EXPANIA – Spanish Ex Libris Users Group Report to 2010 IGeLU National User Group Meeting

Ghent, 29th August 2010

Annual Meeting

Expania Anual Meeting has been stablished as the central activiy of the User Group. This year it was held in Santiago de Compostela, on May. Greendata (Ex Libris Spanish distributor) funding made possible to organize the meeting with a low cost for the group members. Number of attendees did not decrease regardless the heavy funding cuts suffered by Spanish public institutions, it can be interpreted as a sign of the the high interest this meeting has for the group members. A new Steering Committee was elected incorporating a member from the National Library (Biblioteca Nacional de España).

Aside from technical communications of group members and organizative issues, Primo was the central focus of interest during the meeting. It was interesting to hear the users point of view (Mandy Steward from the British Library and Merce Palomera from Generalitat de Catalunya, the only instalation of Primo in Spain currently in production) alongside the company outlook (Alan Oliver from Ex Libris). Many Spanish libraries are planning to install search & discovery tools, being Primo a clear candidate for Expania members, but drastic budget reduction that will have to face Spanish libraries for the next years will pose a serious drawback to introduce new products. Both, libraries and software company will have to make an effort adjusting budgtes and prices to introduce Primo in Spain.

Training

A workshop with th theme "Techniques to develop tutorials in information skills" was organized and imparted by some members of the group as a satellite activity of the meeting. A training working group has been organized to carry out workshops on specific topics given by the group members to make better use of the expertise which exists inside the group.

Knowledge Bases

The group has two working groups to scan regional resources and make requests for their inclussion in Metalib and SFX knowledge bases. During last year SFX group was specially active. Requests for inclusion of twelve new SFX targets were sent to Ex Libris using Pivotal, most of them could be voted using the "Me Too" mechanism and three of them have been already included in SFX KB. There are thirteen requests for Metalib configurations pending from June 2009, three of them have been included from then, it is not too much. Furthermore, the quality of the already included Metalib configurations was rated as low by requesting institutions. There is some doubts in the Spanish group about what will be the relation between the new NERS KB requests mechanism and the already existing "Me Too", because the later mechanism

has been successfully used by Spanish users until now and there are many members of Expania who are not IgeLU members.

Support

Spanish users are quite satisfied with Greendata / Ex Libris support. It improved and there are not important queries about it.

The Future

Library budgets cutbacks make uncertain the future. It will not be easy to start new projects and to keep on the state of the art in library technology.

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