A Message from our CEO

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the sixth issue of the *Ex Librian* newsletter.

I’d like to share with you some information about, and also my perception of, the recently announced agreement by which Francisco Partners will be assuming ownership of Ex Libris™.

In order to succeed, organizations need to grow: because the world moves forward at an ever-quickening pace, stagnation really means moving backward. Since the company’s very beginning, Ex Libris has continued to demonstrate impressive growth in terms of product offerings, research and development, geographic reach, number of customers, number of employees, and, of course, revenue. This growth has enabled us to be innovative, creative, and among the first—and in some notable cases, the very first—to provide new solutions for the rapidly changing library and e-content market.

Our success attracted the attention of Francisco Partners, a leading global private equity firm that focuses on mature companies in the technology sector and controls approximately five billion US dollars in capital. The offer from Francisco Partners to support the Ex Libris management team in leading the company forward reaffirms our belief in the strength of our company, our products, and our future directions. Ex Libris shareholders—the Hebrew University, Tamar Ventures, and the Walden Israel venture fund—accepted the offer, and the company will soon have new owners.

You may be wondering about the implications of this acquisition for you, our customers, and perhaps also for Ex Libris staff. Without hesitation, I can say that the acquisition is expected to have only positive effects.

Ex Libris will remain an independent company. The current Ex Libris team and specifically the senior management team will remain in place, working from the same offices, continuing to further develop Ex Libris products and support the customer base. Customers will continue to interact with Ex Libris as they do today, through their local Ex Libris office or distributor.

However, the financial backing of Francisco Partners and its network of strategic contacts will enable us to explore acquisition opportunities for complementary products and technologies in the library automation and e-content markets and to expand our geographic reach. These new opportunities will help Ex Libris retain its position of leadership in its core market and provide customers with best-of-breed products.

I am confident that the change of ownership, which is due in great part to the Ex Libris vision, achievements, and true assets—our dedicated team—will prove beneficial to both the company and our customers.

Before ending this message, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the contributors to the current and previous issues of the newsletter and to express my appreciation particularly to the Ex Libris marketing communication manager, Laura Gilinski—the
Sincerely yours,

Matti Shem Tov
President and CEO, Ex Libris

Focus on Ex Libris Solutions

Think Ahead: Planning for an Electronic Resource Management System

On average, electronic resources now account for half of the materials budget of a large academic library. In many small special libraries, the percentage is even higher; in some medical and pharmaceutical libraries the percentage spent on electronic products is closer to 90%. Purchasing trends, as tracked by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the USA and other sources, show an increasing investment in electronic products continuing for years to come.

A large academic library can expect to pay between 50 and 75 million dollars for electronic products over the next ten years, depending on collection policies, academic mission, and, of course, funding. University administrators rightly expect that the library will administer these funds in a prudent, responsible, rational, auditable, and deliberate way. Among other things, libraries are expected to know what they purchased and why, as well as what was spent and how it met the university’s goals. In the same way that a university invests in faculty members and sees educated students as the product of this investment, the library is expected to spend materials funding for resources that are useful and used.

Given the electronic purchasing trends noted above, implementation of an ERM system is at least as important as implementing an integrated library system, and arguably more so, given the size of the monetary investment expected in the near-term future. An ERM system is not a turnkey piece of software like a Web browser; rather, it is a software product that encompasses and supports the ongoing process of a library’s work with electronic resources. The goal of this paper is to provoke thought within libraries that are considering or implementing ERM systems. Why? A library that knows what it wants to accomplish—a library that has problems to solve and goals to reach—will be far more successful, far more quickly, than a library that does not.

Laying the Foundation

- **Understand the role of electronic resources as they relate to the library mission.** Remember who is the ultimate customer—that is, the end user—and make sure that decisions account for his or her needs, as well as the library’s.
- **Understand how the library’s electronic resource processing is done currently.** Is it seen as a complicated add-on to current serials or monographic processing, or is it seen as a management area in its own right? Are there staff dedicated to electronic resources management, or are staff needs met with borrowed personnel?
- **Identify the players on the electronic resource management team.** Is the Public Services department represented? Finance? Acquisitions? Cataloging? Serials? Interlibrary Loan and Circulation staff? Link Resolution? Is the webmaster included in the process? Electronic Resource management touches all of these areas, and more.
• **Set ‘Big Picture’ goals. What problems are you trying to solve?**
  
  o Are you trying to centralize functions that are currently spread out among different staff members and departments?
  
  o Are you trying to save money?
  
  o Are you trying to clean up a mess that has been created over the last ten years?
  
  o Are you trying to assert control over people and processes?
  
  o Are you trying to create accountability and authority over a complex set of processes?

• **Set ‘Small Picture’ goals. You can’t do everything at once – what are the most important areas to address first?**
  
  o Licensing and permissions?
  
  o Acquisitions, accounting, and the purchase process?
  
  o Usage statistics?
  
  o Vendor relationships; incident management?
  
  o Interacting with the link resolver?
  
  o Sharing data with the public?

• **Remember that the ERM system is a tool, not a panacea.** It is a powerful management application, but works only in the context of the library where it runs.

### Creating the ERM Environment

Subjects to think about in preparation for implementing an ERM

- **People:** Who does what? Verde® requires that staff be assigned one (or more) roles in order to be part of the workflow process. Who will have which role? What authority will each staff member have to add to or edit the data? What can managers do that other staff cannot?

- **Library structure:** What are the different levels and sub-levels where service is provided? Do these levels equate to your purchasing and licensing practices? Are costs billed back to a central authority? Are all users from all levels of the structure treated in the same way?

- **Consortium structure:** All the same questions as above, plus: Are resources being purchased on your behalf by other entities? Are you purchasing on behalf of others? Do you participate in purchasing groups or shared licensing?

- **Vendors:** What vendors do you currently trade with? What roles do they play? Content provider? Sales? Support? Will you migrate vendor information from your current ILS or do you begin from scratch?

- **Existing data:** What data might you want to migrate? How granular is it? Is it clean and consistent? How much history, if any, do you want to consider bringing over, and at what cost?

### Working Efficiently

Once the library’s big picture has been made clearer, several application-level questions need to be considered:

- **Configurations and customizations**
  
  o Dropdown menus are all locally controlled and can be changed. What nomenclature fits the library’s needs?
  
  o Libraries can define their own steps in the workflow process. Does the library want to add to the default (seven) steps that Verde provides, or does the library need additional steps?

- **Defaults**
  
  o Are there terms that need to be included in any license? Should Verde add them by default?
  
  o What roles and authorities does the administrator want to assign to a new staff person. Are there default profiles that should be included for each new employee?
  
  o Are there default funds or cost details that can be included in any—or all—
acquisitions records?

- **Style guide**
  - Consistency in data entry is very important for drawing out high quality reports and useful data. The library should decide what terminology to use in licensing, notes, and other areas, to ensure that data input by one staff member is consistent with that input by another.

**Conclusion**

Given the investment in, and dependence on, electronic resources, an ERM product is an indispensable tool for running today’s library. Understanding your needs and goals for an ERM system is crucial to making the implementation a success. This short paper cannot address every issue that may arise, but I hope that it spurs customers and potential customers to begin considering how the ERM system can play a useful and productive role in the management of their libraries. Analyzing the current situation in your library – from problems and priorities to resources and workflows – will prove to be an invaluable investment of your time.

*Contributed by Ted Koppel, Verde Product Manager*

**Coming Soon: ARC 2.0**

Ex Libris is excited to announce that the new and improved version 2.0 of the ALEPH Reporting Center (ARC) is scheduled for release at the beginning of 2007. Since the initial introduction of ARC version 1.0 in 2004, over 100 customers have adopted this add-on module to address ILS-related reporting needs. We are also proud to report that all enhancements to version 2.0 and the intermediate releases have been based on customer input.

**What is ARC?**

ARC is a dedicated reporting application that provides ALEPH® customers with 100 predefined reports, as well as the tools to create new reports and modify existing ones. By utilizing data warehouse methodology to extract data from the ALEPH database, ARC reports can be executed without impacting ALEPH performance.

**New and improved reports**

ARC version 2.0 features 13 new reports in addition to the 85 predefined reports currently available in ARC 1.1. Serving to simplify the use of ARC, many existing reports have been modified and new parameters for filtering have been added. These include call number range, date periods, and acquisition methods. To further facilitate the selection of report formats, we have enriched report contents descriptions.

A new Web-based center for sharing reports among ARC customers will be launched with ARC version 2.0. This center will increase the report repository available to each customer while advancing ARC cross-learning.

**Enhanced data extraction**

Based on performance tests carried out in house and at customer sites, Ex Libris has established system requirements and performance benchmarks to suit library database sizes, ensuring that performance meets customer expectations. ARC 2.0 brings about a significant reduction in data extraction times, even for libraries with very large databases. Reports in ARC 2.0 are based on more bibliographic data and additional fields, extracted from the ALEPH 500 system.

**Greater usability**

ARC 2.0 includes numerous usability enhancements, including a revamped user interface,
new report display formats, improved search functionality, advanced drill-through capabilities, and new customization options. Report execution speed has also been improved.

To assist new and existing ARC customers in making the most of ARC 2.0, these enhancements are complemented by new training and documentation kits.

For more details about ARC 2.0, please visit http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/aleph_arc.htm

Contributed by Ron Peled, ARC Product Manager

DigiTool as Institutional Repository

One of the more common uses for DigiTool® is the management of institutional repositories. This article will discuss not only how DigiTool can be applied as an institutional repository tool but also to provide some information on the meaning of institutional repositories, their background, history, and use.

Clifford Lynch, Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) defines a university-based institutional repository as:

“...a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution.”


The institutional repository, as a concept, captures and makes available much of the research output of an institution. Conceptually, the institutional repository is a very broad application that includes a wide range of materials created at the institution that are worth sharing; these range from videos of conferences to exam papers and learning materials. First and foremost, this includes material such as research papers and electronic versions of documents (e.g. theses); but it might also include a variety of digital assets generated by campus activity—administrative documents, course notes, or learning objects. When examining existing institution repositories, we find that they usually focus on the narrow field of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) and research papers rather than broader subject matter.

Why institutional repositories and why now? There are a number of reasons:
1) More and more intellectual output is “born” digital (with no print analog). This trend is reinforced by the fact that the price of storage is dropping and more and more libraries have digital asset management (DAM) tools.

2) Research, scholarship, and scholarly communications are in transition. Traditionally print publication is only one facet of the network-enabled flow of content, and in some fields is not made public in a timely manner. Furthermore, much of the premium content created by the institution is not made public because it is not a thesis or doctoral work, or simply because it is in an unsupported format.

3) The institutional repository can “Provide a critical component in reforming the system of scholarly communication—a component that expands access to research, reasserts control over scholarship by the academy, increases competition and reduces the monopoly power of journals, and brings economic relief and heightened relevance to the institutions and libraries that support them.” The Case for Institutional Repositories: A SPARC Position Paper

Why should the library be responsible for gathering, storing and managing materials produced by faculty members and for them? Wouldn’t it be easier for the faculty or other departments in the institutions to address these issues? The answer lies in the special knowledge that is inherent and traditional to libraries—ensuring that various materials are cataloged and categorized so that they will be easily accessible and preserved for future generations. Furthermore, the library, with its strong service orientation, has a longstanding relationship with faculty based on trust.

Why use a special institutional repository module rather than a DAM system? Theoretically any digital asset management system can store digital objects and provide end users with access to view them. But the needs of the library are more complex than storing and presenting, thus requiring an institutional repository tools that enable user-friendly materials submission; standardized cataloging of objects for interoperability and long term preservation; and automatic update of the library catalog, to maintain and manage object access rights. Special workflows for depositing information objects and making them available to the end user are only truly addressed by institutional repository modules.

Current status worldwide
The number of institutional repositories per country differs widely, both in absolute terms and in the percentage relative to the overall number of universities. Conclusions from the study conducted for the conference, “Making the Strategic Case for Institutional Repositories” (Amsterdam, 10-11 May 2005) found that in countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, and Australia close to 100% of the universities have an institutional repository program. In other countries such as Finland, France, and the UK this figure is closer to 25% [1]. Diversity was also recorded in the number of articles held in different institutional repositories ranging from 240 in the UK to 12,500 in the Netherlands[2].

This survey makes clear that institutional repositories are used mainly for the deposit of articles and theses. There are also great differences in the approach to collecting information: in most countries information gathering is still a voluntary process. However, in Australia where institutional repositories have been in existence for some time and are widely accepted, more and more institutions are moving to compulsory deposit of papers. On a national level, institutional funding will be based on the number of papers stored in the Institutional Repository.

What does DigiTool offer to institutions wishing to establish an institutional repository? DigiTool is a robust enterprise platform for managing, preserving and presenting a wide range of digital formats and files, and is comprised of modules for use by management and end-users. For an institutional repository, the DigiTool Deposit module provides a simple and easy way for faculty members to submit their papers to the system.
The faculty member creates basic metadata for the object and has the option to apply access rights to it. The object then goes through an approval process, so that the library can make sure that the information is well formed. Once the object is uploaded to the system, it becomes accessible to end users via the DigiTool Resource Discovery module, including full text indexing, and simple-to-use search and navigation options. A "Fast Track" deposit for one-time depositors was recently added to DigiTool and user identification is handled directly through the institution’s LDAP. A "Fast Track" link can be embedded in any Web page for efficient deposit of entries.

For more information on using DigiTool for self-deposit of theses, please see the case study from Liverpool John Moores University.


[2] Ibid.

**Contributed by Yaniv Levi DigiTool Product Manager**

**MetaLib 4.00 : Enhanced Search Results in an Accessible User Interface**

In January 2007 Ex Libris will begin distributing MetaLib’s latest release, version 4.00, to MetaLib® customers. Among the new and enhanced features included in version 4.00 are the introduction of clustering to enhance a user’s search results, and a user interface that is now accessible to all users, regardless of the challenges that they face.

**MetaLib’s Flexible Options Help Users Find Information Quickly and Easily**

End users are increasingly faced with ‘information overload’ when using Web and metasearch tools that often return thousands, if not millions, of results for an information search. MetaLib provides many different features that libraries can implement to help their users effectively focus their searches and evaluate their search results. Currently, libraries can:

- Organize information resources into pre-selected ‘QuickSets’ for searching
- Present available information resources grouped by subject categories relevant to their users
- Present search results from a number of information resources in a merged, relevancy-ranked results list with duplicate search results records noted

**What is Clustering?**

MetaLib 4.00 provides a new feature to help users navigate and interpret their search results – topic clustering. Using a proprietary algorithm that analyzes the titles and abstracts of a user’s search result records for textual similarity and other heuristics, clustering generates concise, understandable, accurate, and distinctive topics that represent different aspects or themes of the search result set. Topics and sub-topics are organized into a hierarchical cluster tree that enables the user to quickly and easily identify those search result records that best meet their information needs. The cluster tree also provides a navigation tool for the user to quickly move to a selected subset of their search results.
In addition to topic clusters, MetaLib 4.00 also extracts metadata from a user’s search result records in order to group the records into three pre-selected facets – Date, Author, and Journal Title. These facets are incorporated into the cluster tree display, providing another tool for the user to assess their search results and quickly navigate to the most relevant search result records.

MetaLib 4.00 will integrate the optional unified display of topic clusters and facets with brief results lists in the QuickSearch and MetaSearch modules – see example screenshot, below:

**MetaLib 4.00 and Accessibility**

**What is Web Accessibility?**

Web accessibility enables people with disabilities to use the Web. More specifically, Web accessibility means that people with disabilities can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the Web, and that they can contribute to the Web.

Web accessibility encompasses all disabilities that affect access to the Web, including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, and neurological disabilities. Web users operate Web pages in different contexts that must be considered during the design of Web-based user interfaces:

- They may not be able to see, hear, move, or may not be able to process certain types of information easily or at all.
- They may have difficulty reading or comprehending text.
- They may not have, or be able to use, a keyboard or a mouse.
- They may have a text-only screen or a small screen.
- They may not speak or understand fluently the language in which the document is written.
- They may have an early version of a browser, a different browser entirely, a voice browser, or a different operating system.
Themes of Accessible Design

Accessible design choices for Web pages and Web-based user interfaces address two general themes: ensuring graceful transformation, and making content understandable and navigable.

Ensuring Graceful Transformation means that Web pages and Web-based user interfaces remain accessible despite the constraints described above, providing for physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities, work constraints, and technological barriers.

Making Content Understandable and Navigable means that the language used in Web pages and Web-based user interfaces must be clear and simple, and that there must also be understandable mechanisms for navigating within and between pages.

Ex Libris Commitment to Accessible User Interfaces in our Products

Ex Libris’ philosophy is that information should be accessible to as many people as possible regardless of the challenges that they face. As new technologies emerge, Ex Libris makes every effort to improve the accessibility of its products. To achieve accessibility in the user interfaces of our products, in 2005 we developed and implemented new Ex Libris guidelines for validity, accessibility, compatibility, and usability of our products’ Web interfaces. These guidelines summarize the accessibility standards, assistive technologies, browser support, and other design principles that we follow when developing the user and administrative Web interfaces in our new products, and in our revision of the Web interfaces of our existing products. MetaLib 4.00 is the first existing Ex Libris product to adopt these guidelines in our user interface design.

How is the MetaLib 4.00 User Interface Different?

MetaLib’s user interface was not re-designed in version 4.00, but the underlying Web page structure and code is very different. Web pages are simpler, JavaScript usage is minimized, and enhanced use of CSS enables libraries to more easily achieve user interface customization by modifying a single style sheet. The resulting user interface is familiar – and accessible – to end users, while reducing the total cost of ownership for libraries implementing and maintaining MetaLib.

Selected MetaLib customers provided valuable input on the accessibility and resulting ease of customization of the version 4.00 user interface during various phases of the project. Several user interface and accessibility consultants assessed the modified user interface for compliance with leading international accessibility standards and for usability with assistive technologies, including:

- The W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0, level A
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d)
- JAWS® screen reader (http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_jaws.asp)
- Dragon NaturallySpeaking® speech-recognition solution (http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/).

Contributed by Karen Groves MetaLib Product Manager

The Path to the New ILL Module – ALEPH Version 18

ALEPH 500 includes a fully integrated Interlibrary Loan (ILL) module that complies with the ISO 10160/10161 protocol, in accordance with the Interlibrary Loan
Implementers' Group (IPIG) guidelines and profile. The ILL component interacts with any ISO-compliant ILL system.

The new ILL module that comes with version 18 of ALEPH incorporates the functionality of previous ILL systems, includes new features, and integrates both ISO and non-ISO methods so that the library has maximum flexibility in choosing the appropriate methods to enable interlibrary loans.

ILL services handle both outgoing and incoming ILL requests. The handling of ILL requests can be done in an automatic, semi-automatic or manual way, depending on a simple configuration of the library’s method of communication with its suppliers.

The new ILL module is integrated with both the ALEPH Web OPAC and Circulation module. Patrons can use the ALEPH Web OPAC to place their requests. The requests can then be viewed using the system's patron empowerment features. All circulation functions relating to ILL transactions are fully integrated with the ALEPH Circulation module.

Patrons can obtain material that is available locally or from outside sources by submitting the request directly to their local library.

Built-in reports aid the library in effectively tracking the use of interlibrary loans processed by the system.

Currently, we are in the process of finalizing the implementation of some additional functionality added to the WEB ILL and integrating it into GUI ILL of version 18.

The Upgrade Express process is being implemented for upgrading from the old GUI ILL and the ISO WEB ILL to the new ILL module in version 18.

From version 19, only the new GUI ILL will be supported.

Contact your local Ex Libris representative for further information.

Contributed by Dalia Mendelsson ALEPH Product Analyst Manager

Ex Libris Around the Globe
Pictures, Portraits, Paintings... and Primo

The Cleveland Museum of Art, a leading American art museum, is undergoing a $258 renovation and expansion. One of the first completed milestones of this "Masterpiece in the Making" is the recent relocation of the Museum’s Ingalls Library to a landmark Marcel Breuer Building. As part of the library’s renewal, it has chosen a suite of Ex Libris products—ALEPH 500, SFX®, MetaLib, Verde and Primo®—to manage and display its enormous collection of print and digital materials.

The Ingalls Library is the fourth largest art museum library in the United States, and a nationally recognized reference source for art research. The library collection of 417,000 volumes includes monographs, periodicals, catalogs, clippings files and more. The rich digital collection contains six million photographs, 40,000 slides, and 250,000 digital images. The Museum Archives, housed in the library, includes audio and visual material as well as museum records, and serves as a valuable resource for the history not only of the museum but of art movements of the twentieth century.

Ex Libris is excited to have the opportunity to showcase the library's riches with Primo, our user-centric discovery and delivery solution. Primo will give full expression to the multi-form library collections, and will enable users to benefit from the knowledge provided by the Ingalls Library in the most vibrant and colorful way, as a museum should be experienced.

The library staff will upgrade the administration of its resources by implementing ALEPH 500 as its new integrated library system, MetaLib as the metasearch system, SFX for context sensitive linking, and Verde for electronic resource management.

Ex Libris software products can be found at important museums around the world. We welcome the Cleveland Museum of Art to our growing family of cultural institutions.

Contributed by Thea Hurwitz Ex Libris Marketing Coordinator

DigiTool Case Study: Liverpool John Moores University

Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) is a thriving, vibrant university
located at the heart of Liverpool, one of the most exciting cities in the UK.

LJMU has continued to go from strength to strength, and now has over 24,000 students from all over the world. The university has played a vital role in the cultural renaissance of Liverpool and has taken an active part in the regeneration of the city. New advances in digital technology and science have placed the university at the forefront of exciting developments in areas such as digital media, sports science, and astrophysics. A growing research reputation is reflected in a large number of postgraduates for a 'new' university.

Learning and Information Services (LIS) operates three Learning Resource Centres (Aldham Robarts, Avril Robarts, and I. M. Marsh), all using Ex Libris products (ALEPH, MetaLib/SFX, and DigiTool) in pursuit of their mission to support and enhance teaching, learning, and research at LJMU.

Throughout the UK, universities are preparing for RAE 2008 (Research Assessment Exercise). RAE 2008 is the sixth in a series of exercises conducted nationally to assess the quality of UK research. This assessment will inform the selective distribution of public funds for research by the four UK higher education funding bodies.

In preparation for RAE 2008, and to address a multitude of other digital challenges, LJMU has implemented DigiTool, the Ex Libris digital asset management solution as their digital repository. DigiTool is an OAI compliant enterprise solution enabling LJMU to create, manage, preserve, and share locally administered digital collections.

LJMU’s Research Archive of published and peer reviewed academic papers, a showcase for research at LJMU, exists as a DigiTool collection.

DigiTool facilitates both simple searching (keyword search, enabling the user to choose ‘contains’, ‘exact’, and ‘starts with’ matches) and advanced searching (keyword in specific fields including, for example, university created fields such as ‘Research Centre’, ‘LJMU Author’, and ‘RAE Unit of Assessment’) of both descriptive metadata or the full text of documents. Users can also restrict results by media type (such as text, image, audio, or video), and file format (including, for example, PDF, TIFF, MP3, or AVI).

Additionally, the contents of the Research Archive can be browsed by ‘Date Published’, ‘Faculty’, ‘School’, and ‘Research Centre’, allowing access with one click to everything published in 2003 or everything published by the Faculty of Technology and Environment, for example.

With descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and links to almost 500 items of research
output already loaded as part of a pilot project, LJMU is now embarking on the loading of content from its 2004 research directory. This will amount to approximately 600 items per year from research-active staff.

By summer 2007, LJMU aims to have all the data required for RAE 2008 stored and catalogued in the Research Archive. This will be achieved by retrospectively adding content from 2001 onwards.

The Research Archive is just the beginning. LJMU is leading the way in the utilisation of DigiTool as its digital repository. LJMU aims to use DigiTool to bring together such collections as electronic key texts, scanned material, digitised archived collections, the University’s strategic planning documents, and research degree theses awarded by LJMU.

For further information on DigiTool, please refer to: http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/digitool.htm

Contributed by Alan Oliver Sales Account Manager, Ex Libris UK

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Launches DigiTool

The AIATSIS Digitisation Project (ADP) was officially launched on June 29, 2006. This 3-year initiative, made possible through funding from the Australian Government, will enable the Institute’s Audiovisual Archive to digitise up to a third of its film, video, photographic, and audio collections as well as developing a growing online indigenous research library on its Website – www.aiatsis.gov.au

The AIATSIS library holds the most comprehensive collection of print materials on Australian Indigenous studies in the world including books, journals, maps and manuscripts. The AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives comprise more than 650,000 photographic images, approximately 30,000 hours of recorded sound, more than 2.5 million feet of film footage plus around 15,000 hours of film soundtrack, 7,000 video titles, and approximately 750 works of art and artifacts.

Materials in the collection range across many disciplines and topics, including important places and events, rock art, ceremonies, community and personal histories, missions and settlements, employment, pastoralism, languages, stories.
and songs.

Much of AIATSIS’ priceless collection, including rare and fragile recordings of language use and cultural activities, has been collected by researchers over the Institute’s 40-year history. As these provide a critical link between Australia’s past, present, and future, it is important that they can be seen, heard and read by Indigenous people, researchers, and scholars, now and in the future.

AIATSIS selected DigiTool to store and provide appropriate access to the substantial digital archive that has been developed and will grow quickly over the next few years. Appropriate access to materials that have been digitized and placed online through specialised exhibitions, will be determined in line with deposit conditions, established processes in the handling of Indigenous historical archival material, and work being undertaken by AIATSIS and others in the area of Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property.

AIATSIS is confident that DigiTool can take its priceless collections into the future with full implementation of standards critical for their preservation. The ADP will help to establish best practices in effective community consultation and the presentation of Indigenous community material on the Web.

Under the ADP, AIATSIS has employed close to 20 extra staff and invested almost $3 million in new equipment, with their building undergoing extensive renovation and re-fit. Claudette Pope, Managing Director of Ex Libris Australia, was thrilled to attend the launch and be part of a great occasion.

*Contributed by Rod Stroud, AIATSIS Library Director*

**International Events**

**Ex Libris Seminar at IFLA Conference Seoul, Korea**

IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, held its annual conference in Seoul, Korea in August of this year. With the theme of “Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society,” the conference attracted more than 5,000 librarians and information professionals from over 150 countries.

During the IFLA conference, Ex Libris held a half day seminar on “Challenges and Solutions for Asian Pacific Libraries in the Digital Era.” Seventy eight librarians and information professionals from 10 countries actively participated in the seminar, which offered both the corporate and customer perspectives on issues relating to the area.

Oded Scharfstein, Ex Libris VP for Asia Pacific, opened the seminar by presenting Ex Libris as well as corporate strategic directions and solutions for the challenges encountered by libraries today. Next, Barbara Radel, Senior Sales Librarian at Ex Libris, demonstrated Primo, the user-centric discovery and delivery solution launched by Ex Libris at the ALA Annual Conference in June 2006. Primo attracted a huge amount of interest from the audience, as it did in the Ex Libris booth at the IFLA exhibition. Fucheng Shen, Managing Director of Ex Libris China, reported on the widespread adoption of Ex Libris solutions in China, emphasizing the CJK (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) handling capability of Ex Libris products.

Three guest speakers from libraries in the Asia Pacific region shared their experiences using Ex Libris products. Prof. Jiang Airong, Director Assistant & Head of Automation Division at Tsinghua University Library in China, showed how database usage increased after MetaLib and SFX were implemented. Prof. Jia Xilan, Head of the Automation Division, Beijing Normal University Library, emphasized the importance of Ex Libris’ local support for the
implementation of ALEPH 500. Ms. Susan Liepa, Manager of AARLIN (Australian Academic and Research Library Network), shared insights on the operation of an SFX and MetaLib consortium, of particular interest to the audience, as resource sharing of software solutions is not common in Asia.

After the informative and thought-provoking presentations, seminar participants had the opportunity for informal dialog with Ex Libris representatives at the lunch concluding the seminar.

**Contributed by** Jun Hong General Manager, Ex Libris Korea

**DigiTool Institutional Repository Forum: Solutions for Australasia**

Sydney was the venue for Ex Libris Australia’s DigiTool Institutional Repository Forum in July, 2006 at which existing Australasian DigiTool customers together with representatives from important sector entities – Australasian Digital Theses Program (ADT); Australian Partnership for Sustainable
Repositories (APSR); Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively (RUBRIC); Australian Research Repositories Online to the World (ARROW) and the UNILINC consortium – came together to discuss Australasian IR requirements and showcase the DigiTool standalone and ASP options as an institutional repository (IR) solution. Information gathered at the forum, as well as subsequent follow up and analysis, provided the context for a better understanding of DigiTool and its unique IR functionalities.

Forum highlights included the demonstration of DigiTool’s fast-track mode on data harvested from existing ADT and ePrint sites into three separate institutional views on one DigiTool installation, incorporating additional features such as the integration of Australian Government research codes for reports and statistics on national scholarly outputs. The new DigiTool ASP model was unveiled at the forum; Ex Libris Australia is currently finalising a partnership agreement for the rollout of an ASP service – More on this in the next Newsletter.

Tangible results were the commitment to establish an Australasian DigiTool Working Group by Q4 2006 and build awareness of DigiTool as an IR solution particularly for the management of digital theses and Special Heritage collections, keeping in-step with government research output requirements. The work modelled for this forum will be used by Ex Libris offices around the world.

A special thanks to the teams at headquarters and Ex Libris Australia for their collaborative work, expertise, and the creative solutions that made this all possible.


Contributed by Tony Cargnelutti Sales Executive, Ex Libris Australia

Ex Libris 2006 Activities in South Africa

Under the theme "Celebrate Africa", the first Cape Town Book Fair was held from June 17-20, 2006 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. This new, annual 4-day event was founded by the South African Publishers Association (PASA) and the Frankfurt Book Fair, at which Ex Libris Germany is a longtime exhibitor.

Ex Libris was asked by the Frankfurt Book Fair to represent the field of information technology and acquiesced in a joint effort between Ex Libris UK and Ex Libris Germany -- in which Alan Oliver, Sales Account Manager, hailing from London and Juergen Kuessow, Senior Sales Consultant, from the Hamburg office represented the Company.

Alan and Juergen were proud to be amongst the pioneers of this fair together with the Cape Library Consortium (CALICO) -- our customer of many years. The complete Ex Libris portfolio and our newest addition Primo--the user-centric discovery and delivery solution--made headlines during the four days of the show. The event exceeded all expectations and more admission tickets had to be printed after the second day.

At another important event, Robert Bley, Sales Account Manager at Ex Libris UK, was pleased not only to meet many senior members of the library and information community at the Integrated Approach to E-Content conference and exhibition in Pretoria at the end of July, but also to be able to practice his drumming skills!

The conference included an innovative mix of papers from librarians, content providers and technologists regarding issues surrounding e-resource management, such as usage statistics and federated searching linking. This was also a chance for "futurologists" from all branches of the industry to contribute their ideas and thoughts on the coming generations of ERM.
The event was not all work though. Delegates had a chance to enjoy a traditional South African drumming and *potjiekos*¹ evening in the Rietvlei Nature Reserve.

Ex Libris looks forward to enhancing its relationship with South Africa over the coming months and years.

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¹It is thought that the ‘Potjie’ came from the Dutch ancestors of the South Africans, who brought with them heavy iron cooking pots which hung from hooks over the open hearth. These cast-iron pots retained heat well and could be kept simmering over a few embers. Rounded, potbellied pots were used for cooking tender roasts and stews as they allowed steam to circulate instead of escape through the lid.

Contributed by Juergen Kuessow Senior Sales Consultant and Robert Bley Sales Account Manager

With Our Users

National University of Lesotho Librarian Welcomed at IGeLU Meeting

Mapasane Lephoto, Systems Librarian at the National University of Lesotho (NUL), was welcomed as a special guest of Ex Libris at the first annual meeting of the International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU) in Stockholm. NUL was honored as the recipient of the 1000th SFX system, to be implemented free of charge and fully hosted by Ex Libris. Ms. Lephoto attended IGeLU to accept the award from Matti Shem Tov, Ex Libris President and CEO, to meet other Ex Libris customers, and learn about SFX at the IGeLU program sessions.

SFX customers from around the world, in the spirit of the active, enthusiastic Ex Libris community, are participating in the gift by sharing their experience and their knowledge of SFX implementation and services with the library staff of the National University of Lesotho. A Website has been set up at http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/sfx1000.htm, where SFX customers can enlist to make their contribution to the SFX setup at NUL, such as SFX implementation tips for data and menu decisions, help with HTML configuration, and Web training.

This gift to NUL was made possible through the collaboration of Ex Libris and the Electronic Information for Libraries (eIFL.net) organization, which facilitates access to electronic resources by library users in developing and transition countries. Ex Libris and eIFL.net together selected the National University of Lesotho as the recipient of the SFX system.

The National University of Lesotho, located in the town of Roma, is the highest autonomous institution of learning in the country and is committed to representing excellence in the country and contributing to its progress. The student population is expected to exceed 10,000 in the 2006/07 academic year. Through its participation in eIFL, the Thomas Mofolo Library at NUL subscribes to numerous electronic resources, including EBSCOHost®, BioOne™, Cambridge Journals Online, Institute of Physics, Oxford Journals Online, and LexisNexis®.
Mapasane Lephoto with Nettie Lagace, SFX Product Manager, and Matti Shem Tov, Ex Libris CEO

Contributed by Nettie Lagace, SFX Product Manager

Ex Libris User Group Meeting in Mexico

The town of Tlaquepaque, in the Mexican state of Jalisco, was the site of the annual meeting of the Grupo de Usuarios ALEPH Latinoamérica (Latin American ALEPH User Group) on May 2 and 3, 2006. Almost 40 participants, representing more than 20 institutions, shared the knowledge that they have accumulated from working with Ex Libris products. Alfredo Bronsoiler and Cecilia Osorio Monreal, from Sistemas Lógicos, the Ex Libris distributor in Mexico and Chile, and Tamar Sadeh, from Ex Libris headquarters, gave updates on recent development activity at Ex Libris. The level of interest and involvement in the discussions was so great that on both days, the meetings continued long after their designated closing time!

At the end of the first day, the participants enjoyed typical local dishes at a festive party.

The outgoing president of the user group, Marcial Contretas Barrera, from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), summarized the previous year’s activities and made note of the steady maturation of Ex Libris products and the services provided by Sistemas Lógicos. Then he welcomed the unanimously elected new president, Federico Portas Lagar, from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO).

The first lecture was given by Mr. Portas, who, as the library IT...
manager at ITESO, was in charge of his institution’s implementation of MetaLib. Mr. Portas, shown here with Tamar Sadeh, Ex Libris Director of Marketing, described the library’s customization of MetaLib and extensive use of the MetaLib MetaIndex component. By harvesting OAI-compliant resources into the MetaIndex, ITESO offers an environment with numerous collections within the users’ search scope. Other lectures provided insight into the implementation of ALEPH at various institutions in Mexico.

The conference took place during the Día de la Santa Cruz festival. Fireworks, music, and throngs of local celebrants filled Tlaquepaque’s small streets with the holiday spirit each evening.

Contributed by Tamar Sadeh Ex Libris Director of Marketing

Notes from a Thin Country: A Subjective Report of the First ALEPH/MetaLib Users Meeting in Chile

To be an Ex Libris Sales Manager is a happy lot. I certainly felt this when I was asked to attend the first ALEPH/MetaLib user’s meeting in Santiago, Chile in July of this year.

Even the thought of a five hour flight from Tel Aviv to Madrid, with an onward flight of 13 and a half hours did not dampen my enthusiasm. Indeed, as we approached Santiago, in the very early morning hours, I was thrilled to see the snow covered Andes mountains spread out below me in a seemingly never ending picture of stunning majesty and beauty.

Many visitors to, and inhabitants of, Santiago, complain about the smog, which can be especially bad because of its geographical location. I was lucky to experience beautiful clear and sunny winter skies, with endless vistas of snow capped mountains wherever I turned in the city.

The user’s meeting was well organized by the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, and led by Alejandro Burgos who made sure that we kept to the timetable, and did not take long coffee breaks. All the logistics, including the venue, equipment and social events, were coordinated by Soledad Gonzalez, the Manager of Sistemas Logicos, Chile. More than 40 people participated in the meeting, representing eight of the ten Chilean Ex Libris customers. Mr. Alfredo Bronsoiler of Sistemas Logicos, the Ex Libris distributor to Mexico and Chile, opened the meeting with an update related to the companies and the new products. There were a number of interesting sessions given by the users themselves: MetaLib and SFX configuration experiences by members of the Alerta consortium; the ALEPH upgrade process experiences gathered in the last years for making easier future migrations; project implementation plans, and much more. Presentations of new features in ALEPH version 18.0 and overviews of Verde and Primo were also given.
At the end of the first day’s meeting, we adjourned to a local rodizio, a traditional South American type of restaurant. Delicious food and tasty Pisco sours were served. This latter is said to be the Chilean national drink, but a Peruvian won’t agree– Peru claims it as their national drink! I’m still not quite sure what it is: all I can say is that drinking it somehow helped to improve my ability to speak Spanish….

The meeting on the second day included more presentations, a round table to discuss challenges and solutions to various issues, and a delectable lunch at the Neruda Hotel, the venue for the meeting. The session closed with a discussion about creating a Chilean ALEPH/MetaLib users group, and plans for holding the second Ex Libris Chilean users meeting in a year’s time. Lucky the Ex Libris representative chosen to attend….
Successful Chinese User Group Meeting CCEU 2006

The 2006 annual meeting of the China Consortium of Ex Libris Products User Group (CCEU) was held on September 18th-21st, 2006, in Changchun. The 2006 CCEU meeting was the best attended by far. Close to 100 librarians, representing all our Mainland China customer sites, attended the meeting, as well as a good number of prospective customers, who came to hear about Ex Libris library solutions.

The meeting was hosted by the Northeast Normal University, which recently celebrated the sixty year anniversary of its founding.

Prof. Yang Zhong, Vice President of Northeast Normal University, and Oded Scharfstein, VP Asia Pacific for the Ex Libris Group, gave a warm welcome to the participants at the opening ceremony. The meeting was also attended by Barbara Rad-El, Ex Libris Sales Support Manager.

The Chinese CCEU 2006 site can be found at http://www.library.nenu.edu.cn/CCEU2006.htm.
Ex Libris Welcomes

New Sales and Marketing Staff

New Ex Libris VP for Marketing : Nancy Dushkin

Ex Libris Headquarters welcomes Nancy Dushkin, who joins the company as VP of Marketing. Nancy has over 20 years of technology experience in leading efforts to define product and system requirements, understanding and responding to market trends, productizing systems and launching products to the market.

Nancy comes to Ex Libris from NICE Systems, where, as VP of Strategy and Business Operations, she led the effort to define a 4 year strategic plan for the Enterprise business. Nancy was actively involved in the successful launch of NICE products and was also responsible for leadership of the product lifecycle schedules, from definition of the product through development, field readiness and release launch.

Nancy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration – Marketing from California State University, Northridge.

New Sales Director at Ex Libris Germany : Ullrich Jüngling

On October 1, 2006 Ullrich Jüngling joined Ex Libris as Sales Director, responsible for sales and marketing at Ex Libris Germany.

After receiving his degree in Business Administration at the University of Hamburg, Ullrich started his Information Technology career in sales management at such well-known companies as IBM, Digital Equipment,
Compaq Computer, Toshiba and Systor. The last position Ullrich held prior to joining Ex Libris was as member of the board for sales and marketing with Cogisum Intermedia, a supplier of enterprise search solutions.

Ullrich’s comprehensive knowledge and sales experience will serve as a great asset in implementation and system integration projects at Ex Libris.