

IGeLU News in Brief, April 2012

Welcome to the 11th News in Brief from IGeLU – our round up of the latest activity from the International Group of Ex Libris Users. The most important news is of course that registration for Zurich 2012 is now open so please make sure you register, but IGeLU members have been busy on a number of other issues, including Primo 4 quality assurance; enhancements for Aleph and Voyager; developments with the new Linked Open Data group; and work on MetaLib and Primo representation.

As always, you can read the stories on the IGeLU website at www.igelu.org, and follow us on Twitter for the latest updates <https://twitter.com/igelu>.

Michael Fake, IGeLU Steering Committee

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++++Zurich 2012: registration is open

Registration for Zurich 2012 is open – you can register via the conference website <http://www.library.ethz.ch/igelu12/>.

The conference is from 11th – 13th September.

In a number of surveys Zurich has been named the city with the best quality of life in the world, and it's a bright, beautiful, and vibrant place – so we look forward to seeing you there in September!

We encourage you all to register early, and – even more importantly – to book your accommodation as soon as possible. Our hosts tell us that Zurich gets crowded in the summer, so you're advised to select a hotel as early as you can. In most cases hotels can be cancelled at reasonably short notice, so it's worth booking now even if you aren't certain you can attend. Full details of hotels at a variety of price levels are available on the conference site - <http://www.library.ethz.ch/igelu12/hotels.html>

++++Call for presentations and posters: extended to May 15th

A reminder that IGeLU has extended the call for presentations and posters for the 2012 conference in Zurich. You now have until 15th May to submit your proposals, which you can do from the website - <http://igelu.org/conferences/presentation-proposals>.

Although we already have 27 presentations lined up there is room for more if you're still thinking about making a submission. All proposals are welcomed, but we're particularly interested in presentations for MetaLib/MetaLib+ and for DigiTool.

For those who have already submitted proposals, we'll be sending out notifications of acceptance for these very soon.

Michele Newberry, Program Planning Committee

++++Alma first hand in Zurich

As well as user-led sessions on Ex Libris's established suite of products, we're pleased to be able to announce that the IGeLU conference will involve some first-hand reports of Alma.

Trevor Dawes from Princeton University and Paul Bracke from Purdue, along with other development partners, will report on their experiences of implementing Alma in their libraries. This should be an exciting session, as Alma starts to move into production.

++++IGeLU Steering Committee elections

Four positions on the IGeLU Steering Committee will be open for candidacy at the Zurich conference in September. The current terms of Lukas Koster, Michele Newberry, Fiona Burton, as well as that of the Chair Jirka Kende will expire.

IGeLU is a volunteer organisation, and we rely on active participation from our members, so if you're interested in contributing to the work of the group and considering standing then please contact the IGeLU Treasurer, Guido Badalamenti (guido.badalamenti@asb.unisi.it).

++++Primo 4 Early Adopter program and Quality Assurance

The Steering Committee and Ex Libris have been working together to try to improve the Quality Assurance process for new product releases. As a result of those joint efforts, a few IGeLU member institutions are participating in a Primo 4 Early Adopter program. After using the new V4 Upgrade Kit they share their upgrade experiences with Ex Libris. During the subsequent intensive testing period any issues / problems / questions should be reported using the CRM system. Regular conference calls are held during the whole process. As part of the Primo 4 early adopter programme a member of Ex Libris's Discovery & Delivery QA team will visit the University of Mannheim.

The visit, and the wider program, is intended to help Ex Libris improve their internal QA processes by going beyond previous collaborative testing and to look more closely at user experiences in early adopter institutions. We are very happy that Ex Libris has agreed to the program, and believe that working together with the product users will help to further increase the quality of future releases.

Jirka Kende, IGeLU Chair

++++Meetings with Ex Libris management, and the ETH team

The IGeLU Steering Committee meets in person once a year between conferences, and so in March the Committee met in Switzerland, to discuss outstanding issues and to meet with the local organisers of the Zurich conference.

The meeting was generously hosted by our colleagues from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) in the main ETH buildings where the conference will take place. The local team, led by Christine Bärtsch, are very advanced in the planning for the meeting, and we are confident that the

organisation of the conference will be second to none. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all at this lively campus, and in this beautiful city, in September.

Matti Shem-Tov and Marc Daubach of Ex Libris also travelled to Zurich to meet with the Steering Committee, and we had a very productive discussion on a broad range of issues, including Alma development and implementation; product roadmaps and plans (in particular for Primo, Primo Central, and MetaLib); support and documentation issues; and many more. As usual the discussions were very open, and resulted in a number of “to dos” for both sides.

Jirka Kende, IGeLU Chair

++++Steps forward for Linked Open Data

The newly formed IGeLU Linked Open Data SIWG recently published its ‘Manifesto for Linked Open Data in Ex Libris Products’ (<http://igelu.org/special-interests/lod/manifesto>) in which it describes its objectives and strategy. However one of the key goals – “establish working relationships with Ex Libris strategic and product management” – has already been achieved. Ex Libris has now appointed three official contacts: Oren Beit-Arie (Chief Strategy Officer), Shlomo Sanders (Chief Technology Officer), and Axel Kaschte (Strategy Director Europe), which hopefully reflects how seriously Ex Libris take this area. Talks between Ex Libris and the SIWG will start soon.

Over the coming months the group will gather use cases, ideas, and prototypes of successful or envisaged Linked Data implementations from IGeLU members and beyond. The outcome of these surveys will be presented at the Zurich conference, where the Group would be pleased to get feedback, input, and suggestions.

Lukas Koster and Markus Knitel, LOD SIWG
lod@igelu.org

++++Aleph PWG update

The 2012 enhancement voting cycle was completed successfully on March 21st, and as a result six enhancements were forwarded to Ex Libris for development. We anticipate that most, if not all, of these enhancements will be included in a December 2012 service pack. The final enhancement descriptions are posted on the IGeLU website (<http://igelu.org/products/aleph/aleph-enhancements>). This was the first year that the IGeLU and ELUNA PWGs jointly coordinated enhancement voting, and the first time that NERS was used for final Aleph voting.

Collaborative testing for version 21 has also been successfully completed. Silvia Lopes (University of Lisbon, Portugal) and Maya Amichal (Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel) represented IGeLU users. The final report of testing is also available on the website (<http://igelu.org/products/aleph/aleph-testing/v-21-collaborative-testing>).

Mike Ryan, Aleph PWG Coordinator

++++Voyager PWG update

The enhancement ballot for Voyager 9.0 closed at the end of March, with over 6,600 votes recorded – a really positive outcome that allowed Voyager customers to express their priorities for development. The IGeLU PWG have worked closely with our counterparts in ELUNA to analyse the results and put forward recommendations for the top 20 projects for inclusion in the core Voyager software. In addition we have provided a prioritized list of enhancements for Media Scheduling, to ensure that some of the smaller Voyager add-ons receive an appropriate amount of development

time.

In an attempt to speed up the process PWG members are working with Mike Dicus via a series of Webex calls to help analyze the requests and determine how the enhancements might be best included.

Meanwhile the PWG are pleased to see continued development happening with Voyager 8. A new service pack (8.1.2) is planned for release in July, and Voyager 8.2 – which includes the highest-ranked enhancements voted for in our last round in 2010 – is scheduled for release in Q4. Development is almost finished and field-testing will start soon. This features an XML patron loader, patron web services, and new indexes to accommodate RDA. There are a number of other smaller enhancements and members from both the ELUNA and IGeLU PWGs recently took part in a Webex, where Mike Dicus, the Voyager Product Manager showed many of the exciting new features that came out of the last enhancements process.

Ray Delahunty, Voyager PWG Coordinator

++++SFX PWG update

The SFX Product Working Group met in Zurich last month to discuss priorities and focus for the PWG for the year. While conference planning is always a constant activity, we identified a couple of additional areas to work on. This year we will continue the ongoing KB and software enhancements voting processes - the KB process runs multiple times a year, and the software process runs once a year. The other area we are looking at closely is to work with Ex Libris on ways to improve the quality of the KB update process, following the flurry of concerns expressed on the SFX discussion list.

Since we mentioned the software process, we want to report out on progress. Process collaboration with the Ex Libris Users of North America continues to progress well. This past winter, we completed the Software Enhancements voting process, full results can be viewed on the ELCommons wiki (<http://exlibrisgroup.org/display/CrossProduct/NERS+Results+from+the+SFX+Software+Enhancement+Process+2011>) but in short Ex Libris considered the top 13 results - 6 were accepted and are in process, 2 were rejected, and 5 were postponed for further analysis. We are currently working with Ex Libris to finalize the status of the 5 that required further analysis, and will report out on the results in the next newsletter. Since the voting two requests (a display indicator for titles that have active portfolios in the KB manager, and configuration options for the object search screen) have already been added to SFX. We will periodically update the wiki with updated information.

Progress continues with the KB resources voting process. To see the full results of all of the voting cycles go to the ELCommons wiki

(<http://exlibrisgroup.org/display/CrossProduct/NERS+SFX+voting+results+and+regions>).

Our tireless KB voting team continues to track progress of resource implementation with Ex Libris. We have seen a slow-down of KB requests entered into the system and want to encourage institutions to keep adding them, especially the region/language specific resources. Remember - institutions that put resource requests in the system have a good chance of getting those resources selected!

As always we continue to look for ways that we can best assist the SFX community. If you have thoughts, ideas, or concerns, please send them to us.

Mark Dehmlow, SFX PWG Coordinator

++++Primo/MetaLib PWG update

The Primo and MetaLib PWGs met jointly at ETH Zurich in early March. The Group covered the use of NERS in enhancements and CKB processes (including a brief session with the SFX Group); preparation for the conference in September; the future of MetaLib; and the organisation of a newly-merged Primo and MetaLib PWG. There was even time for a teleconference with the Ex Libris Primo and MetaLib Product Managers.

More information on the discussions is available on the IGeLU website as well as a separate item detailing the proposed Primo/MetaLib PWG organisational structure.

Jeremy Acland, on behalf of the MetaLib/Primo PWG