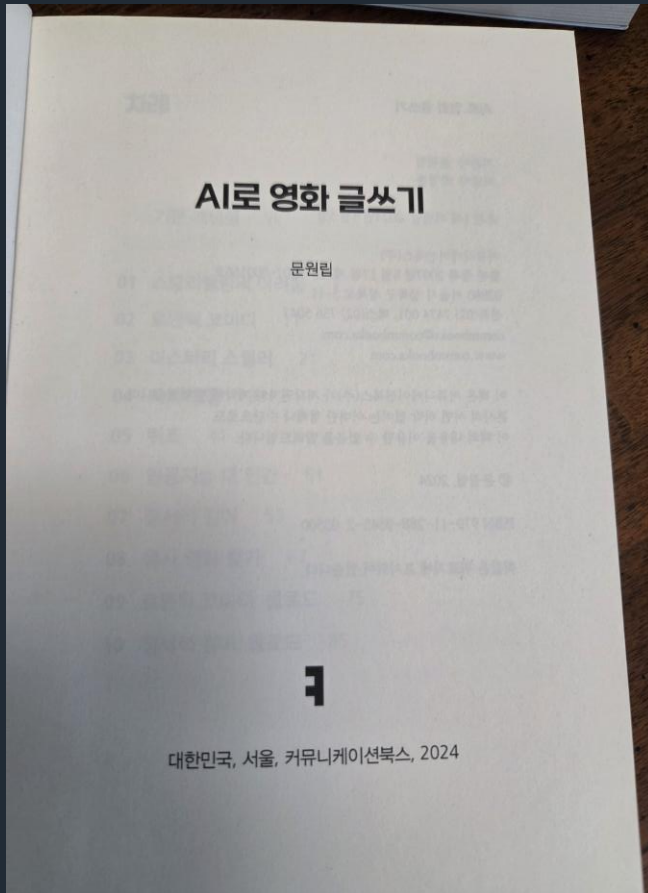
- Up to 4 files

- Cover page/Title page/Table of Contents/Colophon

The screenshot shows a web form titled "New Record From AI Assistant". Below the title is a descriptive sentence: "Enter the metadata and/or images you want to use to generate the record. The new record draft will be pushed to MDE when ready." The form is organized into two columns. The left column contains five text input fields, each with a placeholder "Enter Text Here": "Title*", "Author", "ISBN", "Content Note", and "Summary Note". The right column contains three dropdown menus: "Record Format" (set to "Marc21"), "Expand from Template" (set to "Select a value"), and "Requested Metadata*" (set to "Requested Metadata: All"). Below these is another dropdown menu labeled "Extract Text Using*" with the option "AI Metadata Assistant" selected. At the bottom of the form is an "Attachments" section with the text "Upload up to 4 images of the book (e.g. back cover, colophon)" and a camera icon. Below this is a dashed rectangular box containing the text "Drop a file or Browse files". At the very bottom right are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Generate Record".

appropriate.

Creating a New Record



Include a caption and alt text for images when appropriate.

Enter Title and Upload Images

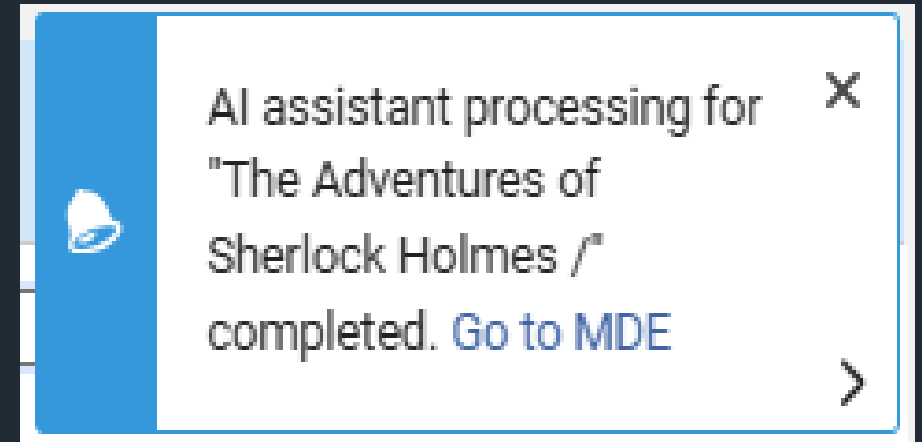


1. **Title** is the only required field.
2. Enter the book title.
3. Browse and upload images.
4. Click **Generate Record**.

AI Processing Time



- At first, no results may appear.
- Notification appears on the right-hand side.
- Processing takes about **40–70 seconds**.
- You can continue with other tasks while waiting.

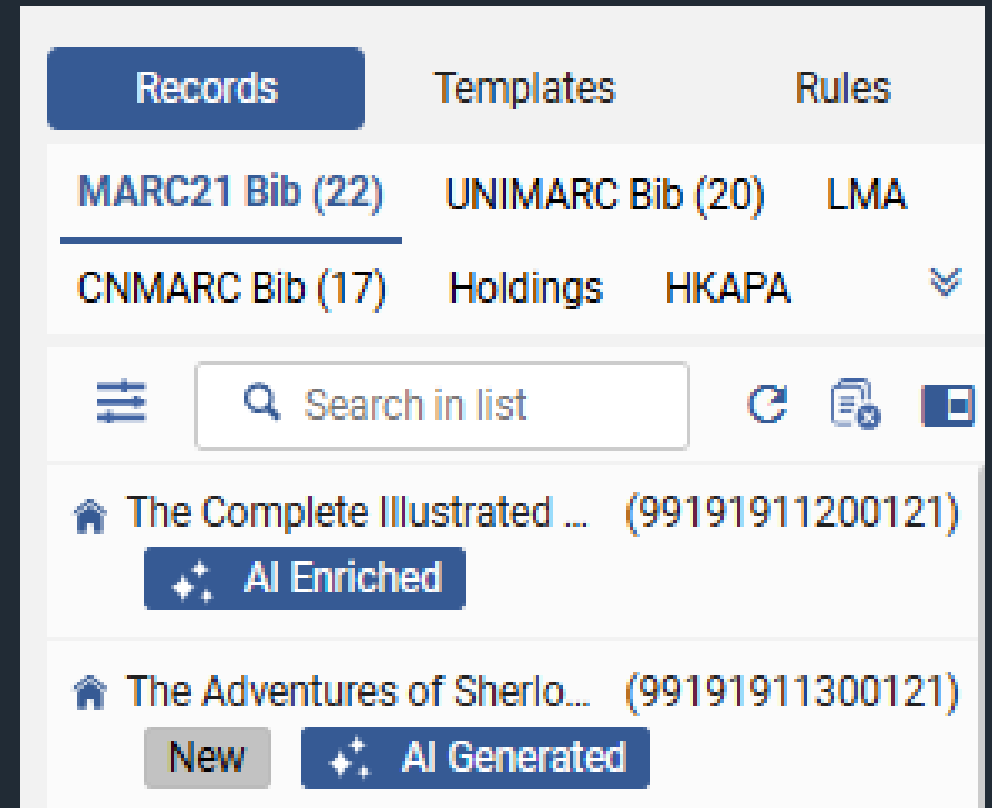


Viewing the Generated Record



Record Generated

- A new tab appears in the left-hand panel.
- Click the tab to open the generated record.



Reviewing AI Generated Metadata

- The generated record include:

- Author

- Title

- Publisher

- Summary note/General note

The screenshot displays the Alma library system interface. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'All titles', 'Keywords', and 'Copy'. The main content area shows a record for 'AI로 영화 글쓰기' (AI Movie Writing) with the following details:

- Record ID:** 9791128895432
- Title:** AI로 영화 글쓰기 / Mun Wöl-lip.
- Author:** 문원립 (Mun Wöl-lip)
- Publisher:** 대한민국, 서울 : 커뮤니케이션북스 (Daehanmin'guk, Seoul : Komyunik'eisyon Puksu, 2024)
- Summary note/General note:** This book, written in Korean, explores the process of writing film scripts using artificial intelligence. It covers topics...

The interface also shows a 'Draft saved at 5:34:53 PM.' message and a warning: 'You have 2 warning(s) in your record - 5:34:53 PM.' The bottom status bar indicates the time as 5:35 PM on 4/29/2026.

Reviewing AI Generated Metadata

- **520 field** Indicates the field was generated by AI (#7 Generated by AI)
- **588 field** notes that part of the metadata was created with AI assistance

The screenshot displays the Alma library system interface. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'All titles', 'Keywords', and 'Copy 895432'. The main content area shows a record titled 'AI로 영화 글쓰기 (99189114731506381)' with a 'Draft' status. The record details include a description of the book, which explores the process of writing film scripts using artificial intelligence. The 520 field is highlighted, indicating it was generated by AI. The 588 field notes that part of the metadata was created with AI assistance. The interface also shows a sidebar with navigation options like 'Alma Sandbox', 'Acquisitions', 'Resources', and 'Hide MDE'. A status bar at the bottom indicates 'Draft saved at 5:34:53 PM.' and 'You have 2 warning(s) in your record - 5:34:53 PM.'

Example

LIBRARY

Alma Sandbox

Acquisitions

Resources

Hide MDE

Configuration

All titles

Keywords

Copy 895432

Close

Home

Search

Hatcher Graduate - HATCH...

Profile

Help

20

More

Records

All titles

Keywords Contains 9791128895432

Home

Less Items

Search Resources

Save

New

Record Actions

Editing Actions

Add Inventory

View Related Data

Order

Search & Browse

Quick links

AI로 영화 글쓰기 (99189114731506381)

Feedback

Record

New

Draft

AI Generated

MARC21 Bib

75

LDR #####nam#a22#####a#4500

008 #####s#####xx#####000#0#####d

020 ‡a 9791128895432

041 0 ‡a kor

100 1 ‡a 문원립 ‡e author ‡4 aut

245 0 0 ‡a AI로 영화 글쓰기

264 1 ‡a 대한민국, 서울 ‡b 커뮤니케이션북스 ‡c 2024

336 ‡a text ‡b txt ‡2 rdacontent

337 ‡a unmediated ‡b n ‡2 rdamedia

338 ‡a volume ‡b nc ‡2 rdacarrier

520 ‡a This book, written in Korean, explores the process of writing film scripts using artificial intelligence. It covers topics

AI ro yŏnghwa küŭ ssūgi / Mun Wŏl-lip.

Record

View Only

020 ‡a 9791128895432

035 ‡a (OCoLC)1587328071

035 ‡a (OCoLC)on1587328071

040 ‡a EYM ‡b eng ‡e rda ‡c EYM

050 4 ‡a PN1995.9.T43 ‡b M86 2024

100 1 ‡a Mun, Wŏl-lip, ‡e author.

880 1 ‡a 문 원립, ‡e author.

245 1 0 ‡a AI ro yŏnghwa küŭ ssūgi / ‡c Mun Wŏl-lip.

880 1 0 ‡a AI 로 영화 글 쓰기 / ‡c 문 원립.

250 ‡a Ch'op'an.

880 ‡a 초판.

264 1 ‡a Taehan Min'guk, Sŏul : ‡b K'ŏmyunik'eisyŏn Puksŭ, ‡c 2024.

880 1 ‡a 대한 민국, 서울 : ‡b 커뮤니케이션 북스, ‡c 2024.

300 ‡a xxii, 92 pages ; ‡c 19 cm.

Draft saved at 5:34:53 PM.

You have 2 warning(s) in your record - 5:34:53 PM.

Back to results

Import

Execute

1

Search

Windows Taskbar Icons

5:35 PM 4/29/2026

Example

The screenshot displays the Alma library system interface. The top navigation bar includes the Alma logo and a search bar. The left sidebar contains navigation links for Alma Sandbox, Acquisitions, Resources, and Configuration. The main content area shows a record for an AI-generated book, "AI로 영화 글쓰기" (AI ro yŏnghwa gulsŭgi / Mun Wŏl-lip). The record is in draft status and contains two warnings. The record details include a title, author, and a description. The record is also linked to a list of related records.

Browser tabs: (no subj), Universit, Home, Record V, LCC Brov, Docume, Metadata, Korean, NPR.

URL: umich-psb.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/ng/alma/rep/search/all-titles/simple/results?se=st:~9791128895432,~sb:~all,~sc:~...

Navigation: All titles, Keywords, Copy 895432, X, Home, Search, Hatcher Graduate - HATCH...

Records List: Save, New, Record Actions, Editing Actions, Add Inventory, View Related Da, Order, Search & Brows, Quick links

Record Details: AI로 영화 글쓰기 (99189114731506381) Feedback, Record, New, Draft, AI Generated, MARC21 Bib, 75

Record Description: 337 \$a unmediated \$b n \$2 rdamedia
338 \$a volume \$b nc \$2 rdacarrier
520 \$a This book, written in Korean, explores the process of writing film scripts using artificial intelligence. It covers topics such as storytelling challenges, romantic comedy, mystery thriller, self-assurance, quizzes, the relationship between AI and humans, emotional depth, finding similar films, and specific genres like romantic comedy and emotional depth in the context of 'cloud.' The book is authored by 문원립 and published in Seoul, Korea, by 커뮤니케이션북스 in 2024. \$7 Generated by AI

Record Description: 520 \$a 이 책은 인공지능을 활용한 영화 글쓰기 과정을 다룹니다. 스토리텔링의 어려움, 로맨틱 코미디, 미스터리 스릴러, 자기 보정, 퀴즈, 인공지능 대 인간, 정서적 깊이, 유사 영화 찾기, 로맨틱 코미디: 클로드, 정서적 깊이: 클로드 등 다양한 주제를 포함하고 있습니다. 저자는 문원립이며, 2024년 서울 커뮤니케이션북스에서 출판되었습니다.

Record Description: AI ro yŏnghwa gulsŭgi / Mun Wŏl-lip. Record, View Only

Record Description: 250 \$a Ch'op'an.
880 \$a 초판.
264 1 \$a Taehan Min'guk, Sŏul : \$b K'ŏmyunik'eisyŏn Puksŭ, \$c 2024.
880 1 \$a 대한 민국, 서울 : \$b 커뮤니케이션 북스, \$c 2024.
300 \$a xxii, 92 pages ; \$c 19 cm.
336 \$a text \$2 rdacontent
337 \$a unmediated \$2 rdamedia
338 \$a volume \$2 rdacarrier
490 1 \$a In'gong chinŭng ch'ongsŏ ; \$v 036
880 1 \$a 인공 지능 총서 ; \$v 036
504 \$a Includes bibliographical references.
650 0 \$a Motion pictures \$x Technological innovations.
650 0 \$a Motion pictures \$x Plots, themes, etc.
650 0 \$a Creative writing \$x Computer programs.

Record Description: 650 0 \$a Artificial intelligence \$x Motion pictures.

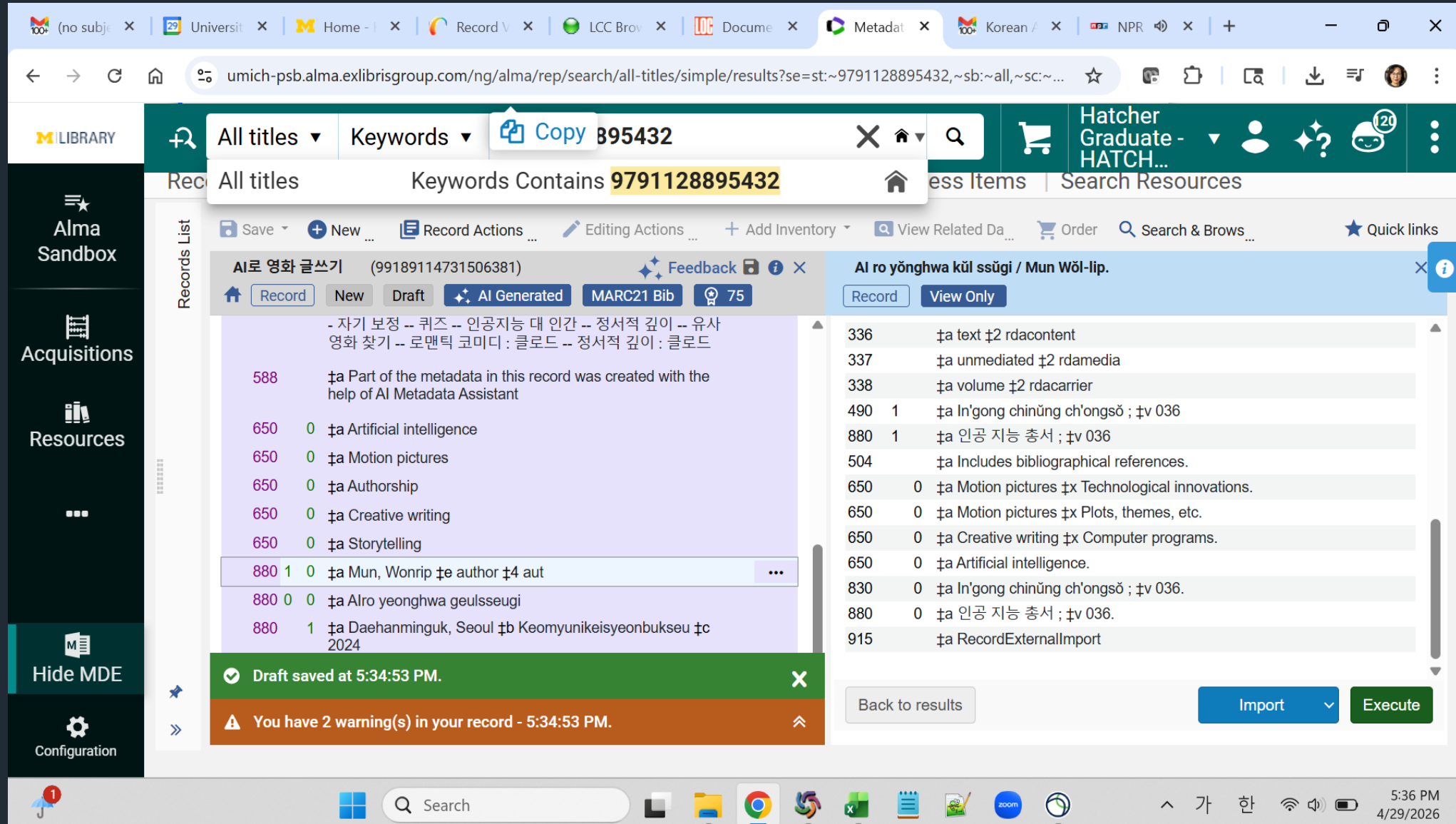
Record Description: Back to results, Import, Execute

Record Description: Draft saved at 5:34:53 PM.

Record Description: You have 2 warning(s) in your record - 5:34:53 PM.

System Tray: Search, Windows, Taskbar, Time: 5:35 PM 4/29/2026

Example



The screenshot displays the Alma library system interface. The browser address bar shows the URL: `umich-psb.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/ng/alma/rep/search/all-titles/simple/results?se=st:~9791128895432,~sb:~all,~sc:~...`. The interface includes a top navigation bar with tabs for 'All titles', 'Keywords', and 'Copy 895432'. A search bar contains the text 'Keywords Contains 9791128895432'. The left sidebar shows navigation options: 'Alma Sandbox', 'Acquisitions', 'Resources', 'Hide MDE', and 'Configuration'. The main content area displays a record for 'AI로 영화 글쓰기' (AI Movie Writing) with the ID (99189114731506381). The record is in 'Draft' status and is 'AI Generated'. The record details include a description in Korean, a list of subjects (Artificial intelligence, Motion pictures, Authorship, Creative writing, Storytelling), and a list of authors (Mun, Wonrip; Alro yeonghwa geulsseugi; Daehanminguk, Seoul; Keomyunikeisyeonbukseu). The record is also associated with the 'Mun Wöl-lip' collection. The interface includes a 'Records List' on the left, a 'Draft saved at 5:34:53 PM.' message, and a 'You have 2 warning(s) in your record - 5:34:53 PM.' message. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system clock indicating 5:36 PM on 4/29/2026.

Browser tabs: (no subj), Universit, Home, Record, LCC Brov, Docume, Metadat, Korean, NPR.

Address bar: `umich-psb.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/ng/alma/rep/search/all-titles/simple/results?se=st:~9791128895432,~sb:~all,~sc:~...`

Navigation bar: All titles, Keywords, Copy 895432, Hatcher Graduate - HATCH...

Search bar: Keywords Contains 9791128895432

Records List: Save, New, Record Actions, Editing Actions, Add Inventory, View Related Da, Order, Search & Brows, Quick links

Record details: AI로 영화 글쓰기 (99189114731506381), Feedback, Record, New, Draft, AI Generated, MARC21 Bib, 75

Record description: - 자기 보정 -- 퀴즈 -- 인공지능 대 인간 -- 정서적 깊이 -- 유사 영화 찾기 -- 로맨틱 코미디 : 클로드 -- 정서적 깊이 : 클로드

Record subjects: 588, 650, 650, 650, 650, 650, 880, 880, 880

Record authors: 880, 880, 880

Record collection: AI ro yŏnghwa kŭl ssŭgi / Mun Wöl-lip.

Record actions: Record, View Only

Record details: 336, 337, 338, 490, 880, 504, 650, 650, 650, 650, 830, 880, 915

Record messages: Draft saved at 5:34:53 PM., You have 2 warning(s) in your record - 5:34:53 PM.

Record buttons: Back to results, Import, Execute

Initial Observations and Limitations

Strengths

- Performs well with straightforward descriptive metadata
- Generates useful **520 summary** fields
- Generates useful **505 contents** fields



Initial Observations and Limitations

Limitations and Concerns

- Struggles with complex materials
- **300 field** does not populate
- Image input appears to constrain the tool's usefulness
- Recurring issues with **Korean romanization**
- Concern that staff time may shift toward scanning and imaging rather than cataloging work



Takeaway 1 — Keep Humans in the Loop

Responsible AI Use

- AI can support cataloging workflows.
- Staff review is still essential.
- Human judgment ensures:

Accuracy/Quality control/Policy compliance



Takeaway 2 — Test Before Adopting

Understand Strengths and Limitations

Before using an AI tool regularly:

- Assess its performance
- Identify errors or gaps
- Decide how it fits departmental workflows



Takeaway 3 — AI Tools Are Evolving

Be Ready for Change as Metadata Professionals

- Expand our knowledge on machine learning
- Provide feedback to AI-based cataloging and metadata solutions.
- Be cautious about bias and privacy issues
- Current tools will continue to improve.
- Stay flexible and open to new workflows.





Thank You!

