

Proposal to split up the SFX/MetaLib Product Working Group July 10, 2007.

At the first IGeLU conference 2006 in Stockholm a proposal to split the newly established, combined PWG for SFX/MetaLib into separate PWG's for SFX and MetaLib was put to the vote. The assembly voted against this proposal by 42 to 12.

As several statements revealed that it was too early to decide about the split, the issue is open to be voted on again at the 2007 IGeLU conference in Brno.

The main reasons for having a combined MetaLib/SFX Product Working Group were:

- Historical reasons: SFX and MetaLib customers have been organised in SMUG.
- Dependencies between SFX and MetaLib
- SFX and MetaLib play a role in the same usage scenarios
- There will not be enough volunteers for both PWG's
- Organisations will have same admin staff for both products
- Organisations cannot send staff for all different PWG's/products to conferences

After one year we are now facing a situation that is a little different.

- Obviously, the development of Verde has great implications on SFX (more than MetaLib developments).
- On the Ex Libris side the product managers of Verde and SFX are working closely together.
- The ELUNA SFX/MetaLib PWG decided to split after the ELUNA conference in Spearfish, June 2007.
- The formerly combined mailing lists for MetaLib and SFX were split (SFX-DISCUSS_L, METALIB_DISCUSS_L) following an explicit wish of the user community.
- Separate enhancement request procedures are being set up.
- Also in the conference program the product sessions are separate.

Actually the representation of SFX users in the existing PWG and its activities (like newsletters) is rather small. The representation maybe more appropriate in a single SFX product working group. Please bear in mind that only 50% of SFX users also use MetaLib, so more than 500 organisations have SFX only. For those organisations it may be more attractive to send volunteers to the SFX-only PWG.

The benefits of having two separate PWG's would be

- Stronger voice for both MetaLib and SFX (more representatives)
- SFX as well as MetaLib would have an equal representation. This includes
 - Monthly conference calls and information exchange with Ex Libris product managers
 - Testing of new versions
 - Enhancement procedures
 - Cooperation with ELUNA PWG's (for instance in joint enhancement procedures)
 - Business sessions may be organized differently
 - Double funding form IGeLU © (for 2 chairs instead of one)

This proposal will be discussed at the Business Meeting of the SFX/MetaLib PWG at the IGeLU 2007 conference in Brno. Voting will take place during the conference.