A Word from Our CEO

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the first issue of the new Ex Libris newsletter, which will serve as an additional communication channel between Ex Libris and our growing customer community. The newsletter will contain information of interest to our users about upcoming product versions, release plans, new offerings from Ex Libris, and Ex Libris and industry events.

On this occasion, I would like to summarize Ex Libris’ accomplishments for 2003. A concerted effort to restructure our corporate headquarters and subsidiaries has been finalised and a resultant strengthening of the company can already be felt. During the last year we had the honor of welcoming over 200 new customers from numerous countries, many of whom are already running operative systems.

Throughout 2003, we continued to invest heavily in R&D, releasing new versions and updating our product offerings. ALEPH 500 Version 16.01 was released and went live at one of our key customer sites. A new version of SFX was released and the conclusion of the 500th SFX customer licensing agreement was reported. This, together with the introduction of several MetaLib updates, has served to ensure the growing momentum and expansion of our already significant customer base.

2004 sees the release of ALEPH version 16.02, which is currently being implemented at the sites of some of our early adopters. Plans are being made for the release of Version 17 in January 2005. A new and exciting version of MetaLib is currently in beta testing—due for release in the summer of 2004, followed by a new version of SFX. DigiTool Version 2.4 will be released during the month of April to be followed by the release of Version 3.0 in December of this year. A product for electronic resource management, an addition to the Ex Libris product suite, is currently being developed and is targeted for release later this year.

Ex Libris looks ahead with great optimism. The company is a strong, well-established organization, with nine regional subsidiaries and offices, sixteen active distributors, and over one thousand customers.

I appreciate you taking the time to read our newsletter and look forward to meeting you at the next NAAUG, ALA, ICAU, SMUG meeting or other industry event.

Sincerely yours,
Matti Shem Tov
President & CEO

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Editor’s Note

I am honored to introduce the new Ex Libris semi-annual newsletter, the goal of which is to provide our partners with a concise yet comprehensive picture of all the Ex Libris news generated by our headquarters, subsidiaries, and distributors worldwide.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the first edition of this newsletter. Please feel free to bring any comments, suggestions or new stories to my attention for future editions. We are all interested in hearing Ex Libris news from around the world.

Best regards and easy reading,
Laura Gilinski
MarCom Manager
laura.gilinski@exlibrisgroup.com
What’s New in Version 16.02

We are pleased to take this opportunity to introduce some of the highlights you will find in the newly released ALEPH 500 Version 16.02 currently being implemented at the sites of some of our early adopters.

**New Clients** – The staff clients you were familiar with in previous versions have been redesigned. This is part of an ongoing effort that first appeared as an option in the new Circulation client in Version 15. With Version 16, all clients have been redesigned and their number drastically reduced.

**ISO ILL** – Version 16.02 supports a new ISO compliant ILL module that functions under a Web interface and includes incoming and outgoing requests functionality. ISO ILL messages are received through the ILL port, registered in a “handling library” called ILLSV and directed by the ILL server to their correct destination as new incoming requests or as message updates to incoming and outgoing requests.

**Additional EDI Support** – ALEPH 500 EDI is based on a new mechanism that in turn is based on an intermediate XML format.

**Single Sign On** – Generic implementation of Single Sign On (SSO) using Version 16 tools.

**Parallel Indexing** – This feature is used to rebuild indexes with no system downtime. This process also enables changing indexing parameters and checking the results, without losing current indexes.

A comprehensive document entitled “What’s new in ALEPH 500 Version 16.02” has been posted to the Ex Libris Documentation Center [www.exlibrisgroup.com/documentation/](http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/documentation/)

ALEPH Monitor Update

In accordance with previous announcements, the Ex Libris R&D team is currently hard at work developing the ALEPH Monitor. The Monitor will provide ALEPH 500 customers with a unified, intuitive, feature rich tool providing full-time operational control and proactive monitoring of ALEPH 500 applications, databases and operating system.

Based on a comprehensive series of library-defined thresholds, the ALEPH Monitor alerts library staff to potential problems that may arise in any of these systems. Preventive maintenance alerts enable staff to move into problem prevention and corrective action mode quickly and efficiently.

One of the most important aspects of this preventive maintenance tool is that it is specially designed for non-IT professionals enabling staff members, with limited technical background, to effectively troubleshoot some database, system and application problems typically addressed by IT administrators only.

The ALEPH Monitor is an optional ALEPH module, which will be made available to ALEPH 500 customers running versions 15.2 and up, by June 2004.

An announcement will be made to our customers when additional documentation becomes available.

ALEPH 500 Reporting Center

The ALEPH 500 Reporting Center is an optional add-on module, which provides institutions running ALEPH 500 with a functional, organization-wide reporting, querying and statistical environment based on access to all information contained within the ALEPH system Oracle tables. Operational data within the Reporting Center is collected from the system’s various data sources, organized according to defined rules, and presented to the user in a logical structure enabling cross-referencing from multiple areas within the system. Flexible administration of operational data enables library staff to generate the exact reports and statistics needed to make daily library workflows more efficient.

Based on Data Warehouse architecture and governed by a set of library-defined rules and definitions (metadata), the Reporting Center provides all branches of the organization with a single version of system data. The reports and presentations afforded by this synchronized view of system data assist directors, system administrators, and staff in decision-making processes essential to library operations. Empirical library statistical reports provide the data required to develop long-term workflow strategies.

The Reporting Center features a broad selection of standard reports and statistics which draw on information from various data sources within the ALEPH system such as Circulation, Acquisitions, Serials management, Budgets, and Collection development, to name just a few. Using a desktop client, these predefined ALEPH reports can be easily customized and saved for future library use. The module also comes complete with an intuitive set of tools that provide staff with the environment required to create and generate library-specific reports and statistics. Staff members creating these ad-hoc reports need not have knowledge of the ALEPH
database table structure nor of SQL programming. All saved reports, standard and ad-hoc, can be shared across the library, consortium, or with other institutions running ALEPH 500.

The user-friendly Reporting Center staff interface is based on an On-Line Report Center engine that enables library managers to gain multi-faceted insight into the previously raw data. Interactive, organization-defined views make getting the information you need quick and accurate.

The ALEPH Reporting Center will be available beginning June 2004 for ALEPH 500 customers running version 15 and higher.

ALEPH Upgrade Express

In order to ensure a quick and efficient upgrade for ALEPH 500 sites, Ex Libris introduces the ALEPH Upgrade Express—a new set of automated tools and related documents based on a new upgrade methodology aimed at making this transition effortless.

The Upgrade Express tool kit automatically upgrades ALEPH data, most ALEPH configuration tables and files, and automatically performs a basic customization of HTML files and forms. The Upgrade Express Methodology clearly defines Ex Libris and customer responsibilities, providing customers with early, reliable and consistent upgrade related information. The result is a smoother upgrade process in which procedure related resources, downtime, and loss of existing ALEPH configuration are kept to a minimum.

Upgrade Express package Version 1.0 will be released on April 30th 2004, in proximity to the release of ALEPH 500 Version 16.02, and will be available for ALEPH 500 Version 14 and up.

A comprehensive document entitled “Upgrade Express” has been posted to the Ex Libris Documentation Center www.exlibrisgroup.com/documentation/

New ALEPH 500 Customers

2003 was a banner year for ALEPH 500 implementations worldwide as over 100 sites went live.

2004 is looking good! First quarter sales have been strong and new contracts are on the horizon. Please welcome the newest members of the ALEPH 500 family:

Additional information regarding these deals as well as other Ex Libris news can be found at: http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/news.htm

- National and University Library of Kosova, Kosova
- Bond University, Australia
- City of Botany Bay Library, Australia
- University of Aberdeen, UK
- The Knesset-Seat of the Israeli Parliament, Israel
- Texas Christian University, USA
- University of Crete, Greece
- Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic
- Regional Library Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic
- Wuppertal University, Germany
- Leiden University, The Netherlands
- University of Dundee, UK
- The Royal National Institute of the Blind, UK
- The National Bank of Belgium, Belgium
- The Historical Department of the French Army, France
- Beijing Jiatong University, China
- Virginia Community College System, USA
- Duke University, USA
New Versions of MetaLib and SFX

MetaLib and SFX are taking another step forward! With the aid of valuable feedback from our customers, Ex Libris will release the new version of MetaLib—Version 3—toward the end of the second quarter of 2004. The new version of SFX—also Version 3—will be released during the third quarter of 2004.

In keeping with previous versions, the MetaLib and SFX upgrades continue to provide enhancements in the following key areas:

- Ease of use for end users and administrators
- Interoperability with other components, such as integrated library systems, institutional authentication systems, learning management systems, and institutional portals
- Knowledge base content and management

In addition we will be adding some exciting new features.

MetaLib Version 3

MetaLib version 3 features a reworked end-user interface. This new design comes in response to significant feedback from those sites already using MetaLib. In particular, we would like to thank the members of the SMUG focus group, with whom we have worked most closely—Betty Day, University of Maryland, USA; Janet Chisman, Washington State University, USA; Paul Soderdahl, University of Iowa, USA; Robert McDonald, Florida State University, USA; Elaine Henjum, Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), USA; Pat Barclay, University of Westminster, UK; Lavinia Hodoroaba, ZIB, Germany; Owen Stephens, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK; Marco Streefkerk, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and Jan Pokorny, Charles University, Czech Republic.

The design of the MetaLib 3 user interface is based on the following concepts:

- MetaLib is made up of several distinct interface components: QuickSearch—a complete workflow for novice users; Find Database—a tool for locating resources of interest; Find e-Journal—a tool for locating e-journals of interest; and MetaSearch™—the entire workflow for advanced users. Institutions can choose to implement all or some of these components.
- Users see only those elements that are relevant to the task at hand. For instance, the various options for locating resources are not visible in the QuickSearch workflow.
- Transitions between the interface components enable users to move to a more complex environment to carry out more complex tasks. For instance, novice users who wish to obtain more functionality regarding a specific search can move to the MetaSearch component while continuing to view their search results.
- Users have control over elements displayed on the screen and can switch from one type of display to another, such as a tabular display or a citation display of the search results. The display preferences that a user selects are retained in the system for that user.
- If an institution so decides, MetaLib can display licensed resources to users who are not authorized to access them. Guests can log on to gain access to such resources.
- Users who start working as guests can log on to the system at any point during the session and still maintain the session data.

Other major features in version 3 include the following:

- MetaIndex™, a local MetaLib repository that enables libraries to offer OAI-compliant resources as searchable MetaLib resources. The repository is created and maintained through the OAI protocol for metadata harvesting (OAI-PMH). MetaIndex is an optional service.
- Patron directory services (PDS), a new authentication feature that can be shared across Ex Libris products—and potentially other products—thereby facilitating a single sign on (SSO) environment.
- Support for new consortial models and tools to facilitate existing administrative tasks for consortia.
- Knowledge base enhancements, including more resources configured for MetaLib searching. Furthermore, the knowledge base update procedure in this version is transitioning from a “push” to a “pull” mechanism. Customers can pull data from the Ex Libris global knowledge base on their own schedule.
- Management enhancements, such as global updating of the knowledge base and a new workflow for assigning categories to resources.
SFX Version 3
Major features planned for SFX version 3 include the following:

- Support for OpenURL version 1.0 San Antonio profiles 1 and 2 (SAP1 and SAP2). SFX will continue to support OpenURL version 0.1 and also hybrid OpenURLs that contain both version 0.1 and 1.0 metadata.
- A new mechanism for dynamically creating categorized and searchable alphabetical e-journal title lists
- Knowledge base enhancements, including:
  - support for the development of the upcoming electronic resource management system (ERM)
  - the ability to add local objects with local attributes
  - the addition of data elements, such as publisher and place of publication, to the object table
  - a "pull" mechanism for knowledge base updates
- New tools for customizing the SFX menu screen—for example, a multilingual interface and the grouping of services on a single menu
- The addition of "fuzzy" matching to the Citation Linker

We believe that these new features of MetaLib and SFX will reinforce our leadership in the areas of context-sensitive linking and portal software. We’re off to a most productive—and hectic—year!

Ex Libris and NISO—Setting Industry Standards

OpenURL

On March 10, 2004, the NISO membership ballot regarding the OpenURL version 1.0 standard will be concluded. There is every indication that the ballot will be successful and that OpenURL 1.0 will become the NISO Z39.88 (2004) standard, continuing to serve the community of researchers and librarians worldwide.

If the standard is accepted and endorsed by the NISO community, it will represent the final stage of a process that began in 1997 at Ghent University. Research conducted by Herbert Van de Sompel as part of his Ph.D. project, along with colleagues at Ghent, led to the development of SFX and the OpenURL. Ex Libris (Oren Beit-Arie) and SilverPlatter (Jenny Walker, now at Ex Libris) were partners in this project. The adoption of the OpenURL was remarkably rapid, and it quickly became a de facto industry standard. Although NISO set the OpenURL on a fast track, the proposed standard took three years to reach the final stages. Ex Libris has played an important role in the process, with the participation of Oren Beit-Arie on the NISO OpenURL Standards Committee (Committee AX) and the company’s involvement in trials of OpenURL 1.0 from April to October 2003. SFX version 3—due to be released in the second quarter of 2004—will include support for OpenURL version 1.0.

For more information about OpenURL 1.0, please see http://www.niso.org/standards/standard_detail.cfm?std_id=783.

Metasearch

Ex Libris not only strives to adhere to industry standards but also takes an active role in creating them, as was the case with the OpenURL. The current NISO MetaSearch Initiative (http://www.niso.org/committees/MS_initiative.html) is another example of such participation. Metasearching, also known as integrated searching, simultaneous searching, cross-database searching, parallel searching, broadcast searching, and federated searching, refers to a process in which a user submits a single query for processing by multiple information resources. The resources can be heterogeneous in many respects: their location, the format of the information that they offer, the technologies on which they draw, the types of materials that they contain, and more. The user’s query is broadcast to each resource, and consolidated results are returned to the user.

After preliminary meetings during 2003, the NISO MetaSearch Initiative was formally constituted in January 2004. It is charged with identifying, developing, and formulating the standards and other common understandings that are needed to provide an efficient and robust information environment for metasearching. The goal of NISO’s MetaSearch Initiative is to enable metasearch service providers to offer more effective and responsive services; content providers to deliver enhanced content in a standard way while protecting their intellectual property; and libraries to deliver services that are as simple and effective as—yet clearly distinguishable from—those of Google and other free Web services.

Jenny Walker of Ex Libris co-chairs the MetaSearch Initiative together with Andrew Pace of North Carolina State University. Task groups will work in three areas: access management—the requirements related to metasearch authentication and access needs; collection description—the standardization of the way in which content providers communicate information about the collections that they offer; and search and retrieval—the current practice of metasearch and retrieval and the standardization of this process. Chris Roberts of Ex Libris is a member of the search and retrieval task group. Ex Libris believes that metasearch will play an increasingly important role in libraries and plans to be there to lead the way.
NISO Standards Development Committee

To conclude this brief—and by no means comprehensive—overview of the Ex Libris involvement in standards, we’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jenny Walker on her recent nomination to the NISO Standards Development Committee (SDC). The SDC has overall responsibility for identifying topics for standardization, evaluating proposals for new standards and guidelines, monitoring the need to revise approved standards, defining Standards Committee scope statements, recommending committee chairpersons, and monitoring the progress of Standards Committees. We wish Jenny success in this new role!

A New Ex Libris Product: Electronic Resource Management

Ex Libris is pleased to announce its electronic resource management (ERM) system—a comprehensive solution for managing the complex, multidimensional relationships that characterize e-resources. Currently under development, the Ex Libris ERM system will incorporate the workflows necessary for efficiently selecting, evaluating, acquiring, maintaining, and providing informed access to electronic resources in accordance with their business and license terms. In addition, the system will assist library staff in making informed decisions relating to collection development.

A stand-alone product that builds on SFX as its core component, the ERM system can be integrated with other Ex Libris products, such as MetaLib and ALEPH. Its goal is to provide a single point of e-resource administration.

The ERM system is predominantly a staff tool, with the public interface to its data available through tools such as the ALEPH OPAC and alphabetical lists provided by SFX and MetaLib. Librarians will be able to access the ERM system from SFX, MetaLib, ALEPH, or another ILS through Web-based XML services.

Ex Libris expresses its appreciation for the ongoing work of the focus group members assisting in our ERM system development. Nominated by the ICAU and NAAUG committees, the focus group participants are Ivy Anderson (Harvard University), Ellen Finnie Durranceau (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Mark Ellingsen (Bristol University), Ann McLuckie (ETH Zürich—Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), Michele Newberry (Florida Center for Library Automation), and Owen Stephens (Royal Holloway, University of London). Ex Libris would like to recognize the particularly valuable contributions of Ivy Anderson and Ellen Finnie Durranceau. Ivy Anderson is a member of the Digital Library Federation Electronic Resource Management Initiative (DLF ERM), from whose work we have drawn heavily (see http://www.library.cornell.edu/cts/elicensestudy/home.html).

The initial release of the Ex Libris ERM system is targeted for the fourth quarter of 2004.

Commendations

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two of our colleagues:

Tom Kirk—Library Director and Coordinator of Information Services at the Lilly Library of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., on receiving the 2004 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year award. The award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic/research librarianship and library development.

Tom has played a major role in promoting information literacy in academic and research libraries. He is a founding member of the ACRL Institute for Information Literacy, and is the recipient of the 1984 Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award, and the Kentucky Library Association’s 1991 Academic Librarian of the Year Award. He has also lectured and written extensively on best practices in information literacy.

Earlham College is a member of the PALNI consortium.

Jerome Yavarkovsky—University Librarian at Boston College, on being named the 2004 winner of the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award. Named in honor of one of the pioneers of library automation, the Atkinson Award recognizes an academic librarian who has made significant contributions in the area of library automation or management, and has made notable improvements in library services or research.

Mr. Yavarkovsky did important work as an early planning management officer at the Columbia University libraries in the 1970’s. While at the New York State Library in the 1980’s, he brought the insights of scientists from Bell Labs, IBM, Xerox, Kodak, NASA, and the input of numerous academic scholars, to bear on library potential for providing faster access to more and better information for patrons. Mr. Yavarkovsky’s work on the Coalition for Networked Information Steering Committee in the 1990’s influenced changes in scholarly publishing and the Open Archive Initiative. In the Association of Research Libraries, he has contributed to the digital publishing and scholar’s portal initiatives and has been instrumental in furthering the concept of a nationwide online research library processing system.

Boston College was one of the very early adopters of ALEPH 500 in the United States, and BC has since also gone into production with MetaLib and SFX. They are now in the process of implementing DigiTool.

Richmond, Ind., on receiving the 2004 Association of Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year award. The award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic/research librarianship and library development.

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Ex Libris Releases DigiTool Version 2.4

Hard on the heels of the December 2003 release of DigiTool Version 2.3, Ex Libris has released Version 2.4. Whereas Version 2.3 concentrated on functionality related to protocol support (OAI, Z39.50) and Digital Rights Management (restrictions on access, concurrent usage), Version 2.4 enhancements are designed to fundamentally broaden the appeal and scope of the product.

With this new version, DigiTool strides clearly into the realm of Dublin Core. A new, Web-based interface for the non-professional cataloger enables professors or graduate students to create simple metadata records with available Dublin Core templates and drop-down menus and to attach their object files for upload to DigiTool.

A corresponding functionality has been added to the Web interface as part of a significant initiative to add Depository-style functionality to DigiTool. This Depository functionality will support national libraries, such as the Royal Library of Belgium, which serve as national copyright depositories. These libraries vet deposited contributions by issuing an alert to staff to approve new contributions before they are released to the public. Institutions that wish to utilize the “professorial” interface can combine it with the approval mechanism to solicit contributions to an institutional archive or repository, while retaining a level of control over the nature and quality of the contributions.

As part of this development, descriptive metadata is now stored in XML format.

Another major development is the concept of Patron Directory Services (PDS), delivered across the full Ex Libris’ product suite. With PDS, Ex Libris customers enjoy shared user authentication and Single Sign On (SSO) capabilities across all Ex Libris products. PDS can also be set up to interact with third-party applications. PDS is not a patron database but can be configured to work against an institution’s local authentication server and patron database.

DigiTool Goes Live in Australia

November 6th 2003 was a day of celebration at the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library Archive (JCPML) as the new-look Electronic Research Archive (ERA) became the first official site to go live with DigiTool 2.0. Patrons were extremely impressed with the improved access to digital assets of all kinds, the significantly reduced download times, and intuitive user-friendly interface.

The success of the revamped ERA is a tribute to the hard work of the Library & Information Services staff at JCPML (pictured below) who worked in partnership with Ex Libris for 18 months in developing DigiTool Version 2.0.

Also celebrated on this day was the contribution of material to PictureAustralia. This initiative of the National Library of Australia is an Internet-based service that allows users to search numerous significant online pictorial collections simultaneously.

On hand to offer her congratulations on the occasion was Roxanne Missingham, the Assistant Director-General, Resource Sharing, at the National Library, who presented an award to the Curtin University Library staff for a job well done in implementing their new software solution.

For more information on the JCPML Library, please see: http://dtl.lis.curtin.edu.au/F
News From Around the World

ALA Midwinter Conference
January 2004, San Diego CA

As in years past, Ex Libris (USA) participated in the ALA Midwinter Meeting, which this year was held in sunny San Diego. Ex Libris staff presented a number of well-attended demonstrations on ALEPH 500 Version 16, MetaLib, SFX, and DigiTool. The new Ex Libris booth, a robust 20x20 feet, was inaugurated at this conference and reflects a refreshed corporate look. The new corporate graphic direction has been quickly adopted by our other offices — see the Ex Libris (Australia) booth at VALA.

The new Ex Libris look at VALA, Australia Feb. 3-5, 2004

As usual, Ex Libris staff participated in a number of ALA-sponsored discussions and events, including venues devoted to OpenURL, Electronic Resource Management (ERM), metasearching, automated acquisitions, and more.

One highlight of any ALA conference is always the Ex Libris reception. This winter’s reception was particularly gratifying and well-attended as almost 400 librarians from all over the world joined 30 Ex Libris staff at the San Diego Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park for a memorable evening of good food and socializing. Ex Libris once again thanks SUN Microsystems for helping to sponsor the reception.

Ex Libris USA East Coast Office to Move

Ex Libris is making final plans to move its East Coast Office from its present location in Watertown, MA, to a larger, more modern office building in Newton, MA. While the staff will be moving only 5 city blocks, they will be moving into significantly larger quarters (5750 square feet vs. 4000 square feet currently). For those familiar with the area, the new office located on Washington St. is directly across the street from the Sheraton Newton Hotel. The move is timed for April 30-May 1, 2004.

Our new address is:
313 Washington St. Suite 1308
Newton MA, 02458

Phone and fax information will be sent out in mid-April

Ex Libris and NAAUG Open Official NAAUG Documentation Center

Ex Libris and NAAUG (North American ALEPH Users Group) are pleased to announce the launch of the Ex Libris Documentation Center for NAAUG members, based on a decision reached at the NAAUG meeting in Iowa City, IA - June 2003.

The site (http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/documentation/welcome-n.asp), developed by Ex Libris and NAAUG, provides a place for NAAUG members to post and share locally-developed documentation while ensuring that documentation is secure from inappropriate browsing.

The NAAUG Steering Committee appointed Ms. Suzanne Julich, of the University of Iowa, to work with Michael Kaplan, Director of Product Management for Ex Libris, to develop guidelines and solicit a sampling of initial documents to test the value of the NAAUG Documentation Center.
The National Library of China Inaugurates New ALEPH 500 System

In November 2003 Ex Libris and the National Library of China inaugurated the Library’s new ALEPH 500 system at a distinguished acceptance ceremony in Beijing. The event, organized by Fucheng Shen—Chief Representative of Ex Libris China—was attended by a large number of Chinese dignitaries including Ms. Liu Xiaoqing, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Social Culture and Library in the Chinese Ministry of Culture, and Mr. Yang Bingyang, Acting Director of the National Library of China. Mr. Matti Shem Tov, President and CEO, and Mr. Marc Daubach, Vice President of International Sales, were in attendance from Ex Libris.

The ALEPH 500 system will serve to revolutionize the National Library of China in many ways. Whereas patrons previously had to physically seek out requested items and wait for their delivery in the 17-story library, today they can conduct all library business through the system’s Web OPAC. With the integration of the ALEPH system, National Library of China patrons now have Web access to holdings in the more than 100 languages represented in the library’s collections.

For additional information regarding this event, please see http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/newsdetails.htm?=12

Ex Libris France Celebrates its First Birthday

Congratulations to Ex Libris France on its successful first year of operation! Opened in September 2002 as a branch of Ex Libris (UK), it has since been incorporated as an autonomous French SARL (limited company). Ex Libris France is located in Rungis, a modern business park near Orly Airport, and an easy commute from Paris. The staff of nine, most of them former Datapoint employees, have years of experience in the library automation field and in the implementation and support of ALEPH 500 particularly.

This first year of intense activity was devoted to completing and upgrading existing projects and acquiring competence — and an encouraging number of contracts — in marketing, implementation and support of MetaLib, SFX and DigiTool. The current French installed base includes some 25 customers and includes such prestigious institutions as École Polytechnique, Sorbonne Nouvelle, the Universities of Montpellier, Pau, Lille, Paris IV, Paris V, Paris XII, Institut de France, Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie, Université Louis-Pasteur, Strasbourg, and the public libraries of Le Havre and Mulhouse, to name but a few (our apologies to those not mentioned here).

At the end of 2003, the Belgian Central Bank and the Historical Department of the French Army joined the Ex Libris family by choosing ALEPH 500. The company was also pleased to welcome the National Library of Belgium, which has chosen DigiTool.

The French office is managed by Mr. Frederic Lefevre, frederic.lefevre@exlibris.fr

A French website has been newly launched at www.exlibrisgroup.com.

Over the summer and fall Ms. Julich and Mr. Kaplan received and posted 15 documents addressing ALEPH 500 Versions 14 and 15 related issues. They include documents formatted in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and PDF.

Documents are presently arranged in Version-Topic-University tree structure and are searchable via the tree structure and a full-text search. More advanced searching capabilities are planned for phase 2.0.

Full release of the NAAUG Documentation Center and solicitation of additional documents is pending the launch of the updated Ex Libris Documentation Center.

If you would like to contribute to the center please request the form from: Mr. Kaplan (michael@exlibris-usa.com) or Ms. Julich (suzanne-julich@uiowa.edu)

Ex Libris France Celebrates its First Birthday

Congratulations to Ex Libris France on its successful first year of operation! Opened in September 2002 as a branch of Ex Libris (UK), it has since been incorporated as an autonomous French SARL (limited company). Ex Libris France is located in Rungis, a modern business park near Orly Airport, and an easy commute from Paris. The staff of nine, most of them former Datapoint employees, have years of experience in the library automation field and in the implementation and support of ALEPH 500 particularly.

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ALEPH 500 Multilingual Thesaurus

Mit der Weiterentwicklung des Multilingualen Thesaurus in ALEPH 500 stehen den Benutzern ab Version 14.2 verfeinerte Recherchemöglichkeiten zur Verfügung:

- Erhöhung der Treffsicherheit einer Recherche
- Ausschluss von nicht zutreffenden Suchergebnissen
- Aufspüren aller für die Suche relevanter Titel
- Sprachunabhängige Suche
- Beziehungen zwischen Begriffen

Baumstruktur

Im ALEPH 500-Web OPAC wird ein Thesaurus-Baum abgebildet, der die Hierarchien und Bezüge der einzelnen Deskriptoren in Form einer Baumstruktur darstellt.

Der Thesaurus ist, wie bei den Normdateien, direkt mit dem Titelkatalog verknüpft, jeder Deskriptor weist die Anzahl der relevanten Titel im Titelkatalog aus. Von dem gewählten Thesaurus-Deskriptor aus kann man sich sofort die vorhandenen Titel im Bibliothekskatalog anzeigen lassen.

TOPDOWN-Recherche


Sogar als SDI-Profil kann auch die Thesaurus-Suche vom Benutzer individuell eingerichtet werden.

MAB oder MARC21?


Das neue SFX Statistikmodul—unabhängige Nutzungsstatistiken für elektronische Zeitschriften und E-Ressourcen

Management Changes

Who’s Who?
During the second half of 2003 and the first quarter of 2004, significant management changes were made throughout Ex Libris. We take this opportunity to introduce you to some of our newest team members:

Dan Trajman, President, Ex Libris USA
Dan joins Ex Libris after having served as the President of Sapiens Americas, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sapiens International N.V. As the top-ranking officer of Sapiens Americas, Dan was responsible for overall leadership and execution of the company’s business strategy in the US market.
In his new position at Ex Libris, Dan will work with the US team to enhance the support extended to existing customers while further developing and expanding Ex Libris’ standing in the ILS market.

Avi Shapiro, Vice President Operations, Ex Libris Ltd.
In January 2004, Avi Shapiro joined Ex Libris Ltd. as VP Operations after serving as COO at Integrity Systems Ltd., where he was responsible for the R&D, Projects, and Service Divisions of the company.
In his new position, Avi oversees the Development, Customer Support, and Project Implementation departments as well as managing Ex Libris’ global infrastructure.

Carmit Marcus, Director of Global Projects, Ex Libris Ltd.
During March 2004, Carmit’s promotion to Director of Global Projects was announced. Carmit, previously Director of ALEPH Development, was in charge of all ALEPH deliverables—versions and releases—including the successful release of ALEPH 500 Version 16.02 as well as managing the ALEPH development team. We wish Carmit the best of luck in her new position.

Razy Eyal, Director of Development, Ex Libris Ltd.
In April 2004, Razy Eyal will join Ex Libris as the new Director of Development. In this role Razy will be responsible for all ALEPH and DigiTool deliverables. Razy joins Ex Libris after having served as the Head of the Projects Division at SPL Software Ltd. In this position, he supervised all activities and projects related to software systems for institutions of higher education and other customers.

Lior Ofer, Director of Support, Ex Libris Ltd.
In October 2003, Lior joined Ex Libris’ Jerusalem office as Director of Support. Mr. Ofer comes to Ex Libris from ECI, an International Telecom company with 30 global offices and customers in 120 countries worldwide.
In his new role Lior will oversee significant areas of responsibility, among them the introduction of “Upgrade Express” to Ex Libris’ customers; on-going management of the Jerusalem office Support team; overseeing introduction of the new PRB mechanism — “Customer Support Calls”, and the introduction of Ex Libris’ Service Level Agreement to its customers.

Laura Gilinski, Corporate MarCom Manager, Ex Libris Ltd.
Laura joined the Ex Libris Jerusalem office in October 2003 as Corporate Marketing Communications Manager. Prior to this, Laura has held a number of marketing related positions, most recently as Director of Business Development and Product Marketing at WizCom Technologies.
In her new position, Laura will be responsible for numerous activities of interest to Ex Libris employees and customers. These include launching and maintaining the redesigned, updated corporate Web site, and producing new literature sporting a refreshed graphic look and feel for Ex Libris and its products. Laura has also launched Ex Libris’ new semi-annual newsletter and coordinates the company’s press releases.

Luis Lacayo, Manager of Technical Integration, Ex Libris USA
Luis Fernandez Lacayo was promoted to Manager of Technical Integration in September of 2003. Beginning work in November, 1997, Luis was the very first Ex Libris USA employee, running initial operations out of his basement for 10 months. In his new role, Luis takes over responsibility for pre-sales technical support, including discussions and determinations of approved customer system configurations; overseeing hardware and software installation; customer systems administration training; technical support for all types of Ex Libris managed services packages, as well as the networking and computing infrastructure for the Ex Libris offices in Chicago and Boston.
Ex Libris Mini-Seminar in Porto

The Ex Libris seminar, scheduled for March 2004, was postponed to April 2005—due to the appalling terrorist attacks in Istanbul in November. As it is important for us to keep our user community abreast of new developments at regular intervals, ICAU has agreed that Ex Libris conduct a day of sessions during the upcoming meeting in Porto, to discuss the upgrade to ALEPH 500 version 16.

These sessions, to take place on Thursday, September 9, 2004, will include highlights of the differences between ALEPH 500 version 16 and earlier versions (14 and 15); detailed explanations about the Ex Libris upgrade policy; an in-depth introduction to the ALEPH Upgrade Express procedure; a preview of the procedure for upgrading from versions 14 and 15 to version 17; and information regarding upgrades from earlier versions (ALEPH 300 as well as ALEPH 500, versions 11 and 12).

We look forward to seeing you all in Porto our way station to the next seminar!

The 15th annual ICAU (International Consortium of ALEPH Users) meeting will take place in Porto Portugal, 6-8 September, 2004. For additional information, please see: http://www.fe.up.pt/icau2004/

Upcoming SMUG (SFX/MetaLib Users Group) meetings:

MIT in Cambridge Massachusetts, June 17-18, 2004. For additional information, please see: http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/naaug2004/smugmtg.html

Porto Portugal, 10-11 September 2004. For additional information, please see: http://www.fe.up.pt/icau2004/

Memories of Vienna

Three international conferences, dealing with Ex Libris software, took place in Vienna in September 2003. They were the 5th ALEPH DACH Meeting for German-Speaking User Groups, including 81 participants from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Luxembourg; the 14th ICAU Meeting (International Consortium of ALEPH Users), including 240 participants from 29 countries from five continents; and the 2nd International SMUG Meeting (SFX/MetaLib Users Group), including 98 participants from 21 countries.

The conventions were hosted by a task force consisting of 14 people from 5 Viennese university libraries, the Austrian Educational Network, and the Headquarters of the Austrian Library Network. Our venue was located inside the University of Vienna campus, which is a newly adapted, large complex of buildings originally built as the city hospital in the eighteenth century. This very special place enabled participants both to listen to top-class superb lectures and stimulating discussions within ultra-modern auditoria and to walk around this charmingly antique and spacious area during breaks—certainly a pleasant mixture! The weather was on our side as well. We had (almost) nine days of full and bright sunshine together with ‘late summer’ temperatures. Could we have asked for anything better?

After sessions full of professional talk, participants were invited to enjoy beautiful sites in the evenings and on weekends. We took a vintage tram trip around the inner city and a boat trip on the blue Danube River. Participants were invited to a dinner at Vienna City Hall and visited the Austrian National Library with its fascinating State Hall (a huge library hall built in the eighteenth century). We also came together at atmospheric restaurants such as a typical Viennese “Heuriger”, a place where the current year’s wine is served together with special Heurigen food. Quite obviously, everyone enjoyed sitting together, chatting about this and that and getting to know colleagues from other countries.

Organizing three successive conferences meant a good deal of work. It not only required many months of preparation, but also nine consecutive days of running around, trying to get everything done well. When we finally reached the last day, and saw that we had survived while our guests seemed to have enjoyed themselves, we were extremely pleased. Not only because everything had run smoothly but also because it was a great joy to have entertained so many wonderful guests from so many countries around the world.

Peter Klien, The Austrian Library Network
(Vienna, Austria)

Impressions of the 14th Annual ICAU Meeting in Vienna—by Four First Time Participants from the Netherlands

While on the verge of purchasing ALEPH 500, the University Library of Leiden was kindly permitted to send a delegation to Vienna. Apart from enjoying our time in one of the most impressive cities of Europe, our objectives were to learn more about ALEPH 500, meet colleagues prepared to share their experiences, discuss some planned special development with Ex Libris staff, and become familiar with the ALEPH community. As Leiden University implemented DigiTool last year, one of our delegates, Marlon Domingus, contributed a well-received lecture on “DigiTool and the Leiden projects for digitalizing ‘special materials.’”
The conference was well organized, our colleagues were as talkative as they were experienced, the Ex Libris staff members were as attentive as they were busy, the social events were really interesting and at times entertaining, the food was much above Dutch conference cuisine standards, and the ALEPH 500 survey kept us with two feet on the ground. When we returned from this most useful pursuit of information, contacts, and Viennese impressions, we were happier, wiser and a bit more tired.

We signed the license agreement on December 9th, 2003, and we trust we will be in the ALEPH community for years to come, eager to learn and to share our experiences. Hope to see you soon.

Simone Kortekaas, Marlon Domingus, Bas Vat, Arie Sonneveld

Frankfurt Book Fair 2003

The world’s biggest book fair takes place in Frankfurt (Germany) during the second week of October each year. In 2003, 6,000 exhibitors from 104 countries presented their new publications at the Frankfurt Book Fair. As in years past, the German sales team represented the Ex Libris Group at the International Librarians Center (ILC), where library system suppliers present their products and new developments. International visitors from all over the world contributed to the special atmosphere of the ILC.

Version 16 of ALEPH 500 was exhibited at the Ex Libris booth along with Alephino, DigiTool, MetaLib, and SFX. The Ex Libris booth served as a friendly meeting point for customers and distributors from all over the world, as well as for people interested in the company’s product portfolio. Among others, it was nice to have had this opportunity to meet our Japanese distributor Yutaka Masuda, Mr. Roger Brisson from Harvard College Library and Mrs. Svetlana Knollov from the Czech National Library, Prague.

We extend a warm greeting to all of you who met us at the Frankfurt Book Fair and hope to see you again next year.

Juergen Kuessow, Ex Libris (Germany) GmbH

Come See Us in Person

Ex Libris will be exhibiting at the following industry events:

**Online Conferentie Nederland**
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
April 6-7, 2004 - Stand D 024

**Library + Information Show 2004**
ExCel, London, UK
April 21-22, 2004 - Stand C34

**MLA ’04**
Washington DC, USA
May 21-26, 2004 - Booth 418

**Special Libraries Association 2004 Annual Conference**
Nashville Tennessee, USA
June 5-10, 2004 - Booth 644

**I - Expo**
Paris, France
June 8-10, 2004 - Stand S02

**Cominfo 2004**
Frankfurt, Germany
June 15-17, 2004

**2004 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
Orlando, Florida, USA
June 24-30, 2004

**World Library and Information Congress: 70th IFLA General Conference and Council**
Buenos Aires, Argentina
August 22-27, 2004 - Booth 70

**The International Book Fair**
Frankfurt A.M., Germany
October 6-10, 2004

**NYLA Annual Conference**
Rochester New York, USA
October 20 - 23, 2004

For additional information regarding our attendance at these and other industry events, please see [http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/events.htm](http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/events.htm)