How to Convert Aleph GUI Help Files from WinHelp to HTMLHelp
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Introduction

Until version Aleph 15, the WinHelp format was the only format that was used by Aleph. The newer HTML Help format was introduced by Microsoft in 1997, and for many years both Help systems were supported by Microsoft. However, starting with Windows Vista the support of the old WinHelp system ended. Aleph introduced HTMLHelp in version 16, originally parallel to WinHelp. From version 20 on WinHelp is not included anymore in Aleph. Distributors and offices that did not localize HTMLHelp yet, are now forced to do so with the upgrade to version 20.

You have the option to start from scratch by following the document How to translate Aleph Help Files, which can be found in the Documentation Center. However, if you maintain a fully translated WinHelp, you might want to follow the more time-saving way of converting the old WinHelp files to HTMLHelp as described in this document.

Getting Started

Before you perform the conversion you must set up the directory structure.

To create the directories for the conversion:

1. Create two directories. For example, name one directory Aleph_OldHelp and the other one Aleph_NewHelp.

2. Put all your localized Help files (not the English ones) into the Aleph_OldHelp directory. Include files with the following extensions:
   - .hpj
   - .hlp
   - .cnt
   - .hh
   - .rtf

3. Create the following subdirectories within the Aleph_NewHelp directory:
   - Aadm (for Alephadm)
   - Acq (for Acquisition)
   - Cat (for Cataloging)
• CIRC (for Circulation)
• Com (for general topics)
• ILL (for Interlibrary Loan).

No subdirectories are required in the Aleph_OldHelp directory.

In the following chapters the conversion process for one module (CIRC) is explained. Repeat this process for every module.

Note: ILL in Aleph version 20 is identical to ILL2 of the older versions of Aleph. Since the old ILL module is no longer in use, do not convert the ILL Help files of those versions. Only convert the ILL2 files of the old version.

Converting WinHelp to HTMLHelp

To convert WinHelp to HTMLHelp:

1 Download Microsoft Help Workshop from the following location:

2 Open Help Workshop, and select File > New > Project. The following dialog box is displayed:

3 Select Convert WinHelp Project and click Next. The following dialog box is displayed:
4 Specify where your WinHelp project is located. The source is your old .hpj file, in this example circhlp.hpj. There is no need to specify the related Help files (.cnt, .rtf, etc.) because they are assumed to be in the same folder.

5 Specify the name of the project and where you would like it to be located. Choose the same name as the old file, but replace the extension hpj with hhp:

6 Click Next and Finish. There are three new files in your target directory: CircHlp.hhp, CircHlp.hhc, and CircHlp.hhk. In addition, a subdirectory named HTML is created, containing many HTML files. These files are produced from the original CircHlp.rtf file.

7 Move the .ali and .hh files from the original location to the new location. The following files are in the Aleph_NewHelp/Circ folder:

- CircHlp.hhp
Renaming the HTML Files

In order for the new HTML files to work with Aleph they must be renamed.

In the conversion process the HTML files are named arbitrarily, for example, circObj8.htm. Therefore, the files must be renamed to correspond to the .ali file. Use the Perl script, namehelp.pl, for this task:

```perl
#!/usr/bin/perl
use strict;
use Cwd;
use vars qw/ %opt /;
our $revmode = 0;
use Getopt::Std;
getopts( 'r', \%opt );
if ($opt{r}) { print "=== No file found for label ===\n"; $revmode = 1; }

if (@ARGV < 2)
{
  print "Usage: \$0. [-r] aliasfile htmldir\n";
  print "  mit: -r = file not found\n";
  exit (1);
}

my $aliasfile = $ARGV[0];
my $htmldir   = $ARGV[1];
my $workdir   = cwd();

if (! -d $htmldir)
{
  print "Cannot find directory \$.htmldir.\n";
  exit (1);
}
if (!open(ALIAS, $aliasfile))
{
  print "Unable to open aliasfile \$.aliasfile.\n";
  exit (1);
}
our @aliases = <ALIAS>;
```
close (ALIAS);

our @filelist = glob($htmldir."/*.htm");

foreach my $aliasline (@aliases)
{
    chomp($aliasline);
    my @alias = split('=', $aliasline);
    my $orgfile = &ref_found($alias[0], \@filelist);
    if ($revmode)
    {
        if (!$orgfile)
        {
            print $alias[0]."\n";
        }
    }
    elsif ($orgfile)
    {
        # print $alias[0]." = ".$orgfile."\n";
        my $newname = &replace_backslash($alias[1]);
        my $pos = index($newname, '/');
        if ($pos > 0)
        {
            my $newdir = substr($newname, 0, $pos);
            if (! -d $newdir)
            {
                print "Creating directory ".$newdir."\n";
                if (! mkdir($newdir)) { print "Error\n"; exit (1); }
            }
        }
        print "Copying ".$orgfile." to ".$newname."\n";
        my $cmd = 'cp '.$orgfile.' '.$newname;
        if (system($cmd))
        {
            print "Error copying ".$orgfile." to ".$newname."\n";
            last;
        }
    }
}

# Look for specific label in html-files
# ref_found()
{
    my $address = shift;
    my $htfiles = shift;

    foreach my $htfile (@$htfiles)
    {
        if (&look_for($address, $htfile))
        {
            return($htfile);
        }
    }
}
To rename the HTML files using the Perl script:

1. Upload the script to a UNIX server.
2. Upload the CircHlp.ali file to the server.
3. Create a directory named oldhtml.
4. Upload all HTML files created by the conversion process to the oldhtml directory.

The following files are on the server:

- namehelp.pl
- CircHlp.ali
- oldhtml (directory)
Do not mix files from different modules. For example, there is a file named `introduction.htm` in the Acquisitions as well as in the Cataloging and Circulation modules. If you have files from different modules in the `oldhtml` directory, the script fails to create the correct files.

5 Start the script with the following command:

```
namehelp.pl CircHlp.ali oldhtml
```

The script renames the files in the `oldhtml` directory and assigns the correct names to them.

6 After the process, download the corrected files and delete the old ones.

7 The files are renamed but the links are wrong. In the `.hhc` and `.hhk` files they point to the old names. Either correct these names manually, or open the original English file and translate them from scratch. The `.hhc` file generates the Table of Contents and the `.hhk` file generates the Index. Be aware that in the `.hhc` and `.hhk` files, if indentations and line breaks have been changed, the Help may not work properly.

8 Search for hyperlinks (A-HREF-links) and correct them manually.

   For example change:

   ```html
   <A HREF="acqh0sx0.htm">
   to:
   ```html
   <A HREF="CheckInListExpand.htm">

---

**Configuring the HHP File**

This is the main project file. You may either open this file in a text editor or open it with HTML Help Workshop. Verify that the following lines in the file are correct:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compiled file=AcqHlp.chm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents file=AcqHlp.hhc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index file=AcqHlp.hhk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default Window=main</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default topic=html\Introduction.htm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display compile notes=No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The name of the compiled file

The name of the Table of Contents file.

The name of the Index file.

The window to be used as the default

The topic displayed when the Help is opened from the GUI

If you want the compile notes displayed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Display compile progress=Yes</th>
<th>If you want the compile progress displayed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-text search=Yes</td>
<td>If you want full-text search capability in the Help file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language=0x40c French (France)</td>
<td>The language code and the name of the language. If you use HTML Help Workshop to work on this file, it automatically selects the code and the name. If not, find out the LCID code of your language in hexadecimal format and type it here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title=Acquisitions</td>
<td>The title displayed at the top of the Help window. Type a meaningful name in your language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also in the .hhp file is a list of all files related to the Help project and a link to the .hh files, for example:

```
[ALIAS]
#include AcqHlp.ali

[MAP]
#include AcqHlp.hh
```

---

**Compiling the Help**

Whenever something is changed in either the project files or the HTML files, you need to recompile the project and create a new .chm file.

After preparing all HTML files and all project files, open the .hhp file in HTML Help Workshop. With the buttons on the left side you can change and set options. Click the **Compile** button from the top bar to compile the Help.

When the compilation is finished, check the log for errors. Afterwards, open the .chm file and check it for errors.

---

**Note:** It is not possible to open a .chm file if it is located in a network directory.
Delivering the Help

The following files are delivered to your customers: .chm, .ali, and .hh. The other file types are not delivered but you should store them somewhere in order to be able to maintain the files and compile them again at a later point of time.

Copy the above-mentioned files to the alephcom/help/[lng] directory of the client that you want to package and deliver to your customers.

Maintaining the Help

When you receive new files from HQ, compare them to the old files. Use a file comparison tool (Total Commander, ExamDiff, etc.) to quickly see the differences between the old and new files. Apply the changes to your localized files.