



ACEF annual report

2014 IGeLU National User Group meeting

Oxford, 14th September 2014

Association

Founded in 2000, ACEF was formerly known as AUFA (*Association des Utilisateurs Franco-phones d'Aleph*). It changed its name during an extraordinary general assembly on February 12th 2007 and became then ACEF (*Association des Clients d'Ex Libris France*).

Membership

The ACEF user group consists of 41 member institutions in 2012, most of them are academic libraries. Most institution members are from France, two are from Belgium, and one from Quebec. Membership fee: 120 EUR.

Main issues since the latest IGeLU meeting

Aleph training

A 5-day training session was organized in Paris in June 2014. The training was given by Ex Libris and 7 institutions (12 people) registered. The training costs were shared by ACEF and institutions, each participating institution had to pay 400 EUR by participant for that 5-day training.

SFX training

A 2-day training session was organized in Paris in May 2014. The training was given by Mr Bernard Teissier (System librarian at Bibliothèque Diderot – Lyon). The training was free for the participants (x institutions) and Mr Teissier's expenses have been defrayed by ACEF.

Primo Training

A 3-day training session was organized in Paris in July 2014. The training was given by Mr Laurent Nabias (System Librarian at Bibliothèque Sainte-Barbe – Paris). The training was free for the participants (X institutions) and Mr Nabias' expenses have been defrayed by ACEF.

ACEF meeting in January 2014 (Paris)

This meeting was exceptionnaly opened to non-ACEF institutions. We have decided to make a special day "Primo in a consortial context" with several conferences:

- Limo for the LIBIS network, by Veerle KERSTENS, Project for LIBIS/KULeuven
- « EXPLORE project » : Primo in the swiss consortium RERO (network of western Switzerland libraries), by Charlotte DE BEFFORT, Manager of the Explore Project
- Primo at UPE, by Fabrice JONCKHEERE, Project Manager at PRES Université Paris Est.
- Interaction Primo-Alma, by Alan OLIVER, Business Development Director (Ex Libris)
- Primo in a consortium context, by Alan OLIVER, Business Development Director (Ex Libris)

NERS votes

Since ACEF is an IGeLU member, we centralize enhancement requests and voting wishes from our non-IGeLU members. By so doing, ACEF helps non-IGeLU members to have a say in the matter (even if it is very “diluted”). Another reason is that since ACEF counts as a voting force, it makes one more vote for local (French-speaking) resources. So far, ACEF has voted for Aleph, Primo, SFX CKB and MetaLib CKB enhancement requests.

ACEF meeting in June 2014 (Paris)

Products sessions (“user to user”) were organized:

- Printing reports without Aleph services, by Quentin Morelon (Université Paris Descartes)
- Reporting without ARC, by Quentin Morelon (Université Paris Descartes)
- Remind mails to users by SMS, by Pierre-Edouard Allary (Université Paris 3)
- Enriching SFX records in Primo, by Alexandre Faure (Bibliothèque Sainte-Barbe)

And a session of information :

- Ex Libris, evolution and prospect , by Koby Rosenthal, Corporate VP, General Manager Europe (Ex Libris)
- Alma at University of Salford, by Angela Walker, Digital Library Manager, University of Salford (Manchester)

Some of these .ppt presentations have been made available on the ACEF intranet.

On behalf of the ACEF user group
 Romain Le Nezet
 September 2014
<http://a-c-e-f.org>

Association of ALEPH users in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (SUAleph)

2014 Annual Report

Introduction

Association of ALEPH users in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (SUAleph) was established in spring 1996. It is an informal and open association with free admission. It unites 24 institutions. The sole distributor for ExLibris products is Mutlidata Praha spol. s r. o.

Collectively updated web page of SUAleph can be found at <http://www.sualeph.cz>

Meetings

SUAleph group meets two times a year, in spring and in autumn. The later comes after IGeLU conference, therefore ideas and conclusions from the conference are presented to local colleagues. The autumn meeting is traditionally held by Brno University of Technology, the spring meeting is hosted by some other member institution. Spring meeting of 2014 took place at the Academic Library of University of South Bohemia (in České Budějovice).

Topics

Since 2013 report two meetings (autumn 2013 and spring 2014) were held with following main topics (both formal and informal):

Primo installations

So far, three institutions have selected Primo as their discovery solution. Accidentally, each of them in a different mode. University of Pardubice runs Primo as SaaS provided by Multidata (local distributor), Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information has local installation and Brno University of Technology subscribes to the Total Care outsourced program (distant cloud server maintained and supported by Ex Libris). This variety may bring helpful comparative experience.

Future upgrades

In the last report I wrote about problems that big libraries have with fast succession of new versions of Aleph. The complexity of their business forces them to postpone the transitions as far as possible. This results into the strategy of omitting every other version and upgrade bi-versionally (e.g. from 20 to 22). Moreover, smaller libraries tend not to precede the big ones with upgrades. Which, to a certain extent, negates Ex Libris' strategy of faster upgrade cycle.

Content expansion

Rather peculiar but still noticable trend can be observed regarding the variety of Aleph items. Libraries, with intentions to meet users' requests as well as practical institutional needs, started to lend various non-bibliographic items via the system. Ranging from rather standard e-book readers, over chairs (study places) to umbrellas and frisbees.

Alma

Although coming of Alma into The Czech Republic is nowhere near, some movement can be seen. Ex Libris is slowly approaching libraries' representatives with offers of Alma & Primo as a next generation solution (Ex Libris solution days in Bratislava and Olomouc).

Future

The cancer of requests for efficient spending of already cut-down budgets has affected the selection processes of discovery systems so far. It is possible, that it will claim its toll on ILS as well. There is a certain threat that some institutions will be forced to abandon reliable solution (Aleph) in favor of the one offered by the lowest bidder regardless of other qualities.

DACHELA - Ex Libris Users Group of the German speaking countries

Report for INUG 2014

Membership:

In 2014 we have managed to bring together 65 member institutions (of which three are new) ; luckily the Membership fee is stable with EUR 50.- for IGeLU members and EUR 100.- for others.

General Activities:

National User Group Organisation – DACHELA

This year, around 65 DACHELA Members met for their annual meeting at the University of Graz (Austria) from the 23th to the 24th of April.

During the two days meeting we have covered the variety of Ex Libris products and tried to serve all German speaking users. The presentations from users and Ex Libris were very informative and interesting discussions have taken place. Roger Brisson presented the Alma development during the last two years giving the audience an idea on how much the customers have directed the development of Alma through their needs.

Besides different perspectives on Alma the annual information on product developments from Ex Libris took place, giving us e.g. more insight to the project-planning and about specially needed new features for the german speaking community for starting to work with Alma.

The session about Primo with different best practice studies as well as user reports on Primo in the cloud opened the way for lively discussions on a variety of details on how Primo is used in the libraries. Another important theme was the acquisition of e-books, as some of the libraries or library networks have developed new and functionally interesting tools for e.g. patron-driven acquisition or about activating e-books with the help of SFX.

For the last session about data-analysis, data-correction and data-security in the cloud the mixture of participants – either new or experienced users of Ex Libris products – was very helpful so that an intensive discussion of the german speaking user-group could take place.

Also, after the two year term, we had to run elections for some of the members of the Executive Committee at the DACHELA-Meeting. The re-elected members of the DACHELA Executive Committee are the following:

- **Cash Manager** – Wolfgang Hamedinger, OBVSG
- **Coordinator of Product Specific Working Groups** – Dr. Mathias Kratzer, BVB
- **Comptroller** – Marian Alexander Jazwik, WU Wien
- **IGeLU Liaison Officer** – Dr. Silke Schomburg, hbz

The next encounter in 2015 will take place in Oldenburg (Germany).

On behalf of the user group:

Dr. Silke Schomburg – IGeLU Liaison Officer
Hochschulbibliothekszenrum NRW

Dr. Michael Voß – DACHELA Chairperson
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Universitätsbibliothek

EPUG-UKI

Ex Libris Products User Group, UK and Ireland

IGeLU Conference Sunday 14th September 2014 **Report from EPUG UKI**

Current Committee:

Mandy Stewart – Chair
Paula Fitzpatrick – Secretary
Eddie Alaszewski – Treasurer
Amy Warner – Ordinary member

Activities in 2013/14

Two day Conference held 14th to 15th October 2013 at the University of Nottingham Trent
New Secretary and Treasurer appointed
Presentations by Ex-Libris staff and customers

AGM held 7 April 2014 at the British Library
Presentations by Ex-Libris staff and customers

Special meeting held 29th January at University of Sheffield

Alma UK Libraries - EPUG - Exchange of Experience Day

This Alma exchange of experience event was for libraries in the UK who are currently live with, or are in the process of moving to, Alma.

One day Conference planned for 13th October 2014 at the British Library
Presentations by Ex-Libris staff and customers

One day special meeting planned for 14th October at the British Library
Alma Analytics

Mandy Stewart
Chair EPUG UKI
September 2014

EXPANIA – Spanish Ex Libris Users Group Report to INUG 2014

<http://www.expania.es>

Membership

Membership of the Spanish Group decreased from 15 to 14 full members (paying quota and having voting rights). Membership is decreasing from 2012 (19 members that year), in some cases to avoid the payment of the quota (150 euros), but in most cases because the institutions ceased to use EL products (SFX/Metalib users that switched to EL competitors discovery tools). Apart from the formal members, other institutions not formally registered as group members normally cooperate with Expania.

Communication Channels

The Expania distribution list has 173 members and it is used by the group members and by Greendata (EL distributor in Spain) to communicate news and incidents. Web site (<http://www.expania.es>) is mainly used for Annual Meeting organization and to distribute the content of the meeting. Most of the Steering Committee meetings are online meetings.

Annual Meeting

Expania Annual Meeting was held in Valencia, on June 5th. Length of meeting was reduced to one day, as the year before, for easier attendance. A practical workshop about “Building Aleph Services”, addressed to technical staff and taught by an Expania member, was organized as a satellite activity. The annual meeting was attended by 60 persons, from 16 institutions, Greendata, Ex Libris and the Portugal Users EL Group (USE.pt).

The meeting program was mainly centered on interoperability issues, with several communications of Expania libraries about experiences of integration between ILS and academic management systems, one more theoretical speech about integrated platforms and discovery tools and a presentation by EL about integration of Linked Open Data in Ex Libris products, focused on Primo. We also invited to a member of the Portuguese User Group (USE.pt) that talked about the users group and libraries situation and perspectives in Portugal after five years of cuts and economic crisis (not very optimistic).

Changes in EL policy

Ex Libris has contracted a person (Eduardo Lancho) to marketing issues in Spain directly and he attended the meeting and introduced himself to the customers. It does not mean that EL will leave aside the current Spanish distributor (Greendata) to act directly. The Spanish users keep on contracting products with Greendata and they receive support also from Greendata. Eduardo is devoted to marketing issues and, as his first action, he is trying to collect a group of institutions to form an early adopters group for Alma. The market is not very clear for Alma in Spain because the potential clients (Universities, Research Libraries, Consortia) had very heavy cuts in their funding during the last years and the now the budgets are absolutely freezed, so it will be difficult to address major software changes. Budgetary cuts are currently a major factor in the evolution of library software in Spain.

Support

Most of the support is given by Greendata (Spanish distributor) and it is correct. Proximity and the ability to communicate in Spanish are highly valued by customers. When an incident is escalated from Greendata to EL, response is slower and support is not as highly rated as the support given by Greendata. Aleph support for some institutions is provided directly by Ex Libris Germany. There have been some queries for EL behavior regarding upgrading and migration. There queries were not about the quality but about the extension of support. When an incident did not fit exactly the points in the support contract EL quickly wanted to sell its resolution as an extra service (and not exactly cheap).

SC:

- Chair: Gaspar Olmedo (Spanish Research Council Library Network)
- Deputy chair: Marina Losada (Pompeu Fabra University Library)
- Treasurer: Carmen Rodriguez (Galicia Regional Health Care System Libraries)
- Secretary: Inmaculada Ribes (Valencia Polytechnic University Library)

03.09.2014

National Library Network Services

National Ex Libris User Group: Finland

Consortia

Linnea2 Consortium consists of 18 universities (including the National Library), six special libraries (including the Library of Parliament and the National Repository Library), and four libraries of universities of applied sciences (UAS). Altogether the consortium members have around twenty local library databases, and four national or union catalogue databases maintained by the National Library.

AMKIT Consortium consists of 25 universities of applied sciences (former polytechnic colleges) most of whom have their individual Voyager databases. Four UAS libraries are also members of Linnea2 and have shared databases with local university libraries. In addition to managing Voyager cooperation, the Consortium coordinates many other cooperative projects of the UAS libraries.

FinELib Consortium is a consortium of Finnish universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutes and public libraries. The aim of the Consortium is to acquire electronic resources centrally on behalf of its member organisations. The electronic resources are accessed through the Nelli portal.

Software

Voyager

Apart from the national union catalogue Melinda, all databases in both Consortia are using Voyager. The current version of this integrated library system in Consortia's production databases is 8.1.1. Last of the 7.2.1 -> 8.1.1 migration related problems that shadowed year 2012 have gone away with Oracle database update. The pros and cons of updating to the latest Voyager version are being considered.

Aleph

The union catalogue Melinda uses Aleph. The present version is 20.2.6. Melinda, formerly named Linda, was using Voyager Universal Catalogue until the end of 2008, when the current version using the Aleph Central Catalogue model was created.

MetaLib and SFX

The Nelli portal operates with MetaLib and SFX software. Nelli customers can be given a username and password for personalised services, such as resource lists and a personal electronic bookshelf. The Nelli portal was brought into use in January 2005 in universities. In public libraries, the Nelli portal was introduced in October 2004, and in libraries of universities of applied sciences (polytechnics) at the beginning of 2005. The address of the Nelli portal of all the libraries is www.nelliportaali.fi. The present version of Metalib is 4.5.5 and SFX is 4.6.1.

03.09.2014

National Library Network Services

Functions and Projects

Melinda - the Finnish Union Catalogue (formerly called Linda)

The planning of the expansion of the Finnish union catalogue to cover all library sectors in Finland has been going on through the last years.

UAS libraries

The first UAS libraries joined the union catalogue through mergers with university libraries. Aleph license was purchased for all UAS libraries at the end of 2011. All of the UAS libraries using Voyager have joined Melinda during 2013 and 2014.

Public libraries

The public sector libraries have purchased the Aleph license at the end of 2010. The first public libraries are now piloting the use of Aleph.

Asteri Authority File

In Melinda Aleph there is a separate database for authority records and Finland is now developing a bilingual authority database. The use of thesauruses, personal and corporate names (maintained by the National Library) is currently being piloted. Negotiations for joining VIAF are on the agenda and sharing name authorities with museums and archives has been discussed as well.

Finna - the National Digital Library project

In the end of March 2010 the national digital library project published its enterprise architecture: <http://www.kdk.fi/en/enterprise-architecture>. In August Ex Libris Group was chosen to implement National Digital Library's Public interface with Primo software. The piloting phase ended in December 2011 and Primo was discarded as the software solution for the public interface. From the beginning of 2012 The National Library has been developing the public interface as an open source solution based on VuFind: <http://www.kdk.fi/en/public-interface>. In January 2013 Primo Central Index was chosen as the central index solution for Finna. Both SFX and MetaLib have been integrated into Finna in 2012, as well.

Annual Report from the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries for Igelu National User group (INUG) 2014

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“Landskerfi bókasafna hf.”/ Consortium of Icelandic Libraries, www.landskerfi.is is a public limited-liability company. The company is jointly owned by the municipalities and the state of Iceland. Participating libraries pay a service fee depending on size. The consortium operates the following systems and services from Ex Libris: Aleph 500, SFX, Primo, Primo Central Index and bX recommender services. It also operates Sarpur, a cataloging system for museums and cultural heritage institutions in Iceland.

The Icelandic User Group for the Aleph libraries is called Alefli. It is a formal association that acts as a support for the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries. Due to consortia setup there is just one IGeLU vote for all the consortia libraries.

1. Gegnir – The National Library System of Iceland

Gegnir, www.gegnir.is, is a national library system for Iceland. It serves as a union catalog as well as a library system for about 280 libraries. Among the member institutions are the National and University Library of Iceland, universities, most public libraries, and primary and secondary schools as well as research and special libraries. Gegnir is a brand for the Aleph software from Ex Libris. The setup is one instance of Aleph500 version 22.0.1 and service pack level 3817. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 285 libraries are grouped.

The size of the system by end of 2013 is:

Bibliographic records:	1.102.527
Items:	5.534.567
Circulation:	3.394.023
Borrowers:	198.431
Libraries:	285

2. Leitir.is - A National Discovery Portal

Leitir.is, <http://leitir.is> is the National Discovery Portal for Iceland. It provides access from a single location to the diverse collections of Icelandic libraries, museums and other institutions. Leitir is a brand for the Primo software from Ex Libris, version 4.5.2. Access to electronic country licenses is provided via the Primo Central Index Service. A recommender service for electronic licenses is provided via the bX recommender Service.

3. “Sarpur” – cataloging system for museums and other cultural heritage institutions in Iceland

“Sarpur”, <http://www.sarpur.is/>, is an Icelandic designed cultural database. It is used to catalog and record artifacts, pictures, archaeological sites, historic buildings, place names and cultural history, and is used by museums and institutions around Iceland. Consortium of Icelandic libraries is responsible for the daily management and the future development of the system. It presents an opportunity to integrate this cultural material into leitir.is and further develop leitir.is as a national discovery portal for all Icelandic cultural and research material whether it is of bibliographic origin or not.

4. Projects

Gegnir

The main project in Gegnir was to upgrade Aleph to from v. 20 to v. 22, which was done in the spring. We were one of the first libraries serviced by the Hamburg office to carry out the upgrade. The upgrade work was outsourced to Ex Libris. Traditionally we have outsourced implementation/upgrade work to Ex Libris and it has proven to be a successful arrangement. During the upgrade we ran into quite a lot of problems. It took considerably longer time than originally planned and we got the feeling that these kinds of projects were not a high priority anymore with the company. It raises the question if there is a “brain-drain” within Ex Libris from Aleph to the newly developed systems Primo / Alma?

We encountered three major problems in the Aleph 22 upgrade:

1. Performance problems resulting in slowness in circulation and especially actions that have to do with the patron information. After the upgrade we fine-tuned the Oracle database in order to speed up the system. Our local Oracle specialists have advised us to add some Oracle indexes to certain tables to improve the I/O speed but Ex Libris has always been opposed to that. Our libraries are still (**four** months after the upgrade) complaining about a major slowness in the circulation module. Ex Libris has still not found the cause of the problem.
2. Printing – In some libraries the system does not print to the default printer. It has been a major task to analyze the problem with no results yet. It seems to be an interaction between Aleph v. 22, security settings in Windows and a third party software (Bersoft HTMLPrint) used in Aleph. The Bersoft HTMLPrint was upgraded from version 5.24 in Aleph 20 to version 9 in Aleph 22. As of today the cause of the problem has not been found despite tremendous efforts of trying to localize the problem. Ex Libris is currently working with Bersoft on trying to find a solution.
3. Preview window – in Aleph v. 22 it is no longer possible to copy from the print preview window. This function is essential to our libraries so we really had to find an alternative approach. Ex Libris' use of Bersoft HTMLPrint for the printing seemed to result in a situation out of their control and they were not able to assist us. We managed to stumble on an alternative approach to perform this task. However this approach is not a good one and really does not meet our needs.

These problems described above raise questions regarding the software quality assurance processes at Ex Libris especially in regard to integration with third party products. We wonder if Ex Libris really inspected the changes in the Bersoft HTMLPrint software prior to integrating them into Aleph 22?

RDA implementation

Currently we are in the planning stages for RDA implementation. The cut over date is scheduled mid 2016

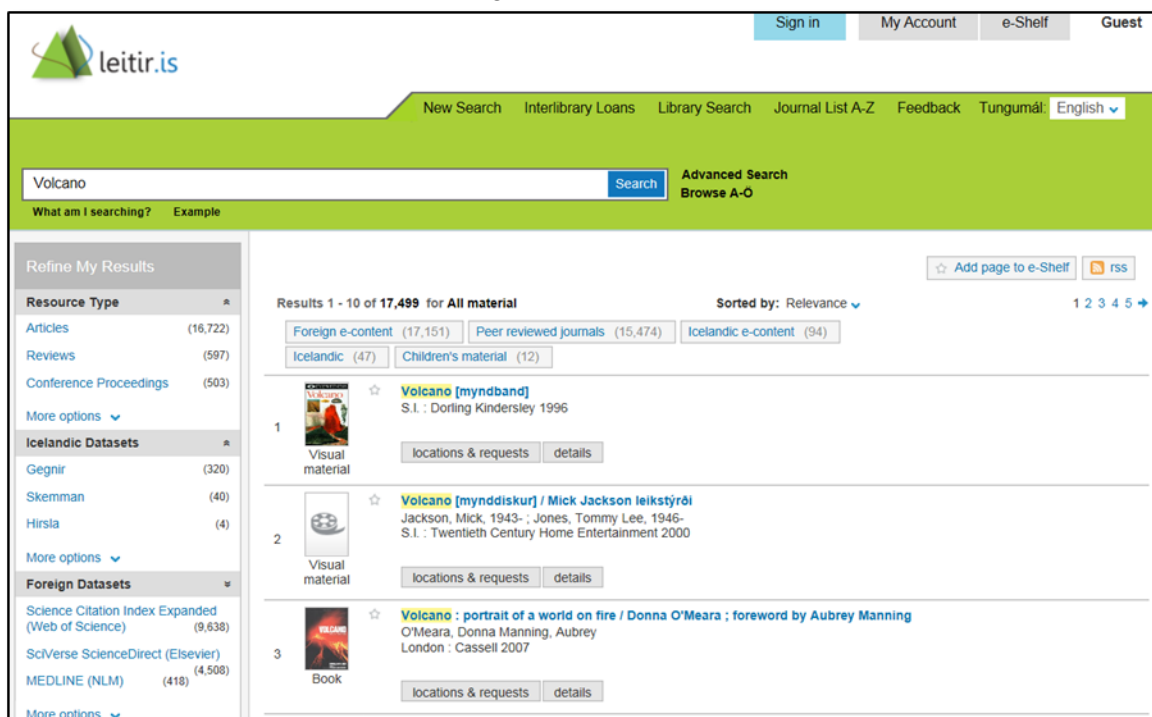
Leitir.is

The previous year our main work in leitir.is / Primo was to redesign the user interface as well as the main structure. Our Primo setup was two search tabs. One for our local data and the other for the Primo Central Index (PCI) data. It proved to be too complicated to explain to our users the difference between the search tabs. For example e-books and journal articles would be located on both tabs. The big challenge was to work around limitations in Primo and specially that we don't have any control over the PCI data. It results in two facets for databases, one for the local data and another for the PCI data. Despite the limitations we are extremely pleased with the results.

In order to simplify the user interface an agreement was reached in the library community to go ahead with these major changes:

- One search box
- EBSCOhost databases (Ebsco Adaptor) are not included in the main database setup. It is because the number of hits is omitted. Instead the users are able to transfer the search to EBSCOhost

- Tabs and buttons were moved and re-designed



Currently we are working on accessibility compliance (W3C) for our Primo user interface. After a professional evaluation on the user interface in regard to accessibility we have i.e. made several improvements to our css- and js-files. To be able to fulfill all of the requirements made by the evaluation agency we would need to change the jsp-files - which we are advised by Ex Libris not to do. So far we have been unable to find information on Ex Libris's policy about the accessibility compliance in Primo. We think it is essential that Igelu try to get a focus on this matter at Ex Libris. It is quite important that Ex Libris put forward a standard in regard to accessibility and conforms to it in their programming efforts. In fact several changes might be needed in the software in order to improve consistency.

The Danish Ex Libris User-group (DANGELU) – report / INUG 2014

The Danish Ex Libris User-group (DANGELU) was established in 2009, when the national Aleph-group and SFX-Metalib group were merged, following the take-over by Ex Libris of Fujitsu activities as vendor of the Ex Libris products.

The purpose of the group is to

- establish a forum for co-operation and sharing experiences concerning the various products.
- discuss enhancements and functionality with Ex Libris in order to make sure that users of Ex Libris products can participate in local Danish library cooperation.
- keep in touch with IGeLU

Besides maintaining a national listserv the group meets twice a year. Ex Libris is invited and participates in the meetings.

Products that are used in Denmark, are Aleph, Primo, SFX, Verde and Metalib. Last year Alma was installed in one library.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES - 2014:

This year has been rather quiet, and we haven't heard much to Ex Libris, but we have received valuable information in connection with the meetings.

Most libraries have converted to version 21, although a few remain on Aleph version 18. A single library is implementing Alma.

We had a WebEx conference with Ex Libris discussing different problems with Salesforce and open cases, discussing what can be done to speed up the procedure.

On behalf of the user-group

Peter V. Christensen - MiniBib/The Administrative Library

5th September 2014



משתמשי אקס ליבריס - ישראל
Ex Libris Users Group - Israel

MELI - Annual Report to INUG 2014

Members

54 member institutions:

- 8 universities / 19 libraries
- 27 colleges
- 7 special libraries (including the National Library of Israel and the Inter-University Center for Digital Information Services)
- 1 public library

Steering Committee

Marina Kalach, University of Haifa – Chair / Internet Site
Aya Steinig-Messika, Tel Aviv University
Dalia Mendelsson, The Hebrew University
Michal Pinkas, Ben Gurion University of the Negev -Treasurer
Olga Merzin, Yizrael Valley College
Tamar Vakil, Bar Ilan University
Tsachy Horowitz, National Library of Israel

Organizational Matters

Currently the National Library of Israel agreed to continue to allow MELI to manage finances via library accounts. MELI and the library signed a mutual memorandum in 2013. MELI will reassess this arrangement by the end of 2014.

Meeting with Ex Libris

The steering committee met with Ex Libris management representatives in March to discuss specific Israeli issues. Representatives of the Primo and SFX workgroups joined the discussion:

MELI presented the growing interest in joining Alma adaptation and implementation among the various Israeli users. The steering committee and ExLibris agreed to organize a meeting with library directors as a first step, in order to assess the readiness of the user institutions to join the "early adopters" project and eventually, migrate to Alma. An outline of the project will be presented in the meeting.

MELI asked to discuss the procedures for Israeli development requests - for next versions of Aleph as well as suggestions for Aleph APIs.

Primo group presented the various acute problems with Primo and Primo Central systems such as relevancy issues, search results ranking and the desperate need for a morphological tool to support searching in Hebrew (because of Hebrew's specific linguistic structure). It was agreed that Exlibris Primo product managers and development team will increase the number of meetings with Primo group to discuss these issues and support further.



משתמשי אקס ליבריס - ישראל
Ex Libris Users Group - Israel

Several meetings were held so far, and recently Exlibris signed a contract with a 3rd party company and a Hebrew morphological component will be implemented in the near future Primo releases.

The SFX user group reported several problems with the Hebrew titles transliteration in the KB, and asked to continue adding Hebrew publications to the SFX knowledge base.

Training Days

MELI organizes 3-4 training days a year, each hosted by a different member institution.

The first day for 2014 was on the topic of Aleph 22 (which had just been announced) and ALMA.

The second day, organized by the Primo group, was a hands-on training on the usage of Primo reports.

The third day – "The Future of Discovery Tools" - was planned for the end of July but was postponed to the end of September due to current sensitive security situation.

Technical Seminar

MELI in cooperation with Ex Libris organizes a two-day technical seminar biennially. This year's seminar planned to take place at the end of November 2014.

Goals for the remainder of 2014 and 2015

Establishment of an Aleph-API working group.

Further discussion of introduction of Alma in Israel with Ex Libris and with our members.

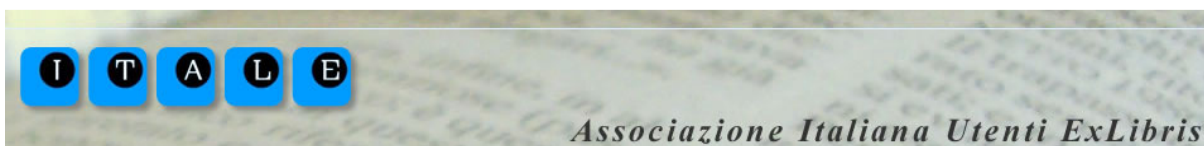
Involvement in IGeLU

Neomi Greidinger, University of Haifa, is on the IGeLU steering committee.

Boaz Dotan, University of Haifa, is a member in Primo Product Working Group.

Yosef Branse, University of Haifa, is a member in KBAB – Knowledge Base Advisory Board.

In an effort to promote participation at the IGeLU annual conference, MELI continues to cover the costs of the conference, flight and hotel for a staff member of one the member institutions who will present at the conference. This year's stipend goes to Yosef Branse, University of Haifa, who will present "Make Big Brother Work for You: Mining Patron Data for Enhanced Library Services".



ITALIAN EX LIBRIS USERS ASSOCIATION Annual Report 2014

Introduction

ITALE was established in 1999 to bring together the Italian institutions that had adopted ALEPH.

Since January 2007, the Association is open (as in the model provided by IGeLU) to all institutions that use Ex Libris products.

Members: 40 (of which 26 are Universities)

Membership fee: 250 € (it covers group activities and projects)

Products distribution:

- ALEPH (38)
- SFX (23)
- MetaLib (16)
- MetaLibPlus with Primo (8)
- DigiTool (1)
- Primo (12)
- Bx (4)

Since 2009 the local support is provided by the Italian subsidiary of Ex Libris (Ex Libris Italy)

Activities and Events 2013-2014

After the 2013 IGeLU Conference, ITALE has organized on November 15th, at the University of Perugia, a seminar on the following topic: ALMA: a road map, with the participation of Alan Oliver (Ex Libris Business Development Director); it was a preparatory meeting devoted to ALMA Early Adopter Program in Italy

At the beginning of the current year the following institutions became part of the program

University of Roma Tor Vergata
Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa
University of Camerino
University of Udine

In February 2014, consequently to the creation at each institution of a specific working group, there has been a first meeting on the occasion of the kick-off of the program, with the analysts of Ex Libris, hosted by the University of Roma Tor Vergata. The project continued with the scheduled webinars (phase Academy): the exchange of information and observations between working groups and Ex Libris has been very effective and timely. A second meeting of all participants will be held at the University of Udine in late September; afterwards, the phase of the agreed implementations will begin. In the second half of 2015 data migrations will be performed.

In July the University of Roma Tre joined the Group of the Early Adopters in order to study and to experiment the creation of a network zone in Alma.

In the meanwhile, in Bologna, there have been some meetings between the Ex Libris system administrators and the representatives of some services widely used in Italian universities. The goal was to develop interoperability process between ALMA and some systems used for the management of accounting (U-GOV), Document Delivery (Nilde) and serials management (ACNP).

On May 12th, 2014, a conference was held in Rome for the presentation of the project "the interoperability between ILL SBN (National Network for interlibrary loan) and ILL2 of ALEPH500 via ISO-ILL". This project started a few years ago and it has been strongly supported by the Association

Moreover, Primo, the discovery tool of Ex Libris, marked important milestones in Italy during the first six months of 2014, registering the adoption by the University of Ferrara, the Library All Digital of Campi Bisenzio, the University of Bergamo, the European University Institute in Fiesole and the online launch of the Archive of the editorial production of Lombardy.

Short-term programs

In November 27th, the University of Florence will host the Meeting of the members of the Association who will have to renew the Steering Committee for the period 2015-2017.

Envolvement in IGeLU

Guido Badalamenti (University of Siena) is member of the Steering Committee as IGeLU Treasurer.

In an effort to promote the participation of ITALE institutions at the Annual IGeLU Conference, since 2012 ITALE supports the Conference expenses (travel, accommodation, registration fee) to staff members of two/three institutions.

Contacts

Steering Committee 2012-14

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Information and documentation

Information about ITALE, technical documentation, announcements can be found at our web site: <http://www.itale.it>

On behalf of the Italian Users Group
Liliana Bernardis

VLENGEL

VLENGEL (VLaams En Nederlandse Gebruikersgroep van Ex Libris) Ex Libris Users Group of the Dutch and Flemish – Report for INUG 2014

Membership: 17 institutions, 4 Belgian and 13 Dutch.

Membership is free for all institutions, because VLENGEL only organizes activities without costs for participants. Whenever we have a meeting, everybody pays his own travelling costs and the host institution pays for the premises and lunch.

Because we rotate the hosting between institutions and between Belgium and The Netherlands all costs are shared equally in the end.

VLENGEL is an informally organized user group without much structure.

Continuity depends on a coordination committee of three people;

Bart Peeters from LIBIS Leuven (BE)

Bas Vat from Leiden University Library (NL) and IGeLU SFX-PWG coordinator

Theo Engelman from Utrecht University Library (NL) and IGeLU SC member.

Whenever needed, **Lukas Koster from Amsterdam University Library** kindly volunteers to assist the coordination group.

Theo Engelman acts as chair whenever formally needed, but internally there is no hierarchy.

This year the coordination group only organized one annual mid-winter meeting.

DECEMBER 2013

We had planned to visit the Ex Libris datacenter in Amsterdam, part of the Equinix venue.

This was not easy to achieve and we are very grateful to Philipp Hess of Ex Libris for making this extraordinary visit possible for us.

We learned a lot and got a very detailed and informative tour by Dan Marriott, cloud architect of Ex Libris. Because visiting the datacenter was only possible when accepting a non-disclosure agreement we cannot reveal any details, but we can say we were impressed by the professionalism of the datacenter and the Ex Libris policies that were explained to us.

UKB and OCLC

The UKB consortium (Dutch University and National Libraries) have signed a contract in spring 2014 to renew the Shared Information Infrastructure (GII) contract with OCLC-PICA. This contract facilitates the transition of the Dutch Union Catalogue to a subset of OCLC-WorldCat and gives UKB members the possibility to maintain the shared cataloguing tradition and Inter Library Loan and Document Delivery services for the next few years.

The platform OCLC offers consist of WorldCat, WorldCat collections and the OCLC Knowledge Base combined with the OCLC Open URL link resolver.

VLENGEL

What are Dutch libraries doing with it

All Dutch University Libraries will use at least WorldCat and WorldCat collection, the usage of the OCLC Knowledge Base combined with the OCLC Open URL link resolver is not mandatory but it's free of charge in the contract.

Some Dutch University Libraries will opt not only for all parts of the UKB agreement, but also implement the WorldShare Management System (WMS) for managing not only shared metadata, but also their local discovery, patrons, acquisitions and related transactions. Others may opt to use Alma for this, but up to this moment none has chosen for Alma.

Dutch Aleph customers working together

The implementation of the new Shared Information Infrastructure is due for 2015 and beyond. The Dutch Aleph customers have started talks to investigate if and how we can make the synchronization between the WorldCat bibliographic database and the local Aleph inventory work as smooth and automated as possible, thus gaining profit of a shared metadata management system that will be leading for all Dutch University Libraries in the near future and still being able to maintain the local business and transaction in Aleph.

LIBIS has gone live with Alma

Meanwhile in Belgium the LIBIS group has finally succeeded in converting their complex and vast infrastructure of three Aleph installations into Alma.

Alma is live at the LIBIS library network of 33 independent member organizations which includes the historic KU Leuven and its Association, as well as archives, museums, parliaments, and other specialized libraries. An Alma Development Partner, the LIBIS network has worked closely with Ex Libris for the past five years to refine the vision and priorities for Alma in a consortium environment.

LIBIS is part of KU Leuven and offers services to a library network comprising 33 independent member organizations, which include universities, colleges, national and regional organizations, and two networks of public libraries. LIBIS hosts a full suite of Ex Libris solutions, including Alma, Primo, and Rosetta.

Vlengel members are very busy

We hope to keep the VLENGEL community vivid and enthusiast. But it is hard to organize meetings for a coordination group having to deal with a lot of local responsibilities *and* IGeLU tasks. Also the focus on OCLC by the UKB consortium has an impact on the rationale of VLENGEL. If this results in more and more Dutch libraries moving away from Ex Libris products, then VLENGEL will die a slow but inevitable death. We hope this will not happen, but we see that during the last year it was impossible to organize a meeting. We sincerely hope next year will bring a change in this, feeding fresh blood into Vlengel and maybe the implementation of Alma in the KU Leuven will have a positive effect on the activities of Vlengel.