

ICAU Abstracts: Session 4D - Library Consortia

Shared Systems Working Group Report

The Shared Systems (Consortia) Working Group Open Meeting took place on Monday 12 September from 16:00 to 17:30, which time slot proved to be woefully inadequate to debate the many issues of interest to the members of the Shared Systems Working Group, as much lively discussion took place.

Participants of the meeting were prompted into discussion by the presentations "Database architecture for consortia: how it effects your use of Aleph" by Jean Phillips (University of Maryland) on a survey she carried out amongst 11 North American

Library Consortia using Aleph, and "Sharing Aleph" by Michele Newberry (Florida Center for Library Automation) on FCLA's configuration of Aleph. [Both Michele & Jean's presentation are on the ICAU website].

Due to time pressures this discussion had to be cut short to allow Carmit Marcus from Ex Libris to update the group on developments in process with Patron Initiated Resource Sharing, including Universal Borrowing and Patron Direct-Q. Carmit's presentation, also on the ICAU website, prompted further discussion and raised many questions fielded by both Carmit and Omri Gerson from Ex Libris.

Insufficient time allowed for further discussion on the development of a Shared Systems Working Group information resource where users can post details as to their consortia / shared system architecture for the benefit of the broader group, and it was agreed that Pat Busby, Michele Newberry and Beate Rusch would proceed with making such a resource possible on the ICAU site using Plone, after which members will be invited to contribute their information.

*Pat Busby
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The auditorium at the British Library

Sharing ALEPH, Sort of...

This presentation reviews aspects of the Aleph configuration for the multiple instances supported by the Florida Center for Library Automation. The 11 instances are for:

- Florida A&M University AMU01
- Florida Atlantic University FAU01
- Florida Gulf Coast University GCU01
- Florida International University FIU01
- Florida State University FSU01
- New College of Florida NCU01
- University of Central Florida CFU01
- University of Florida UFU01
- University of North Florida NFU01
- University of South Florida SFU01
- University of West Florida WFU01

In addition, FCLA supports multiple Aleph "Regions" each of which serves a different purpose: two that contain full databases for each university and two with small, 75,000 record test files. Full databases are in the live production region and in a mirror copy created nightly via Flashcopy to be used as a failover OPAC backup and for non-update report generation. The small databases are in a library testing/training region and a development region for FCLA to test new SPs and releases.

Each institutional Aleph instance has its own u-tree with its own /log, /alephe, the usual complement of libraries (e.g., xxx01, xxx50, etc...), and password library.

Under each /alephe is the full array of conf, start, tab, pc and www files. Each university has its own Oracle instance as well.

One of the unique features of the FCLA architecture is the shared LC and NLM authority files. One copy of each of these files is loaded in its own Aleph and Oracle instances. The bib/authority linking programs are directed from the institutional instance of the local authority files to the shared instance to find matches and to populate the bib indexes with the references.

Even though there are separate Aleph instances for each university, indexing and OPAC decisions were made by committees with the goal of achieving consistency across all the university catalogs and between universities and community colleges.

The real sharing is in hardware and staff to support the entire Aleph installation.

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Lunchtime