How to Translate and Compile Aleph GUI Help Files
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Introduction

This document describes how to translate HTML Help files. Early versions of Aleph only contained WinHelp files. HTML Help was introduced in Aleph 16, and from Aleph 20 on the support of WinHelp ended. If you already have a translated WinHelp environment and want to convert it to HTMLHelp format, refer to How to Convert Aleph GUI Help Files from WinHelp to HTMLHelp located in the Documentation Center.

The .chm, .ali, and .hh Help files are located under Alephcom/Help/[lng]. These files are the only ones that are delivered to customers. However, in order to create and maintain these files, you need many more files. They should be maintained in a separate master folder.

The Directory Structure

To create the directory structure:

1. Create the following two directories on your local drive:
   - Aleph_Help with the original files from EXL HQ (ftp://tmpuser:ftp4all@212.179.57.155 - > Directory Aleph Help)
   - Aleph_Help_[lng] on your local drive (where lng is the three letter code of your language)

2. Under these directories create the following six subdirectories:
   - aadm
   - acq
   - cat
   - circ
   - com
   - ill

3. Load the following files into these directories:
   - .ali
   - .hh
   - .hhc
Create subdirectories named `html` under these directories. Put the HTML files in these directories.

The directories should look like this (directories are bold):

- **Aleph_Help**
  - `aadm`
    - `aadmhlp.ali`
    - `aadmhlp.hh`
    - `aadmhlp.hhc`
    - `aadmhlp.hhk`
    - `aadmhlp.hhp`
  - **html** (HTML files related to AlephAdm)
- `acq`
  - `acqhlp.ali`
  - `acqhlp.hh`
  - `acqhlp.hhc`
  - `acqhlp.hhk`
  - `acqhlp.hhp`
  - **html** (HTML files related to Acquisitions)
- `cat`
  - `cathlp.ali`
  - `cathlp.hh`
  - `cathlp.hhc`
  - `cathlp.hhk`
  - `cathlp.hhp`
  - **html** (HTML files related to Cataloging)
- `circ`
  - `circhlp.ali`
  - `circhlp.hh`
There are the following files and file types:

- **By Help chapter:**
  - AdmHlp – WinHelp file of the AlephAdm module
  - AcqHlp – WinHelp file of the Acquisitions module
  - CatHlp – WinHelp file of the Cataloging module
  - CircHlp – WinHelp file of the Circulation module
  - ComHlp – WinHelp files common to every module (for example relating to the search tab); therefore, they can be accessed from any module
  - I112Hlp – WinHelp file of the ILL module. Note that although the ILL2 module was renamed to ILL with the release of version 19, the Help files are still named ILL2.

- **By extension:**
  - .ali – These files link from a Help topic to the related HTML files in the subdirectory HTML.
- `.chm` – This is the compiled HTML Help file for the end user. If you recompile a Help file, delete this file and recreate it by running the `.hdp` file.
- `.hh` – These files are needed for finding the related Help topic when pressing the F1 key.
- `.hhc` – These files generate the Table of Contents of the Help menu.
- `.hhk` – These files generate the Index tab of the Help menu.
- `.hdp` – This is the central project file where you can work on all the links between the Help files and finally compile the Help.

Note that you may edit any file (except the `.chm` file) in a text editor.

**Translating the Help Files**

In the directory of each module there is a subdirectory named `HTML` that contains the HTML files. Translate these files with a text editor or a source code HTML editor.

**Translating the Project Files**

The following project file types must also be transferred when translating the Help:

- `.ali` – These files link Help topics to the related HTML files. This is an example of a line in an `.ali` file:
  
  ```
  ID_TABLE_CLOSE=html\ID_TABLE_CLOSE.htm
  ```

  Normally, you can take the `.ali` files from the English environment and copy them to your environment. You only need to change them if you have different names of subdirectories and/or files than in the English files.

- `.hh` – These files are identical for every language so copy them from the English environment to your environment without change.

- `.hhc` – These files build the Table of Contents. Either copy and translate the English tree or create your own tree. The following is an example of an `.hhc` file:

  ```
  <li><object type="text/sitemap">
    <param name="Name" value="Libraries Manager">
    <param name="Local" value="html\LibrariesManager.htm"
  </object>
  ```

  The `Name` line contains the text that you actually see in the Content tab. Translate this line. The `Local` line contains a link to the Help topic. Do not change this line unless it is necessary to fix directory and file names.

- `.hhk` – These files build the Index. Either copy and translate the English Index or create your own. The following is an example from an `.hhk` file:

  ```
  <li><object type="text/sitemap">
  ```
The first Name line contains the headline under which a topic is sorted. The second Name line contains the text that you actually see. The Local line contains a link to the Help topic.

- .hhp – This is the main project file. 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>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compiled file=AcqHlp.chm</td>
<td>The name of the compiled file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents file=AcqHlp.hhc</td>
<td>The name of the Table of Contents file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index file=AcqHlp.hhk</td>
<td>The name of the Index file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default Window=main</td>
<td>The window to be used as the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default topic=html\Introduction.htm</td>
<td>The topic displayed when the Help is opened from the GUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display compile notes=No</td>
<td>If you want the compile notes displayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display compile progress=Yes</td>
<td>If you want the compile progress displayed</td>
</tr>
<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:
Compiling the Help

You need the program HTML Help Workshop in order to do the compilation. It is freeware that can be downloaded from the following location:


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.