

## Local Holds Priority

At the November 10 NExpress meeting, the membership agreed to turn on Koha's "LocalHoldsPriority" system preference with the following settings:

GIVE priority for filling holds to patrons whose PICKUP LIBRARY matches the item's HOME LIBRARY.

This preference has not previously been turned on due to a bug in Koha that conflicted with the process that re-builds the holds queue. Now that this bug has been fixed, we can turn this preference on. The target date will be February 28, 2017, after closing.

Here's a walk thru example from the Test Server on how this will work:

There are 17 requests on the Large Print copy of THE BRETHREN by John Grisham in the test server. Copies are owned by ATCHISON, BASEHOR, BERN, BONNERSPGS, CENTRALIA, EVEREST, HIAWATHA, OSAWATOMIE, SABETHA, and WELLSVILLE. Each of these libraries has at least 1 request on the item - but before them in the holds queue are patrons from NORTONVILLE, PHAXTELL, OSKALOOSA, MCLOUTH, CORNING, CARBONDALE, and DONITROY.

Existing holds									
Priority		Patron	Notes	Date	Expiration	Pickup library	Details		
1	👍👍👍👍	1003008055977		11/09/2016		Nortonville Public Library	Next available	👇	✗
2	👍👍👍👍	1003008055986		11/09/2016		Prairie Hills Schools - Axtell Public School	Next available	👇	✗
3	👍👍👍👍	1003008055980		11/09/2016		Oskaloosa Public Library	Next available	👇	✗
4	👍👍👍👍	1003008055974		11/09/2016		McClouth Public Library	Next available	👇	✗
5	👍👍👍👍	1003008027543		11/09/2016		Corning City Library	Next available	👇	✗
6	👍👍👍👍	1003008027541		11/09/2016		Carbondale City Library	Next available	👇	✗
7	👍👍👍👍	1003008027547		11/09/2016		Doniphan County Library-Troy	Next available	👇	✗
8	👍👍👍👍	1003008055998		11/09/2016		Wellsville City Library	Next available	👇	✗
9	👍👍👍👍	1003008055993		11/09/2016		Sabetha, Mary Cotton Library	Next available	👇	✗
10	👍👍👍👍	1003008055979		11/09/2016		Osawatomie Public Library	Next available	👇	✗
11	👍👍👍👍	1003008027594		11/09/2016		Hiawatha, Morrill Public Library	Next available	👇	✗
12	👍👍👍👍	1003008027551		11/09/2016		Everest, Barnes Reading Room	Next available	👇	✗
13	👍👍👍👍	1003008027542		11/09/2016		Centralia Community Library	Next available	👇	✗
14	👍👍👍👍	1003008027539		11/09/2016		Bonner Springs City Library	Next available	👇	✗
15	👍👍👍👍	1003008027538		11/09/2016		Bern Community Library	Next available	👇	✗
16	👍👍👍👍	1003008027536		11/09/2016		Basehor Community Library	Next available	👇	✗
17	👍👍👍👍	1003008027534		11/09/2016		Atchison Public Library	Next available	👇	✗

Update hold(s)

When LocalHoldsPriority is set as we plan to set it, if the copy from ATCHISON is the first copy to be checked in, Koha will fill the request at ATCHISON first – even though the patron from ATCHISON is #17 in the requests queue.

**Hold found**  
00105000250271: The brethren /

**Hold for:**

- TEST. ATCHISON (1003008027534)
- 4317 W 6th St
- Lawrence 66049
- 785-838-4090
- gwilliams@nekls.org

**Transfer to: Atchison Public Library**

Confirm hold and transfer

**Check in**  
Enter item barcode:

**Options**

Forgive overdue charges  
 Book drop mode

**Checked-in items**

Due date	Title	Author	Barcode	Home library	Holding library	Shelving location	Call number	Type	Patron	Note
12/02/2016 23:59 (overdue)	The brethren /	Grisham, John.	00105000250271	Atchison Public Library	NEKLS HQ	Adult	LP GRISHAM	BOOK Large Print	Frosty, Albert (ADULT)	

LocalHoldsPriority will always route the item to fill the top request for a patron at the branch that owns the item when an item is checked in – regardless of where that patron is in the request queue.

Once all of the request for all of the patrons at the owning library are filled, Koha will then fill all other requests for the item in the order they were placed.

There have been several question about this feature so here are some answers:

1. Q: Will Koha re-order the holds queue?

A: No. Koha does not re-order or re-number the holds queue. The requests are still in chronological order based on the dates the requests were placed. When Koha recognizes that an item has a request on it for a patron to pick up at the item’s home library, Koha merely fills that request out of order.

2. Q: Will the holds queue report still work the same way?

A: Yes. The only impact on the holds queue report will be that, if you have an item checked in and on the shelf, and if you have a request to be picked up at your library that is not at the top of the holds queue, the holds queue report will have you fill that hold first.

3. Q: If I have an item from another library that's currently checked out to a patron at my library and the person at the top of the holds queue is also at my library but there is someone lower in the holds queue who is picking up the item at the item's home library, what happens?

A: Koha will ask you to ship the item back to its home library to fill that hold. Koha will give priority to the holds scheduled to be picked up at the library that owns the item before it tries to fill any other holds.

4. Q: What will happen to the Local Hold . . . and Walkin . . . item types?

A: Currently there are 3 Local Holds item types and 3 Walkin item types. Local Hold Only; Local Hold Books; Local Hold Movies; Walkin Only; Walkin Books; and Walkin Movies. Local Hold Books and Walkin Books were created to allow libraries that had big enough budgets to restrict access to half of their new books for a limited amount of time (60 days) if they purchased multiple copies of those titles. Similarly, Local Hold Movies and Walkin Movies were created to allow libraries to restrict access to half of their new movies for a limited amount of time (30 days) if they purchased multiple copies of those titles. LocalHoldsPriority eliminates the need for those 4 item types because all items will get priority on requests at the libraries that own them.

Local Hold Only and Walkin Only, on the other hand, were created as item types to accommodate the needs of libraries to restrict access to items that are too awkward, or fragile to send through the courier, so they should not be removed from the system.

5. Q: Why is this taking so long.

A: We wanted to make sure it was going to work. First, we had to wait for the bug to be fixed (turning this preference on broke the holds queue) and we wanted to test and make sure it did exactly what it's supposed to do when we turned it on. Fortunately Plum Creek and SEKLS are both using this system preference and they haven't had any significant problems since the bug was fixed.

6. Q: Why are we doing this?

A: One of the biggest complaints that libraries in consortia always have is that Library A always feels like they spend their taxpayer's dollars on good, new, wonderful stuff but that their patrons never get the benefit of using that material because it's always checked out or on the hold shelf at Library B. And Library B feels the same way about Library A.

Setting this preference ensures that everyone will still be sharing materials at the same time that it ameliorates those concerns. Anyone can still place a request on items at other libraries and their patrons will still get those materials, but if a library has the budget to buy 10 copies of the new John Grisham book they will no longer have to pause when they're about to order those items and think about how long it may take for those items to satisfy the needs of their patrons because their patrons will always get first crack at dropping those items in the bathtub.