

Expert Advisory Group Makes Its Recommendations for Open Data in Alma

The group embraces the goal of open access for the Alma Community Catalog of bibliographic records

Jerusalem, Israel—January 19, 2012. Ex Libris® Group, a world leader in the provision of library automation solutions, is pleased to announce that the international group of renowned library experts who convened to advise Ex Libris on the Community Catalog of the Alma library management service has concluded the first phase of its work. Part of the Alma Community Zone, the Community Catalog comprises metadata records shared by libraries that are using the Alma library management service. The purpose of the Community Catalog is to streamline resource-management processes, including selection, acquisitions, cataloging, and fulfillment.

The group's recommendations were governed by the principle that all records contributed to the Community Catalog should be open and that members should be able to share, copy, edit, and redistribute records that are linked to the library's inventory. Owned jointly by the community, the Community Catalog will also enable libraries to contribute records to external systems, such as Ex Libris Primo®, or other discovery environments. Alma's early adopters and development partners had an opportunity to review the recommendations during the group's deliberations.

The group's recommendations focus on the rights and responsibilities of the Community Catalog members to ensure that the records they contribute will be available for other members' use. Furthermore, the recommendations specify the mandate of Ex Libris to provide clear documentation of these rights and responsibilities. Ex Libris has agreed to work with the community, which will be largely self-governed, to establish any necessary dispute-resolution practices.

Karen Coyle, an independent consultant and cataloging expert who is a member of the advisory group, commented: "Establishing clear frameworks to disseminate library data is of immense importance to library professionals. I applaud Ex Libris for consulting with this diverse and knowledgeable group and actively listening to the group's advice."

"The ecosystem for library metadata is rapidly evolving," remarked advisory-group member Jennifer Younger, chair of the board of directors at the Catholic Research Resources Alliance, an association of Catholic colleges and universities that make their resources available electronically to library professionals and the general public. "Open metadata is increasingly of interest to the library industry, as huge volumes of content are made available through the Web. This trend coincides with libraries' growing interest in streamlining workflows for acquiring and managing resources to enhance efficiency. Opening access to metadata as early in the life cycle as possible enables this efficiency to be more easily and cooperatively achieved."

"It has been a privilege to work with the advisory group's dedicated and passionate experts from the field of bibliographic data," noted Susan Stearns, vice president of strategic partnerships at Ex Libris. "By helping create the governing principles of the Community Zone, this group has paved the way for Ex Libris to establish a truly open and shared foundation of data on which to build services."

The members of the advisory group are as follows:

- Paul Ayris, Director of UCL Library Services and UCL Copyright Officer at University College London; President of LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries) (UK)
- Diane Baden, Head of Monographic Services at O'Neill Library, Boston College (US)
- Pascal Calarco, Associate University Librarian, Discovery and Digital Services, at the University of Waterloo and representing the TriUniversity Group of Libraries (TUG) (Canada)
- Karen Coyle, Consultant (US)
- Kurt De Belder, University Librarian at Leiden University (the Netherlands)
- Mauro Guerrini, at the University of Florence (Italy)
- Ben Showers, Program Manager, Digital Library Infrastructure, at the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) (UK)
- Barbara Tillett, Chief of the Policy and Standards Division, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate, at the Library of Congress (US)
- Katharine Treptow Farrell, Head, Order Division, and Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services, at Princeton University Library (US)

- Andrew Wells, University Librarian at the University of New South Wales (Australia)
- Jennifer A. Younger, Chair of the Board of Directors, Catholic Research Resources Alliance (US and Canada)

As Alma moves into production in 2012, Ex Libris plans to extend this work by forming a separate group, which will develop and document cataloging standards and policies for Alma regarding operational issues such as content standards and quality control.

About Alma

By consolidating the disparate systems used by today's libraries to manage electronic, print, and digital resources, the Ex Libris Alma library management service accelerates libraries' move toward next-generation operations. Alma's cloud infrastructure helps libraries increase their efficiency through collaboration and the sharing of data. As a result, libraries can focus their resources on extending services within and outside their institution while supporting the institution's teaching and research missions.

About Ex Libris

Ex Libris is a leading provider of automation solutions for academic libraries. Offering the only comprehensive product suite for electronic, digital, and print materials, Ex Libris provides efficient, user-friendly products that serve the needs of libraries today and will facilitate their transition into the future. Ex Libris maintains an impressive customer base consisting of thousands of sites in more than 80 countries on six continents.

Dedicated to developing creative solutions in close collaboration with customers, Ex Libris enables academic, national, and research libraries to maximize productivity and efficiency and, at the same time, greatly enhance the user experience. By empowering users to discover and obtain the information they need, libraries ensure their position as the bridge to knowledge.

For more information about Ex Libris Group, see our [Web site](#), join us on [Facebook](#), view our [videos](#), and follow our [Twitter](#) page.