

#### **+++++New newsletter**

Welcome to a new-look newsletter from IGeLU! As well as the bumper issue editions around the time of the annual conference, we're experimenting with this shorter form newsletter to keep you up to date with the activities of the Working Groups and Steering Committee. You can read the email digest, or follow news updates on the IGeLU website at <http://igelu.org/news>

This issue there's plenty of news about NERS (the New Enhancement Request System), as well as some updates on conference planning – and a reminder to get your submissions in for Ghent 2010!

Michael Fake

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#### **+++++Ghent 2010: Call for Proposals**

IGeLU invites you to submit proposals for presentations and poster sessions at its 5th annual conference in Ghent, Belgium. The conference will take place from 29 August-1 September. Information and links are on the IGeLU website <http://igelu.org/conference-2010/call-for-presentations>.

Michele Newberry

#### **+++++Haifa 2011: Thinking Ahead**

In 2009 we accepted the offer from Haifa University, Israel, to host a joint IGeLU conference and system seminar in 2011. We have continued discussions with Ex Libris management and the Haifa organising committee about the most efficient way to organise these two events in order to keep the costs for our members as low as possible. The framework has now been agreed, and the conference and the system seminar will run consecutively:

September 2011:

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>: Pre-conference meeting of INUG
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> – Tues 13<sup>th</sup>: IGeLU conference (with a Closing Reception for IGeLU and Opening Reception for the System seminar on the Tuesday night).
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> – Fri 16<sup>th</sup>: System seminar
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup>: Country tour

Jirka Kende

#### **+++++Voyager PWG: Upgrades and New Releases**

The Voyager Product Working Group members are busy on different fronts: planning for the Ghent conference and working with ELUNA counterparts on the Voyager enhancement process and how this will be incorporated into the New Enhancement Request System (NERS). We still have a little time to thrash out the details, and hope to learn from the experiences of Primo and DigiTool.

In more general Voyager news, v.7.2 is in general release. Among other improvements, this version runs on a Linux platform – and you may have seen the announcement on Voyager-I of the first site, Harding University, that has now moved to Linux. We discussed with Mike Dicus, Ex Libris Voyager Product Manager, about the shift of installations / upgrade work from Chicago to Israel. There was some concern about the affect this might have on upgrade schedules – Mike reassured us that Israel would still run upgrades from Mondays if the site preferred, but that the move would mean that it would also be possible to run upgrades from a Sunday, potentially making it easier to schedule significant downtimes.

Note also the news from Ex Libris that Voyager documentation is now, at last, available from Doc Portal.

Habib Tabatabai

#### **+++++Verde PWG: Enhancements Survey**

The Verde PWG, in cooperation with our ELUNA counterparts, are preparing a survey on possible enhancements to prioritize for the Ex Libris development team. As Verde customers already know, Ex Libris have only committed to developing small enhancements which won't affect the fundamental architecture of Verde. To make the process as transparent as possible, Ex Libris will give the customers a list of any rejected enhancements.

Two upcoming points in the next month will be the connection between Verde and SFX 4, and the development of the URM from a Verde users perspective. This will start before spring and we hope to see updates on progress at both the ELUNA and the IGeLU conferences.

Andreas Sabisch

#### **+++++SFX PWG: Central Knowledgebase Enhancements**

Based on the Product Development Cooperation Agreement of May 13, 2008, talks have been conducted between Ex Libris, IGeLU and ELUNA to come to a procedure for submitting and prioritising requests by IGeLU and ELUNA members for new databases and targets for SFX and MetaLib. In 2009 a preliminary procedure outline was agreed upon, including handling of regional resources (see Newsletter 2, 2009, page 19).

A small working group was established, consisting of Mark Dehmlow and Lukas Koster on behalf of the user groups, and Christine Stohn, Carmit Marcus and Ron Lozinsky on behalf of Ex Libris.

The NERS system is designed to take care of both software and CKB requests, and in January 2010 the SFX PWG discussed the details of the procedure for the SFX KB during its meeting in Amsterdam. In a conference call with Christine Stohn and Ron Lozinsky the procedure was confirmed. It will be implemented this spring and evaluated after 6 months. The MetaLib PWG will discuss the procedure during their meeting in Amsterdam in March.

There are many small details, but the basic process is as follows:

Voting will happen in a “me too” fashion with the ability to add a vote to or subtract a vote from a resource while it is still vote-able. Once every two months, the user groups will forward the top six resources to Ex Libris, two of which will be special "regional" resources. Ex Libris will indicate if the resources can be added, and if so by when, and if not why. The IGeLU and ELUNA SFX Product Working Groups will co-manage this process and will maintain regular communication with the user community regarding voting results, when resources are sent to Ex Libris, and what is to be implemented and in what time frame. Ex Libris and the user groups have agreed to test the process out for 6 months, after which time, we will evaluate how the process is going and adjust as needed.

We're still finalizing the details with ELUNA, but once we finish organizing the process and implementing the changes to the enhancement request voting system, we will be ready to go. Keep a look out in the next few weeks for an email from the IGeLU and ELUNA SFX Product Working Groups to begin adding CKB resources to the enhancement request voting system

and to start voting on those resources. Special thanks to ELUNA and Ex Libris for working toward a collaborative venture!

Lukas Koster, Mark Dehmlow

#### **+++++Primo PWG: Trialling NERS**

NERS was used for the first time by Primo customers in December 2009, in order to vote on a list of forty enhancements. These had been filtered from a much larger list sent to the Ex-Libris Primo Product Manager, Gilad Gal. As the Primo customers were pioneers there were some predictable glitches in getting the system working but the process was ultimately successful. Initially the names of institutions that are members of ELUNA and IGeLU had to be loaded onto NERS. Some attempt was made to identify all the Primo customers but this was not possible as full information is not readily available. Each customer has 100 votes and a limit of 10 votes per enhancement was set. This is something the individual PWGs will probably wish to review. Once the system was ready to go a message was sent to the Primo Mailing List asking people to vote. The deadline was originally 31<sup>st</sup> December but this was extended to 11<sup>th</sup> January at the request of several people. 55 institutions took part in the voting, 35 from IGeLU and 20 from ELUNA. Reports are available within NERS so customers can see the results of the voting.

The IGeLU Primo PWG is now planning to meet at the Royal Library of Denmark in Copenhagen on 17<sup>th</sup> February where one of the main agenda items will be the management of the enhancement process. I would like to thank Bob Trotter and Mark Dehmlow of ELUNA for all their work in getting the system working and their quick responses to fixing one or two bugs. It will be interesting to hear how other product groups find the voting process too.

Mandy Stewart

#### **+++++Metalib PWG: Next Generation**

The MetaLib PWG has been busily working on a number of items:

##### **MetaLib Next Gen - Use Case Scenarios:**

We are still keen to have input from the MetaLib community into these use case scenarios. Visit EL Commons at

<http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=24610263>

and add your comments. We need input from Academic and especially non-academic libraries.

##### **MetaLib Survey:**

If you have not had the chance to look the detailed report of the MetaLib Survey 2009 this is available on the IGeLU member's area at <http://igelu.org/members-only/metalib-survey-2009>

##### **MetaLib PWG Face to Face Meeting 2010:**

The MetaLib PWG is planning its next Face to Face meeting. This will be held Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March in the Library of the University of Amsterdam.

##### **MetaLib Next Generation Advisory Group:**

We have been working jointly with ELUNA and Ex Libris on the formation of a Customer Advisory Group (CAG). This group will work with Ex Libris on the design and development of MetaLib Next-Gen. We should have more details about this in the next newsletter.

Meg Bates

#### **+++++DigiTool PWG: DigiTool 3.3**

As DigiTool customers will already have heard from ExLibris, the roadmap for Rosetta has changed, with the product now scheduled to become part of the first version of the URM. This new roadmap will delay the launch of Rosetta, and so ExLibris have decided to launch a new minor version of DigiTool before the end of 2010 (DigiTool 3.3). This new minor version will focus on technology updates and the scalability of the product.

For this minor version it is possible to suggest new functionality via a new enhancement process (already announced on the DigiTool mailing list), using NERS. This process will be coordinated by Patricia Hulst from ELUNA and Matthias Gross from IGeLU. You will soon get instructions how and when you can submit your proposals – please do take the time to input your proposals: this is your opportunity to improve the product!

Luís Miguel Costa

#### **+++++ARC SIWG: ARC Enhancements**

ARC users have awaited enhancements for a long time, and recently the Aleph Minor Release v.20.1.0 became available, which integrates 17 new fields! This is a success for the IGeLU ARC SIWG and good news for most of the ARC users. Why only "most"? Obviously not every user needs all new fields - that's in the nature of enhancements - but some customers bemoan the policy that ARC enhancements are made available only in the latest Aleph version. Most effort lies in integrating the new information in the ARC data warehouse resp. presentation layer, while adding a new item to the Extract process in the context of a SP is the minor part of it. We would like to see ARC's latest functional range even if we are on another Aleph version wouldn't we?

If you are on v20, your field report on these enhancements to the ARC mailing list will be very much appreciated.

Marcus Zerbst

#### **+++++Aleph PWG: the Art of the Live Demonstration**

Thinking of submitting a proposal for the Ghent conference? Some further reflections on the Aleph component at the Helsinki conference may give you some ideas about how to make a presentation interesting and engaging:

If a prize were on offer for the most entertaining session at the Helsinki conference, it would probably go to Self Service Aleph (lockers, baskets, SIP2, RFID?) presented by Bas Vat from Leiden University and Theo Engelmann from Utrecht University, and ably moderated by Fay Harrison from Nottingham Trent University. As part of the session, Bas had arranged a live webcam feed showing users interacting with a self-check machine at Leiden University Library. But what users and what interactions? For what seemed an age, no student came into view, then two approached, stopped, chatted, continued chatting, and wandered off. Audible disappointment from the audience. Many more minutes passed, no users, the audience felt like spectators at a chess match without the chess players. Finally, moments before Fay was about to call time on the session, a flurry of activity, a user confidently striding up to the machine, issuing a book, then off: applause and laughter from the audience, and relief from the presenters.

None of this greatly distracted Theo and Bas from the substance of their talk which included a description of an ambitious provision of lockers for the delivery of holds to users, with the self-check machine directing the user to the locker where their reserved items had been securely placed for them to pick up.

Other Aleph sessions that stood out were Matthew Phillips's two presentations on Easy OPAC enhancements and his discussion of Recommendations in Aleph. But one could also point to the The Wireless Library by Helene H. Svihus and Christian Aune Thomassen from Norway for another innovative exploitation and extension of Aleph functionality. Among the posters, François Renaville's (from Liege, Belgium) Aleph Conversion from Excel into Aleph sequential excited a lot of interest and has since then generated a lively discussion on the email list.

All in all, the Aleph track provided a rich seam in the mosaic of the conference and much to ponder and exploit thereafter.

Gerard Bennett

#### **+++++Steering Committee: Steady Communication**

At the beginning of March 2010 the Steering Committee will hold its regular between-conferences meeting. This time it will be in Ghent, where we will have a chance to approve the final budget for the conference and discuss with the very enthusiastic organising committee any questions that are still outstanding. In addition the Steering Committee will deal with regular business and also meet with the members of Ex Libris management who regularly attend part of the SC meeting between the conferences.

While the face-to-face meetings of the Steering Committee are an important part of the work of the Group, much more communication takes place via a series of conference calls, involving dozens of volunteers from across the organisation (and from around the globe – which can make scheduling very tricky!). There are monthly conference calls of the Steering Committee; bimonthly joint calls of the Steering Committee and the PWG / SIWG Coordinators; monthly calls of the Chairs of IGeLU, ELUNA, and Ex Libris management; and the monthly call of the Program Planning Committee (for the Ghent conference). Of course the PWGs themselves also have their own schedules of conference calls, within the groups; between the PWG Coordinators, and their ELUNA counterparts; and with their respective Ex Libris Product Managers. These reliable and steady communication channels are important for monitoring and acting in a timely manner on all issues important to the user community.

Jirka Kende