



The Ex Librian

October 2005 Volume 2 Issue 2

A Word from Our CEO

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the fourth edition of the Ex Librian newsletter which marks the second full year of sharing information with our customers and the media through this channel. This edition of the newsletter sums up the activities in which Ex Libris has been involved during the first three quarters of 2005 and some of the directions in which we expect to grow in 2006.

Before discussing our plans for the upcoming period, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the committees of ICAU (International Consortium of ALEPH Users), SMUG (SFX/MetaLib Users Group), and NAAUG (North American ALEPH Users Group) for the successful orchestration of the 2005 annual meetings; thanks also to the attendees from around the world who participated in these. The active communication between Ex Libris and our users, facilitated by these organizations, is the key to the Company's development of top-tier products for the automation of libraries and research centers.

In my opening address at the recent ICAU meeting held at the British Library, I was pleased to announce a number of Ex Libris' plans for the coming year including Project Primo—an addition to our existing product suite—and Ex Libris' continued involvement in the Asian market.

In Project Primo, we are developing a new tool for the discovery and delivery of institutional resources and services. Primo is designed to focus on the user experience by providing features that address the changing needs and expectations of users today. Presenting a paradigm shift from traditional library functions, Primo will offer a rich and intuitive user experience across collection types by incorporating new models for discovery such as faceted browsing, ranking, linguistics features, grouping of related results, and by offering a range of innovative services. Those of you who attended the ICAU and SMUG meetings at the British Library in September had the opportunity to see a preview of Primo; and we are most encouraged by the response we received. The initial release of Primo is scheduled for Q3, 2006 and updates will be provided throughout the coming year to keep you abreast of our progress.

The start of 2005 saw the opening of the Ex Libris Korea office—a part of our ongoing expansion into the Asian market. This issue of the Ex Librian brings news of some of our exciting new activities in this region including the interesting customer events that the Korean office has coordinated during the last six months, the move to production of SFX and MetaLib at the Fudan University in China—the first non-ALEPH site in China to adopt these two products; as well as a new ALEPH 500 RFID implementation developed at the Temasek Polytechnic University in Singapore.

We expect the coming year to be an exciting time of innovation and challenge for all of us. Our next issue of the Ex Librian will be published in April 2006; but up-to-date news from Ex Libris can always be found on our corporate Web pages (www.exlibrisgroup.com); or come and meet us in person to hear of our latest developments. A list of our upcoming customer or industry events can be found at <http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/events.htm>.

Sincerely yours,
Matti Shem Tov
President & CEO

Table of Contents

ALEPH News	2
Sneak Preview —ALEPH 500 Version 18	2
RFID at Temasek Polytechnic Library	2
ALEPH Monitor at the Czech Technical University	3
Ex Libris and Google—What's New?	4
NISO Metasearch Initiative Update	5
DigiTool News	6
DigiTool Version 3.0	6
DigiTool 3.0 and ADAM at hbz	7
Verde Leads Industry in ERM Standardization Initiative	8
New Ex Libris Sales	9
The Knowledge Marketplace	10
Q&A	11
News from Around the World	12
Events	14



Sneak Preview of What's New and Improved in ALEPH 500 Version 18

Preparations for ALEPH 500™ version 18, scheduled for release in early 2006, are well under way with new functionality slated for patrons and staff users alike. Patrons will like multiple item renewal. Library staff will appreciate improved user management, better bibliographic display including summary holdings, and more ILL productivity built-into ALEPH (including optional unmediated ILL).

Version 18 will deliver enhanced sharing for consortia in which all members run ALEPH 500, including direct intra-consortial borrowing for patrons, pickup and return anywhere, and flexible automated selection of suppliers.

ARC version 1.1, released in May 2005, provides improved reporting with faster data extraction, extraction of additional data fields, and a wider range of predefined reports. We are pleased to announce that an ever increasing number of ARC users are developing their own customized reports in new and imaginative ways.

With the release of ALEPH Monitor, in June 2005, ALEPH 500 installations can now receive real-time alerts via SMS or e-mail regarding potential problems with the operating system, Oracle® database, or ALEPH 500. System status and warning information is also displayed on color coded system maps. Installations are free to set library-defined thresholds for notification regarding a range of parameters such as disk space, memory usage, and library locking status.

Building on the strong multilingual characteristics of ALEPH 500, version 18 will support enhanced CJK and Korean MARC.

Interoperability is a big focus for ALEPH 500 version 18 with support for publishing to Google®, opening your ALEPH 500 catalog to OAI harvesting, RSS publishing of patron-specific information directly to patrons, NCIP responder support, and an expanded set of X-Services.


Contributed by Katriel Reichman, ALEPH Product Manager, Ex Libris, katriel.reichman@exlibrisgroup.com.

Upgrade Express Continues to Win Kudos

"Iowa upgraded to ALEPH version 17 with a minimum of fuss. The increased functionality and support during the process is one of the main reasons we chose ALEPH."

Larry Woods, Director, Information Systems and Technical Services, The University of Iowa Libraries

RFID Implementation at Temasek Polytechnic Library

 On 19 May 2005, the Temasek Polytechnic Library (TPL) in Singapore launched its RFID system including the Automated Return Kiosk (ARK).



ARK allows patrons to return library materials, equipped with ISO 15693 compliant RFID tags, without the aid of library staff and even when the library is closed.

The Temasek Automated Return Kiosk

Fully compatible with ALEPH 500, ARK updates patron loan records, using the SIP2 protocol, in real time so that new items can be borrowed without delay. Patrons have the option of printing out a corresponding check-in receipt.



Automatic Sorter

ARK is also integrated with an Automated Sorter which communicates necessary sorting details through specialized SIP2 fields. Using a configurable sort matrix in ARK and ALEPH 500, returned items are sorted into one of five installed bins. This functionality, which expedites the return of items to the library shelves, was a joint development with Ex Libris.



The Digital Library Assistant at work

The Digital Library Assistant (DLA), an additional productivity tool in this RFID system, picks up signals generated by the RFID transponder tags placed in the library materials and facilitates their easy tracking. The DLA scanners reduce the time required to take inventory of the collection. Missing items can be located quickly, and the probability of locating hidden materials is much improved.

The library's existing 3M Self Check (6210) system was upgraded to support RFID, significantly reducing borrowing transaction time.

TPL opted for a hybrid system utilizing ISO compliant RFID tags for identification and material management and an existing 3M Library Security System, based on Electromagnetic Technology (EM). When a library item is checked out, the EM detection strip and the RFID tag are deactivated. In this way, checked out TPL items do not affect RFID security systems of other libraries.

TPL staff benefit from the strength of RFID, which has led to improved productivity and efficiency that goes on to enhance customer satisfaction. By maintaining its proven and reliable EM security system, the institution serves to safeguard valuable information resources. Future TPL plans include the replacement of the existing EM detection gates with RFID security gates.

TPL has received thumbs-up from both patrons and the library staff. Patrons are pleased with the ease of the RFID system while library staff appreciate the improved method of tracking the whereabouts of items and the increased use of self-service loan and return facilities. Within six weeks of its launch, over 60% of returns were done via ARK.




Temasek Polytechnic was established in 1990 to meet the increasing demand for polytechnic education in Singapore. The institution's library, established in July 1990, supports the learning, teaching and research needs of staff and students of the schools of Business, Design, Engineering, IT and Applied Science.

The 11-story library provides access to a diverse range of information resources in print, audio-visual, and electronic formats. Total holdings include over 190,000 books and bound periodicals, 1,500 periodical titles, 21,000 AV and multimedia materials. All library materials are classified using the LC classification scheme.

For additional information regarding the Temasek Polytechnic Library, please visit <http://spark.tp.edu.sg>.

Contributed by Ek Ben Wai, Manager, Technology Services Section, Temasek Polytechnic Library

ALEPH Monitor at the Czech Technical University

 ALEPH Monitor is a new ALEPH 500 add-on module which serves both systems staff and librarians by providing them with user-friendly monitoring of actual system data coming from the ALEPH 500 application. During June and July, 2005 ALEPH Monitor underwent Beta-testing at the Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. The leading person involved in the process, **Petr Vandrovec** (vandrove@vc.cvut.cz), the System Administrator of the library, explained; *"The ALEPH Monitor application has two components: the agent situated on your production system and the server handling, sending, and displaying relevant data. To give an example – when ALEPH 500 begins to run out of space, you are informed of this automatically and in advance through the ALEPH Monitor. You can receive the message either by e-mail or SMS."*

The Beta-testing process was coordinated by the university library and the local Czech distributor. Ex Libris headquarters provided the installation and initial training. At the end of the evaluation and testing process, some interesting results were found. Different monitoring rules can be set up per library (including individual messaging and timing rules). If needed, special characters can be used in the text of the messages—as ALEPH Monitor is Unicode compliant.

ALEPH Monitor is a role-based system which enables recipients to be defined for e-mail delivery. For example, the head of the cataloguing department will be notified when background indexing has been stopped for some reason, or the system administrator will be free to review all daemons and processes at once. Last but not least, Oracle gurus can see and review Oracle statistics regularly.

ALEPH Monitor can be used in very different ways for various kinds of libraries and has built-in support for consortia. The Beta-testing process has proved it can be quite a significant tool both for library and system staff. Thanks to its Web interface and graphical design (including a simple but efficient map of red, yellow and green signals) it requires just several hours of training to master. Never again will your Z39.50 server be down for hours – unnoticed.

Contributed by Martin Vojnar, Charles University, Czech Republic

Ex Libris and Google— What's New?

Ex Libris has been an enthusiastic participant and contributor to the Google Scholar initiative whereby OpenURL links are placed in Google Scholar search results. Many libraries are taking advantage of the new tools and products we've created to ensure that local library services, are readily available to Google Scholar searchers.

Google Scholar was launched in November 2004 to the great interest of both researchers and librarians. Its content, versus that of the main Google search engine, which indexes the Web at large, is focused on "peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from broad areas of research."

The service indexes a wide range of scholarly materials, and for many researchers is a fine blend of expert information and ease of use. However, the direct links to publisher full text shown in Google Scholar search results may not be freely available to library patrons, either because the library does not subscribe to the article via the publisher, or because the user is working off-campus and his/her IP is not recognized by the publisher's Web site. These problems have long been referred to in libraries as the "appropriate copy problem"—for which the OpenURL and link servers are the perfect antidote.

Ex Libris has collaborated with Google Scholar, in the context of SFX®, since its launch. Through the Google Scholar "institutional access program," libraries may register their SFX server with Google Scholar, and allow their library patrons to access material licensed by the library, as well as show them other extended services via the SFX menu.

Google Scholar first offered the institutional access program, which OpenURL-enabled search results, in February 2005 to a pilot set of libraries, nearly all of whom were SFX customers. With the comments and data received by the pilot libraries, Google Scholar was able to set the groundwork for broader availability of the program. May 2005 saw the program open to all libraries, and with this wider availability, the SFX staff published registration tools for Google Scholar in the Admin interface for SFX version 3. Any SFX customer may now register itself for SFX links to be shown to its users via the Google Scholar search results screen.

Through a simple Web tool, SFX librarians create an export file reflecting library full-text holdings which have been activated in the SFX local KnowledgeBase. This information is then made available for Google Scholar which will, on an end user's list of search results, display a prominent link to the library's full-text availability. If full-text is not available, a less prominent SFX link will show. The user can then follow the link to other extended services offered by the library.

In May 2005, Ex Libris launched the "ScholarSFX" service, which is a free service targeted at libraries which do not have a link resolver, but would like to localize Google Scholar search results as much as possible for their users. ScholarSFX is based on the SFX eXpress interface and allows a library to configure full-text subscriptions and register for the Google Scholar institutional access program, all via a Wizard interface. Thousands of freely-available journals are configured in the ScholarSFX service. Several dozen libraries have already registered for this service and are receiving SFX services via Google Scholar. We hope that ScholarSFX will prove useful to any library who hasn't had the opportunity to benefit from a link resolver. *For more information please see http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/scholar_sfx.htm*

Attendees of the June North American SMUG meeting in College Park, Maryland greeted Anurag Acharya, Principal Engineer at Google and the creator of Google Scholar, who presented the product and his views on the institutional access program. Acharya was a lively, opinionated presenter who arrived with much data on click through usage, preferred links, and user experience, using this information to explain the reasons behind the design of the Google Scholar and the institutional access program. The audience took part in a spirited discussion with him about Google Scholar content, indexing, and holdings requirements. By the end of Acharya's visit he had managed to win over much of the audience with his focus on a shared desire to make systems easier for researchers to find useful, quality material. He also admitted that he is in favor of directing users back to local libraries via the search engine trend.

The Google Scholar requirement that libraries must expose files reflecting their electronic holdings in order to register for institutional access links has been a controversial one among SFX customers. OpenURLs give librarians control over which services are shown to an end user, and many librarians feel strongly that the very reason they maintain an SFX server is to be sure that a user is given a way to access an article, even if full-text is not available locally. In direct contrast to other information providers, Google Scholar requires that libraries provide data to it in advance of showing any OpenURL link.

Ex Libris believes that Google's understanding of the critical need for the scholarly community to direct users to their home library for the provision of services marks a significant milestone for libraries. The Company is thus pleased to be able to provide tools that enable librarians to decide for themselves whether they wish to offer such services to their users. The inclusion of OpenURL in a search engine resource such as Google Scholar is an important advancement in the relationship between libraries and information providers, and we look forward to continuing the collaboration. We hope our customers will continue to send us any questions or comments.

Contributed by Nettie Lagace, SFX Product Manager, Ex Libris, nettie.lagace@exlibris-usa.com.



NISO Metasearch Initiative Releases Next Generation of Standards and Best Practices

The term metasearch—also referred to as parallel search, federated search, broadcast search, and cross-database search—has become commonplace in the information community's vocabulary. All speak to a common theme of allowing search and retrieval to span multiple databases, sources, platforms, protocols, and vendors simultaneously.

The many challenges of metasearching, documented in the Ex Libris and elsewhere, include the following:

- Metasearching has an impact on system resources and performance.
- Intellectual property and product branding need protection.
- Competitive advantages may result from the ranking and ordering of retrieval sets.
- Libraries need to position their services alongside free Web services.

Since early 2003, the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has played a leadership role in identifying the key metasearch problem areas and in proposing best practices and standards. Jenny Walker (Ex Libris) and Andrew Pace (North Carolina State University) have led the Metasearch Initiative with the goal of enabling:

- Metasearch service providers to offer more effective and responsive services
- Content providers to deliver enhanced content and protect their intellectual property
- Libraries to deliver services that distinguish their offerings from Google and other free Web services

Three task groups have worked hard to recommend a set of best practices and standards for different aspects of the metasearch challenges

Access Management

Chaired by Michael Teets (OCLC, Inc.), the Access Management task group addressed the problem of how to authenticate a user to the data provider, by way of the metasearch provider, in such a way that the authentication can be trusted end-to-end and ultimately deliver the services

to which the user is entitled.

After conducting a comprehensive survey and analysis of use cases, this group recommends that institutions that are in the process of acquiring new electronic resources implement either IP authentication with a proxy server or a username/password authentication system to control access to their electronic resources. Such systems are the most widely supported by vendors, have the lowest implementation and maintenance costs, and are the simplest for smaller or less technically sophisticated organizations to install. They also ensure that remote (i.e. off-site) users can access the resources of the institution with ease.

Shibboleth was ranked highly, after proxy servers, in terms of its ability to meet the needs of the use cases, but it scored very poorly on environmental factors because it is not yet widely deployed and few vendors currently support it. The Access Management group will continue to work with the Internet2 Shibboleth team to ensure that future Shibboleth development takes into account the needs of the metasearch community.

Collection and Service Descriptions

Chaired by Juha Hakala (Helsinki University Library), the Collection and Service Descriptions task group has explored the requirements for describing collections to facilitate resource discovery as well as the requirements for describing the informational services that are used to provide access to collections. Much prior work in these areas formed the basis of this group's recommendations for draft standards for trial use. The Collection Description metadata set is a Dublin Core Collection Description Application Profile; and ZeeRex is recommended for Service Description.

Search and Retrieval

Co-chaired by Katherine Kott (Digital Library Federation) and Sara Randall (Endeavor Information Systems), the Search and Retrieval task group has worked primarily in three areas: search and retrieval protocols, citation level data elements, and result sets metadata. The work on search and retrieval protocols has resulted in the creation of a new draft standard called NISO Metasearch XML Gateway (NISO MXG). This standard offers a low barrier of entry for vendors that have not yet implemented either Z39.50 or SRU/SRW - and indeed may not be familiar with these library-based standards. MXG is based on the NISO SRU protocol and uses URLs sent via HTTP to retrieve XML responses.

With a mix of librarians, software providers, and content providers, the three task groups have drawn the participation of over 60 individuals from five countries. Each group's first set of deliverables and recommendations was presented at

NISO's fall workshop in September 2005; and we at Ex Libris look forward to working with our MetaLib® customers toward the implementation of these recommendations. Your help is needed to encourage information providers to adopt the standards.

For more information on the NISO Metasearch Initiative please see http://www.niso.org/committees/MS_initiative.html

Contributed by Jenny Walker, VP Marketing, Ex Libris, jenny.walker@exlibrisgroup.com.



DigiTool Version 3.0

On August 1, 2005, Ex Libris released DigiTool version 3.0—the library and information industry's leading digital asset management system (DAM). DigiTool 3.0 represents a quantum leap in functionality, not only from the earlier DigiTool versions, but also over all other available DAM systems in the library market today.

Now more than ever, institutions are searching for a management solution that suits their global IT infrastructure strategies and can integrate with their other systems. This requirement is especially acute in the area of digital asset management systems, which are often expected to provide an enterprise-level solution rather than addressing solely the needs of individual departments or collections.

Based on a unique combination of modules that together provide a comprehensive solution, DigiTool's modular, flexible, and open architecture is designed to address the current and future requirements of digital collection management.

A small sampling of the major new functional areas included in DigiTool 3.0 follows:

Institutional Repository

An institutional repository is the enterprise system that manages and disseminates digital materials created by the institution, its organizational entities, and their community members—for example, theses, dissertations, preprints, offprints, research papers, and committee reports. These entities deposit data into the institutional repository by way of the DigiTool Deposit Module, which enables external producers (e.g. students, professors) to create and submit digital objects via a Web-based interface. The producer uses

this interface to fill in necessary metadata and upload files into DigiTool at the same time. The Deposit Module leads the user through the different steps of the process by means of a "Deposit Wizard", which offers step-by-step upload as well as other advantages including:

- Creation of different submission workflows for different types of material
- Establishment of submission rules at the initial deposit stage (e.g., number of files per deposit, format of the files for deposit, mandatory metadata fields)
- Providing the depositor with a Web-based user interface via which the actual status of deposits can be seen
- Management of depositor profiles (i.e., number of deposits or total size per depositor, approved material types for each depositor etc.)

Preservation

DigiTool 3.0 is designed to support the general OAIS (Open Archival Information System) framework for preservation repositories. As with OAIS, the DigiTool environment is comprised of three main types of users: users that provide the information to be preserved through the Deposit or Ingest Modules (Producers); staff users that manage the Repository (Management), and end users who use the Resource Discovery and Delivery Modules to find and view information of interest (Consumers).

The DigiTool Ingest functionality accepts digital material in various formats. Submitted data can be transformed as part of the ingest process and a number of pre-ingest tasks such as format validation, automatic extraction of technical metadata (using JHOVE), creation of access copies (e.g., JPEG2000 images), and full text index extraction can be performed.

The robust DigiTool Repository, which lies at the heart of the system, is responsible for storing and managing the digital objects—such as images or text files—and associated metadata including technical, structural, and preservation metadata. A standard Web services (SOAP) layer enables the Repository to interact with the other DigiTool modules as well as with local or third party systems.

Enhanced Support for Metadata Formats

The Meditor (Metadata Editor) is a powerful module that provides the tools needed to edit object metadata stored in the Repository. The Meditor provides editing tools for both descriptive and non-descriptive metadata (e.g., technical, copyright, preservation). DigiTool 3.0 supports numerous metadata formats including:

- MARC and Dublin Core
- Technical metadata for images (NISO Z39.87), text (METS TextMD), audio, and video
- Preservation metadata based on PREMIS Object and Event entities
- Copyrights based on the METS Rights Declaration Schema

Resource Discovery


The sophisticated Resource Discovery Module empowers patrons by enabling them to search for object metadata or document full text, navigate through an institution's predefined collections, view digital objects, and take advantage of personal services such as collection-management tools. Sophisticated indexing capabilities allow the inclusion of objects with different descriptive metadata formats in the same index as well as the joining of compound objects, stored in the Repository, into one intellectual entity for search purposes. Thus users searching for a multi-page book will get one result for the entire book rather than a different result for each scanned page.

By enabling institutions to define access to their digital objects, asset security and adherence to viewing privileges is controlled. Control features regulate end user viewing privileges in accordance with parameters such as user status, course enrollment, and IP address. The Resource Discovery user interface can be easily customized to conform to institutional branding.

Version 3.0 expands DigiTool educational activity horizons by allowing faculty to create "personal collections" for the enhancement of course materials. These collections can contain items from the digital repository as well as items from outside sources. A selection of viewers allows authorized members of the community (students, other staff members etc.) to create and publish collections, via a URL, in read-only mode. Selected objects can be viewed in a "slide carousel" mode or "split screen view"—to accommodate side-by-side object comparison. These features are designed for use in conjunction with classroom assignments, and course management systems.

Contributed by Michael Kaplan, Director of Digital Products Technical Support, Ex Libris, michael.kaplan@exlibris-usa.com.

DigiTool 3.0 and ADAM at hbz

 hbz (Hochschulbibliothekszentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen) is a large consortium and servicing body for 1195 university, college, special, and public libraries, as well as data processing centers in Western Germany. This consortium, which maintains a central ALEPH catalog with more than 65 million records, will implement DigiTool 3.0 as their central digital repository for libraries and other institutions. One of the most interesting aspects of this project is that DigiTool will work in conjunction with ADAM, the ALEPH Digital Asset Management Module, to enrich the ALEPH central catalog.

hbz's decision to implement both of these products simultaneously was motivated by the consortium's wish to provide homogeneous functionality across DigiTool and ALEPH. DigiTool follows the basic principles of the OAIS functional model. The product also supports many industry standards, and serves as a powerful and scalable enterprise-level repository. DigiTool's flexible architecture, based on Web services (SOAP), can be easily customized to accommodate new emerging standards.

ADAM will enable the consortium to actively integrate digital objects, created in DigiTool, into the existing ALEPH 500 bibliographic environment, thus complementing the integrated digital asset management approach.

The dual implementation of DigiTool and ADAM at hbz is targeted at two major projects:

1. The consortium is currently digitizing and scanning tables of content, abstracts, book covers, and other printed information. While the objects themselves are stored in the DigiTool Repository to ensure their preservation, the ADAM Module in ALEPH will ensure that the full texts of these objects is indexed, can be retrieved, and accessed from the ALEPH Web OPAC via deep linking. All objects, identified in ADAM, are included in the ALEPH cluster replication process between the ALEPH central catalog and the local catalogs of the participating libraries.

In a first pilot project, the Cologne University Library will start digitizing the tables of contents of a dedicated collection of approximately 200,000 social sciences books.

2. DigiTool will replace the consortium's existing digital content databases and will incorporate servers from different institutions within the consortium, storing digital assets such as theses or dissertations. The DigiTool Deposit Module will manage all of the institutions' upload and approval processes.

For further information on this topic and project, please contact Jürgen Küssow (jk@exl.de) or René Thomas (rt@exl.de).

Contributed by Jürgen Küssow, Senior Sales Consultant, Ex Libris Germany, jk@exl.de.



Verde Leads Industry in ERM Standardization Initiatives

Verde, Ex Libris' Electronic Resource Management (ERM) system, enables library staff to manage their resources at all levels: the interface, the package, and the constituent (e.g. journal, book). Previous editions of the Ex Libris have described the valuable work of the Digital Library Federation ERM Initiative (DLF ERMI) and how it influenced Verde's development.

Verde complements the existing range of Ex Libris solutions that manage electronic resources; in particular, the management of key business areas including licensing, acquisitions information, access, trial usage, costs, and statistics.

Many of the data elements managed by Verde originate in other library system modules. One of Verde's central design principles is that data work should never have to be done twice and thereby provides Web services and other mechanisms for data to be shown.

Some Verde attributes—license and usage statistics—could be more easily and usefully completed in Verde with data from third party sources.

I. Licensing

License attributes reflect the terms and conditions of a usage contract described in a very granular way. Verde includes several mechanisms designed to make the time consuming task of license entry more efficient. These mechanisms include the ability to create default license templates, duplicate licenses, and import/export and share licenses between Verde customers.

Publisher distribution of license data in a machine readable form would help make the Verde setup process—and for any ERM system—far easier and less time consuming than manual data entry. Ex Libris is participating in several new industry initiatives designed to allow automated distribution of license data from the source (publisher or database provider) to the local ERM system.

EDItEUR (an international group coordinating development of the standards infrastructure for electronic commerce in the book and serials industries) and the DLF ERMI have each been investigating distribution of publisher license data in a machine-usable format.

EDItEUR was instrumental in working with the publishing

community in developing the ONIX and ONIX for Serials formats. ONIX is a very detailed XML format for the transmission and delivery of information relating to the description and sales of book-related transactions. The ONIX for Serials project, developed in conjunction with NISO and under the guidance of the ONIX Serials Steering Group, has developed three sets of application messages, each supported by an outline specification, XML schema, and full HTML documentation.

In early 2005, EDItEUR turned its attention to the provision of licensing terms in a similar, ONIX-XML format. EDItEUR's assessment of the licensing situation follows:

"As the number of the digital resources in library collections grows, libraries have increasing difficulty complying with the widely differing license terms applied to resources by their creators and publishers. The ability to express these terms in a standard XML format, link them to digital resources and communicate them to users has become a pressing need with benefits to both publishers and libraries." (<http://www.editeur.org>, 31 August 2005).

In pursuit of the goal of providing license terms in an XML format, EDItEUR recently (23 August, 2005) published a draft document entitled ONIX for Licensing Terms Publisher License Terms format. Although still an early draft, this document shows EDItEUR's direction (on behalf of its publisher members) in the effort to provide XML-based license data.

Parallel to the EDItEUR ONIX for Licensing terms effort is a new initiative from the DLF ERMI to develop a similar type of license distribution format. ERMI is in the very early stages of defining its goals for version 2 of the DLF specification. Included, as a general objective, is the specification of a formatted, structured data format for the sharing and delivery of license data.

Ex Libris is following both the EDItEUR and ERMI efforts closely. Ideally the two groups would develop a single specification that could be embraced by all interested parties. However, EDItEUR and ERMI have different constituencies and are working on different calendars. It is impossible to predict, at this time, whether the ERM world will have one, two, or multiple license structures to deal with. As a mark of progress in EDItEUR-ERMI cooperation, the two groups have just (late September, 2005) agreed to the creation of a Joint Working Party to further the effort towards a single specification. The joint Working Party is scheduled to begin its work in early November, 2005.

Verde version 1.0 already fully supports the set of DLF ERMI data elements described in the 2004 specification, which is the de facto standard for all ERM systems. Although this group of licensing data elements enjoys library and industry support, an exchange format—for sharing and transmitting

licensing data—does not yet exist. The two initiatives described above should result in progress towards electronic distribution of license terms.

II. Usage Statistics Collection

Another area where vendor/publisher participation is useful is in the provision of usage statistics for the electronic resources that they make available. Almost all database and e-product publishers collect usage statistics. Many of these publishers report statistics in formats specified by COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) (<http://www.projectcounter.org>).

Although the COUNTER specification details report output format, it does not dictate a specific mode of delivery for these usage reports. As a result, there is no consistent way of delivering COUNTER reports at the end of each reporting period. Some publishers make reports available at FTP sites, while others e-mail them, and still others only make usage statistics accessible online in HTML format.

In early July 2005, an informal group of ERM stakeholders began to meet to discuss the potential for a standard protocol for ERM systems (and others) to query publishers and distributors for COUNTER based statistics. (Participants are: Adam Chandler, Cornell University and DLF/ERMI; Tim Jewell, University of Washington and DLF/ERMI, Ivy Anderson, Harvard University and DLF/ERMI; Ted Koppel, Ex Libris; Ted Fons, Innovative Interfaces; Bill Hoffman, Swets; and Oliver Pesch, EBSCO.)

This small group discussed several approaches to automated statistics collection, including a modified FTP protocol, OAI-style harvesting, and a SOAP-based Web service. A guiding principle in this effort was that the implementation burden for any publisher should be as small as possible. The group decided that a simple web service (query and respond) would be a good model for development, and would be in the reach of almost all potential suppliers of usage statistics.

A proof-of-concept is now underway. If this works as planned, the group (at this point unnamed) plans to propose the protocol as a pre-standard to NISO (National Information Standards Organization) for their consideration and ratification. Once this statistics collection web service protocol is standardized, we expect publishers to make delivery of usage statistics available using this protocol.

Verde's Usage Statistics attribute already enables staff to manually enter COUNTER and other statistical data. Cost per usage reporting and other usage-based analysis can be accomplished with data already collected within Verde. The advantage to a standard that allows for automated harvesting of usage data is the speed and accuracy with which it can be collected.

Ex Libris (and Verde) continue to take an active role in the creation of standards and protocols that add value to the products that we develop and deliver.

Contributed by Ted Koppel, Verde Product Manager, Ex Libris, ted.koppel@exlibris-usa.com.



Verde Beta-testers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Research Center

New Ex Libris Sales

50 hot sales of Ex Libris products in 12 different countries have been recorded since the release of the last edition of the Ex Librian.

New sites, and sites extending their Ex Libris suite of products and services, range from universities and academic consortia, through corporations and special libraries, to a national heritage organization in Australia, and one of the largest public library systems in the US (More details below.)

Geographically, our new customers come from Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Romania, UK, and the US.

All for one and one for all – consortia sales

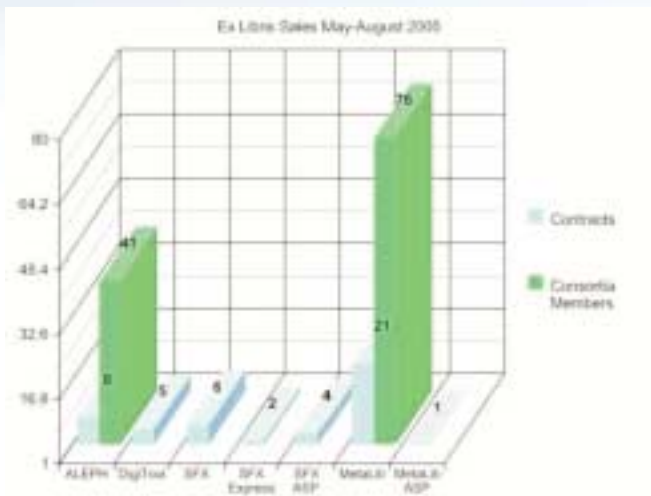
76 OhioLink libraries have recently purchased MetaLib. New contracts also include the Israel Colleges Consortium of 41 libraries that chose ALEPH 500.

Mix and Match

The suite of Ex Libris products enables institutions of any type and size to select a personalized library solution to meet their needs:

- **Universite de Liege**, Belgium and **Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne** chose ALEPH 500, MetaLib and SFX
- **The Hochschul Mittweida** in Germany selected ALEPH 500 together with SFX eXpress
- **Kaunas University of Technology** in Lithuania chose both ALEPH 500 and SFX, while the Australian AIATSIS* opted for DigiTool, MetaLib, and SFX.

ASP is becoming a popular choice for libraries with four new SFX and one new MetaLib site choosing Ex Libris' hosted options. The Israel Colleges Consortium will be a fully hosted ALEPH 500 site.



Pleased to meet you!

Among the many new and interesting Ex Libris sites that have joined us since the last edition of the Ex Librian, we would like to highlight two new DigiTool customers—AITSIS (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) in Australia, and the Boston Public Library in the USA:

*AITSIS is an independent authority devoted to the study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Its award-winning, in-house publisher issues an extensive array of books, cassettes, CDs, films and videos, reports, and the Institute's journal of Australian Aboriginal Studies. The AITSIS Library and Audio/Visual programs hold the world's most extensive collections of printed, audio, and visual materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander topics. These are used by researchers, museums, galleries, and the general public.

For over 150 years, the **Boston Public Library (BPL)** has pioneered public library service in The United States with revolutionary ideas and famous firsts. Established in 1848, the BPL was the first publicly supported municipal library in America, the first public library to lend a book, the first to have a branch library and the first to have a children's room. Today, the BPL boasts 27 neighborhood branches, free Internet access, two unique restaurants, an award-winning Website and an online store featuring reproductions of the BPL's priceless photographs and artwork. All of its programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.

While this may not be the traditional season for exchanging gifts, libraries around the world are taking the wrapping paper off of their new Ex Libris products, and (hopefully!) reading the instruction manuals.

Contributed by Thea Hurwitz, Sales Support Coordinator, Ex Libris, thea.hurwitz@exlibrisgroup.com.

The Knowledge Marketplace

As we enter the early 21st century, content creators and archivists of all kinds are converting analog materials into new digital forms. At the same time, an explosion of new digital content is being created every day by students and faculty around the world in their quest for new knowledge and forms of creative expression. Today's students are part of the new digital culture which is creating new opportunities and roles for libraries to participate in the digital economy. The community of knowledge creators participating in this digital shift on campus is expanding to include publishers, public broadcasting, entertainment, museums, and artists. The classroom of the future is everywhere, on-demand and digital.

Our Digital Culture

As more and more content is digitized and important projects such as Google Print and the Merlot Learning object repository emerge the issue of where all of this content will be stored for universal access becomes paramount. Institutions around the world are investigating and building new digital repositories in models ranging from personal digital libraries containing all the materials an individual cares to capture, create and share to centralized institutional repositories that offer a new form of collective intelligence for the academy. Librarians of today have a new opportunity to apply the skills of the physical world to catalog, index and make available new taxonomies that enable faculty and students to quickly locate and share educational materials created from learning management environments and open access publishing.

Intellectual Property in the Digital Age

A new era of public policy challenges is emerging in software and content centered on the principles of digital rights and copyright in education. Do professors who create original works own the rights to their materials or does the institution? What rights must be protected in an era of modular content in the form of materials that are created that are not intended to be free? One of the more important directions for the expression and protection of ideas on the web beyond the millenium digital copyright act is the Creative Commons schemas derived from the works of Stanford University's Lawrence Lessig. These copyright schemas allow for our digital creators to attach a relatively simple set of 4 rights models depending on their intended re-use on the web. These new approaches to content and code are enabling creative control to thrive in non-commercial models in parallel to traditional commercially developed ones. In the end, both models must be allowed to compete, inter-operate and complement the academic mission of the institution.

Open Systems for Open Minds

As content goes modular and service-oriented architectures emerge to deliver new forms of communication and collaboration, critical standards are emerging that allow for

inter-operability of software systems and content which leads us to a more common platform and lower costs. Specifications initiatives in e-learning emerging from the IMS Global Consortium, Student Inter-operability Framework and Open Knowledge Initiative are complementing the web standards discussions at the W3C.

Sun and Ex Libris are able to play a critical role in the emergence of the new tools, technologies and approaches which let the new digital marketplace of ideas thrive.

Contributed by Kevin Roebuck, Manager, e-Learning and Libraries, Global Education and Research, Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Q&A This section of the newsletter is designed to provide our readers with a place to ask specific questions regarding the Ex Libris products and their functionality. Questions may be addressed to Laura Gilinski at laura.gilinski@exlibrisgroup.com. Please note, that while we will address a number of the questions received we may not be able to answer all of them in the next edition.

During the last few months we have received a number of questions regarding the MetaLib X-Server that has been mentioned in much of our literature. In order to clarify this matter we have addressed it here:

What is the MetaLib X-Server?

Increasingly libraries want to tightly integrate library content and services into enterprise-wide systems. The MetaLib X-Server satisfies these requirements by enabling libraries to surface the power of Metalib in other applications.

First introduced early in MetaLib's life cycle, during 2005, the MetaLib team has invested substantial development effort in enhancing existing X-Services and developing new ones. The roll-out of these recent enhancements has resulted in renewed interest among our MetaLib customers.

The MetaLib X-Server is an optional, cost-added module that provides you with the capability to access MetaLib's functionality from another application such as a Library or University Portal, Course Management System (CMS), Web pages, etc. MetaLib's X-Server module consists of a set of APIs that enable you to extract information from your MetaLib implementation, and invoke MetaLib functions such as a user's search for information against a set of MetaLib resources. The X-Server APIs are invoked by calling your MetaLib application via URL or XML input from another application. The APIs return the output from your request as XML, which you can then parse and format as desired for presentation in the user interface of your calling application.

MetaLib customers worldwide have utilized the X-Server for a variety of interesting and innovative integration projects. Several MetaLib customers use the X-Server to provide MetaLib metasearch functionality within a portal that also provides their users with access to other applications – MetaLib's functionality is only one component of their portal. Other MetaLib customers have carried out extensive customization of our standard MetaLib user interface, achieving a personalized MetaLib interface with the X-Server providing access to MetaLib's functionality. For several MetaLib customers, the X-Server is an effective tool for easily constructing multiple subject-specific Portals that provide their users with essential resources and metasearch capabilities relevant to a particular subject area.

Your increased interest in MetaLib's X-Server led to the formation of a MetaLib X-Services Interest Group, a subset of the larger SFX/MetaLib User Group (SMUG). There is now a listserv for the MetaLib X-Services Interest Group, kindly hosted by the California Digital Library (CDL), which provides a forum for MetaLib X-Server users to share their knowledge, experience, and questions. We work closely with this group to provide assistance, information, and to share our progress with on-going X-Server developments. We also greatly value the input we receive from the MetaLib X-Server user community suggesting desired enhancements for future X-Server development.

More information about the MetaLib X-Services Interest Group listserv can be found at <http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/metasearch/x-server-l.html>.

The June 2005 meeting of the North American SMUG featured several informative presentations by MetaLib customers currently using the MetaLib X-Server. Similar presentations were held at the International SMUG meeting which took place in London, UK during September 2005.

Contributed by Karen Groves, MetaLib Product Manager, Ex Libris, karen.groves@exlibris-usa.com.

News From Around the World

Cause for Celebration – 20 Years of Shared Library System



UNILINC, formed in 1978, is a network of libraries based in New South Wales Australia that joined the Ex Libris family in 2001 when it implemented ALEPH, with MetaLib/SFX followed in 2004. 2005 marks 20 years of the network's continuous operation with an integrated library system.

The UNILINC Shared System is very much that; a shared system. Each library has its own customized catalogue along with special OPACs for each campus or material type such as e-resources, serials, and reserves as well as individualized set up and policies for Circulation, budgets, and policies and files for Acquisitions and Serials. On the other hand, the network libraries work to the same standards and catalogue to one shared bibliographic database (union catalogue). Issues which still seem to thwart cooperation elsewhere were dealt with many years ago when the network was formed (using a microfiche system then!).

UNILINC maximizes local autonomy and at the same time supports resource sharing in its broadest sense. The member libraries that participate in reciprocal borrowing and interlibrary lending, benefit from easy and cost efficient copy cataloguing, and access to serial patterns and order records. Authority work provides an interesting insight into this balance of local and shared responsibilities. The libraries import authority records or suggest new ones. UNILINC Office integrates these records into the database, initiates necessary global changes or one-off amendments, and argues the case for new authorities to the National Library of Australia. So too in the case of MetaLib/SFX, those activities that can be done once and then replicated for all participants are handled by UNILINC Office.

UNILINC Office supports the work of member libraries by managing and operating various systems, providing training and help desk services, writing SQL and other reports, customizing Web interfaces, configuring the system and clients, testing and implementing service packs and software upgrades, evaluating new features (e.g. ALEPH My e-Shelf), modules, or products (e.g. ISO ILL and MARCIt!). If one of these is chosen, the Office is responsible for subsequent set up and implementation as well as writing programs to convert data for and from a range of systems.

Ex Libris is at the heart of the UNILINC story. Although as a consortium UNILINC is far from being one of the Company's largest ALEPH or MetaLib/SFX sites, the widespread nature of the membership and the combined focus on local autonomy and resource sharing gives the ALEPH software a work out. Some of member university libraries are large in

student numbers but many others are amongst the smallest in the ALEPH family. Members include regionally based universities, a range of colleges, schools, a teaching hospital and a national research institute. The ALEPH set up includes 120 concurrent GUI users, 20 ADMs (with 55 sub libraries and 416 collections) and 73 logical bases (OPACs). The database, at 1.4 million records, is not huge nor is the number of loans or OPAC searches (1.1 million loans and 3 million searches) but, to meet the libraries' needs, UNILINC has written and supports over 1,000 SQL reports.

The dynamic of all of the member libraries working to meet their particular strategic objectives ensures things move at a rapid pace within UNILINC. For example the four universities that share a MetaLib/SFX instance set up over 50,000 active SFX full targets in less than a year. Charles Sturt University, one of Australia's most rapidly developing universities, now has a campus in Ontario. The University Library was notified in May 2005 of the need to set up a library on the Ontario campus. By mid August this was a reality—with staff, collections, electronic access, and of course the UNILINC ALEPH Shared System providing full integration with the Library's full suite of services—requiring 24-hour fully online ALEPH operations.

UNILINC has posed some interesting challenges for the ALEPH software, yet some clever work by the UNILINC staff supported by Ex Libris has helped the network meet these challenges successfully.

For information about UNILINC please e-mail rona@unilinc.edu.au and check out the web site [www.http://unilinc.edu.au](http://www.unilinc.edu.au)

Contributed by Rona Wade, Executive Director and CEO, UNILINC Limited

First Non-ALEPH Customer to Select ML/SFX in China— Goes Live



At the beginning of August 2005, the Fudan University library selected Ex Libris' MetaLib and SFX, becoming the first non-ALEPH customer to use these systems in China. The Fudan University library currently runs a SirsiDynix integrated library system. A gift to the university for its 100 year anniversary, the digital portal and open linking system went live on September 22, 2005.

To celebrate the successful move to production, and as part of the University's 100th anniversary celebration, the library organized a seminar on electronic resource management and services. Approximately 40 participants attended this seminar, including members of the Computer Application Working Group of the Library and Information Committee of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, and representatives of more than 15 universities. Prof. Xu Zhong, Vice President of Fudan University, and Ms. Li Xiaoming, an official from the Higher Education Bureau of the Ministry of

Education, gave warm speeches of congratulations at the seminar. Ms. Jenny Walker, Vice President of Marketing at Ex Libris, gave a keynote presentation on electronic resources management as well as related standards.

Following the seminar, the attendees were treated to a tour of two very impressive new university campuses, as well as a trip on the 430km/hr magnetic levitation train.

Contributed by Fucheng Shen, Managing Director, Ex Libris China, fucheng.shen@exlibris.com.cn.

Nottingham Trent University - Strengthening the Library's Role by Maximizing Return on Information Resource Investment



Library and information professionals face a twin challenge with regard to information resources. The first is ensuring that information users find what they need for their work rapidly, and make maximum use of the quality information resources selected by the library while spending less time dealing with inappropriate information. The second is managing the increased internal workload caused by the ever-increasing quantity of electronic resources – a task that leaves less time for proactive user-focused activities. Ex Libris has designed flexible solutions to help librarians and information professionals tackle these challenges– for both print and electronic library and information resources. An example of a library implementing Ex Libris' suite of solutions is the UK's Nottingham Trent University.

MetaLib and SFX – guiding users to appropriate resources

Nottingham Trent University began by implementing MetaLib and SFX as their integrated resource discovery solutions for users. Not only do Nottingham Trent's users now have easily recognizable SFX buttons to guide them to the appropriate copy of the actual text or file they need, they are also presented with an intuitive Google-like interface for cross-searching library-selected resources. By removing the burden of a work's provenance from the user, Nottingham Trent channels users towards appropriate resources, ensuring they do not waste valuable time exploring irrelevant sources.

Nottingham Trent's Mike Berrington commented; *"MetaLib and SFX together constitute an important component in our response to ensuring that the Library continues to add value in the electronic age, and of providing an integrated library-branded proactive service that takes into account our customers' needs"*.

"The next thing we needed to do was to find a solution for our internal administrative needs. E-resources have complicated the "back-room" role of the library, without removing any of the existing work associated with managing print material. Ex Libris' Verde and ALEPH systems provide

tools for managing the myriad of work associated with managing a large print and electronic collection."

Verde – the green light for electronic resource management

Today's libraries have to manage various types of material governed by a range of licensing and purchasing models. Libraries not only need to track titles, subscriptions, prices and publishers, but also licenses, platforms, interfaces and administrative and support information. It is small wonder therefore, that information professionals and librarians often struggle to keep track of the administrative work involved in making resources available to users.

Verde, Ex Libris' newest product, provides staff with the tools they need to manage these resources while ensuring that access to resources is maintained and the information needed for problem-solving is easily at hand.

Mike Berrington commented: "Using Verde, we will be able to find all the information we need in one place – information that used to be held on a variety of different systems, databases and spreadsheets, and also held in staff members' heads! In a few mouse clicks, library staff will be able to find out everything they need to know about a resource – from pre-purchase information such as trials through to renewal and cancellation. It will be easy to find out who to contact at which publishers and interface providers in case of problems with accessing resources, and it will be possible to collate key performance indicators for those resources."

ALEPH – facilitating library management and improving customer service

Whilst a large range of electronic information resources is usually available to the library user, it should not be forgotten that physical materials, such as books, DVDs and other media, still need to be managed and made available to users. Nottingham Trent University therefore decided to also replace its existing library management system with Ex Libris' ALEPH 500 integrated library system to facilitate integration with other systems inside and outside of the library.

Mike Berrington commented; "Although users demand access to library resources 24/7, it will not always be cost effective for us to remain staffed at all the times that users may want to borrow library materials. For this reason, we're pleased that ALEPH is able to fully integrate with our existing RFID self-check system to allow us to continue lending library materials outside of normal service hours, as well, of course, as reducing queuing times when the library is open. Moreover, RFID technology reduces the loss of library materials and increases the time available for library staff to provide professional assistance to our users. Integrated online and telephone facilities allow users to request, reserve and renew materials online—leaving library staff free for other duties".

Extending the role of the library with proactive services is another way in which libraries seek to reinforce their role as

quality information “gatekeepers” and agents for the prevention of information overload. ALEPH assists libraries with achieving this aim by providing OPAC users with SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) functionality. Users can create automatic subject searches to keep themselves up-to-date with relevant and quality information in their chosen fields.

Partnership and integration for the future

Mike Berrington is clear about the reasons for selecting Ex Libris solutions; *“They are fully committed to integration with other systems and gateways such as Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) software, institutional portals, OAI repositories and institutional authentication servers.*

Ex Libris’ present solutions are scalable and customizable. Just as important though is the company’s clear vision of development and partnership for the future. We feel that Ex Libris’ closeness to its customers and the company’s ongoing policy of developing products in partnership with those customers means that we can expect a clear and appropriate development path that both continues to extend our services and maximizes return on investment in the library”.

New Customers Mean Expansion for Ex Libris (UK)

Ex Libris’ presence in the British Isles has continued to strengthen rapidly, with the addition of 14 new customers since the last issue of *The Ex Librian*. These include the Universities of Birmingham, Cardiff, Huddersfield, Salford, Staffordshire, Strathclyde, the Queen’s University Belfast, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of the West of England, SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), CCLRC - Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute (the first UK site using SFX eXpress, Ex Libris’ hosted entry-level version of SFX—released earlier this year).

Aware already that it was outgrowing its Harefield House office, Ex Libris (UK) Ltd. set out earlier in the year to find another base, suitable for accommodating the resources required for serving the expanded user base. The new office had to be close enough to the previous location to ensure minimum disruption during the move. Additional requirements included improved disabled access, and a dedicated training and demonstration suite.

Appropriate premises were found and equipped over the summer, and on Wednesday 7th September, just a week before ICAU which took place at the British Library, Ex Libris (UK) moved down the hill from its old office to:

Unit 1, The Long Room Building, Coppermill Lock, Park Lane, Harefield, UB9 6JA – a purpose made facility overlooking London’s Grand Union Canal.

The move went smoothly, with only short e-mail

unavailability. Telephone and fax numbers were switched over to the new building.

The Ex Libris (UK) team looks forward to welcoming customers to its new offices for training sessions, demonstrations, or even just for a chat!

UKSG—the international group for people working with printed and electronic serials—is publishing an innovative new e-book about the management of e-resources. The e-book will be updated constantly and will focus on ERM, and all other aspects of the rapidly changing scholarly communication process. Leading practitioners in the industry - including publishers and librarians - will be contributing chapters about theory and practice in the field.

For more information, please contact Graham Stone, Serials and Electronic Development Team Leader, at the University of Bolton (g.stone@bolton.ac.uk +44 (0)1204 903099).

Contributed by Robert Bley, Sales Consultant, Ex Libris UK, robert.bley@exlibris.co.uk.

Events



During May of 2005, four days of Ex Libris seminars were held at two major cities in Korea—Seoul and Daejeon—to promote Ex Libris solutions in the Korean market. The seminars drew much attention from Korean librarians and were attended by 147 librarians and system administrators from 42 institutions. During the first two days of each of these seminars an overview of Ex Libris products was provided and the issue of globalization of Korean libraries was discussed. The following two days focused on the Ex Libris vision and strategy and on demonstrations of MetaLib and SFX.

The results from a follow-up survey reflected that most of the attendees found the seminars to be very useful to their work. Although the Korean librarians expressed almost equal interest in all of the Ex Libris products, SFX, MetaLib, and Verde were seen to be of most immediate appeal. The Korean office plans to offer another round of similar seminars in the fourth quarter of 2005.

For additional information on upcoming seminars, please contact korea@exlibrisgroup.com

Contributed by Jun Hong, Managing Director, Ex Libris Korea, jun.hong@exlibrisgroup.com.



The Week That Was: Olybris, Ex Libris Seminar 2005



Olybris, the seventh Ex Libris seminar, took place in April 2005, at the Kos International Convention Center (KICC) on the island of Kos, Greece.



At this largest Ex Libris seminar ever, 288 participants from 35 countries joined 46 Ex Libris staff members from all over the world for a week of learning and interaction. A total of 91 presentations covering various aspects of all Ex Libris products were given in four parallel tracks. Most of the presenters were development and support staff members from our centers in Jerusalem, Hamburg, and Boston. Coming in from the Los Alamos National Laboratories to join us as guest of honor, Herbert Van de Sompel gave a most enjoyable and stimulating keynote speech as well as two seminar presentations.



The seminar began with an opening reception at a small square around the famous plane tree of Hippocrates, in front of the Castle of the Knights. Despite the active participation of Aeolus, the god of the wind, friends and colleagues enjoyed the opportunity to gather and exchange news, starting off a week of intense activity.



The seminar sessions began on Monday morning. Matti Shem Tov, president and CEO of Ex Libris, opened the first session with his greetings, followed by Herbert Van de Sompel, who talked about the challenges ahead.

Jenny Walker, VP Marketing of Ex Libris, then set the scene for the seminar by discussing the Ex Libris vision for traditional and digital libraries.

Continuing for four days, the seminar presentations enabled participants to learn more about the products that they are using and also to get a glimpse at other products. In addition, all the lecturers and other Ex Libris staff members were available for formal and informal conversations throughout the seminar.



At the end of the fourth day, the seminar culminated in a party in the mountain village of Zia. With typical Greek food and a wonderful folklore performance, everybody—customers and Ex Libris staff members alike—was able to unwind after the days of intensive learning.



On Friday morning, the seminar participants hopped into small jeeps, split up into four groups of 15 jeeps each, and drove around the island of Kos, looking at the sites and trying to answer questions based on the region's history and mythology. The winners—the 60 members of the blue group—were awarded a small Koan souvenir.

Judging from many verbal remarks, e-mail notes, and comments on the feedback sheets, we can conclude that the seminar was a grand success, from the point of view of both the content and everything surrounding it. Or, as one of the customers wrote, "Thanks for a perfect seminar! Very useful—and fun, too! :-)"

Contributed by Tamar Sadeh, Ex Libris, tamar.sadeh@exlibrisgroup.com.

Farewell Event for Azriel Morag



In August 2005, Ex Libris staff past and present together with family and friends, joined at a gala farewell banquet for Azriel Morag founder and Chairman of the Board of Ex Libris for nearly two decades, who retired this June.

Looking back approximately 20 years, we find the ALEPH system newly developed and implemented in some of the large Israeli universities. The Hebrew University, the then sole owner of ALEPH, recognized the potential of this product and invited Azriel Morag, to translate this new concept into a commercial reality. Within a few short years Azriel, and the ever expanding team that he lead, managed to transform Ex Libris from a small Israeli library automation vendor into an international industry leader acknowledged by the academic world and respected by its competitors.

Azriel went on to establish Ex Libris subsidiaries around the world including a remarkable entry into the reputedly impenetrable North American market. Enumerating the contracts Ex Libris won due to Azriel would be endless. It suffices to say that Ex Libris is now represented in over 1650 sites in 57 countries worldwide. Encouraged by the success of ALEPH, Azriel went on to look for additional opportunities which entailed pushing the company to develop new products and enter new market segments. The results of these efforts were SFX, MetaLib, DigiTool, and Verde.

The success achieved by Ex Libris under Azriel's leadership, did nothing to change the feeling of family that remained a distinguishing characteristic of the company even as many new employees joined the initial nucleus. As the driving force behind the company's vision, growth, and innovation over the last 20 years, Azriel's mark will remain forever at the very heart of the company and what it stands for.

Contributed by Laura Gilinski, MarCom Manager, Ex Libris, laura.gilinski@exlibrisgroup.com.

NAAUG-SMUG 2005 Sharing the Experience

This past June, NAAUG (North American ALEPH Users Group) and its sister group, SMUG (SFX and MetaLib Users Group), convened for their sixth annual conference at the University of Maryland, College Park campus, in Beltsville, MD.

During the meetings, there was much discussion about end-user access issues. Several presentations addressed the customization of both SFX and MetaLib from a variety of perspectives, including the user interface. Of special interest were those presentations that demonstrated the use of the MetaLib X-Server API for the creation of end-user applications and interfaces. The X-server, available with both ALEPH and MetaLib, allows sites to optimally deploy the product's functionality in a local environment. Representatives from the California Digital Library and the California State University, San Marco, showed early but inspiring prototypes of their work in this area.

The increased availability and expanded functionality of the X-Server are evidence of the Ex Libris focus on interoperability and on providing opportunities for our customers to configure Ex Libris products for integration with their other technologies, both back end and front end.

But it was the guest presentation by Anurag Acharya, chief engineer for Google Scholar, that best illustrated the spirit of sharing and openness that characterized the entire five-day event.

Google Scholar: To Hold or Not to Hold

Acharya and the Google Scholar team worked closely with Ex Libris and many SFX libraries to implement the OpenURL standard in Google Scholar within a few months of the initial release of that product—a testament to the responsiveness of Google to the library community and their needs. However, Google's Institutional Access program, which enables libraries to include links from Google Scholar results to the libraries' local link resolvers (for example, SFX) received mixed reactions from the library community. While many libraries commended Google for adopting the OpenURL standard (which is probably the first library standard adopted by a major nonlibrary vendor), Google's requirement that libraries submit updated library holdings raised some concerns, as some libraries regard it as incompatible with their current practices and policies. Google argues that this requirement is necessary to offer

the end user a prominent link to the full-text article when such is available.

Given the differing viewpoints in the community, just the courage it took for Acharya to come and face the opposition was noteworthy. As Roy Tennant, Director of Digital

Technologies for California Digital Library, stated, "By merely showing up, Anurag Acharya impressed conference attendees. But it was his obvious intelligence, openness to discussion and debate, and persuasive arguments that won over many in the crowd to Google's position on sharing holdings information. Anurag's participation in the meeting was a definite high point for all, even for those holding conflicting positions."

While it was not exactly the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, there was a renewed respect for Acharya just for taking the time to articulate and defend his position and for giving a human face to the corporate behemoth that we know only as Google. The issue of holdings appropriation is one that will not resolve itself overnight, yet the willingness to engage in open discussion is a sign that the chasm between these two viewpoints may yet be bridged—a tentative clasping of hands if you will, between two parties with the keen insight to recognize that they both share the same goal. For now, we'll just call it a truce.

Contributed by Heidi Trockman, Marketing Manager- North America, Ex Libris, heidi.trockman@exlibris-usa.com.

Come See Us in Person

Ex Libris will be exhibiting at the following industry events:

Frankfurt Book Fair
Frankfurt, Germany
October 19-23, 2005

California Library Association
Annual Conference
Pasadena, California
November 4-7, 2005

CERN Workshop on Innovations
in Scholarly Communication
(OA14)
Geneva, Switzerland
October 20-22, 2005

Online Information 2005
London, UK
29 November-1 December, 2005

ALA 2006 Midwinter Meeting
San Antonio, TX
January 20-23, 2006

- 16 -

Ex Libris - USA

Toll Free: 1 877 527 1689
E-mail: info@exlibris-usa.com

Ex Libris - Germany

Tel: 49 40 89 809 0
E-mail: info@exl.de

Ex Libris - Israel

Tel: 972 2 649 9100
E-mail: exlibris@exlibris.co.il

Ex Libris - Korea

Tel: 82 221 955 432
E-mail: korea@exlibrisgroup.com

Ex Libris - UK

Tel: 44 1895 824 440
E-mail: exlibris@exlibris.co.uk

Ex Libris - France

Tel: 33 1 57 02 12 50
E-mail: exlibris@exlibris.fr

Ex Libris - China

Tel: 86 10 6526 3901
E-mail: exlibris@exlibris.com.cn

Ex Libris - Australia

Tel: 61 88 33 10 875
E-mail: exlibris@exlibris.com.au