+++++ IGeLU News Digest

Welcome to the second edition of the IGeLU News Digest. It's been a busy couple of months for IGeLU since our last newsletter. Several of the Product Working Groups are able to report on excellent progress with their enhancement cycles, and with the collaborative testing program, as well as news on a customer survey for Verde. We've seen work continue on planning for the Ghent conference; whilst the Steering Committee has been representing members' interests with a meeting between the SC and Ex Libris management in March. We're planning ahead for the website, as well as looking towards the conference in the summer.

You can read the email digest, or follow news updates directly on the IGeLU website at http://igelu.org/news or via our twitter feed http://twitter.com/igelu

Michael Fake.

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+++++ Meeting Ex Libris management

One of the key dates on the IGeLU Steering Committee's calendar is the annual meeting with Ex Libris management which takes place between the conferences. This year we timed the meeting to coincide with the visit to our conference hosts in Belgium, and so in March the seven members of the SC met with Matti Shem-Tov and Marc Daubach at the University of Ghent. Matti and Marc informed the Steering committee about the development of the company in general and of the existing product suite, while Susan Sterns – connecting via conference phone – gave a short update on the URM development.

One of the key issues discussed during the session was a further improvement of collaboration with the user community, both within and amongst the URM Focus Groups. We also discussed the support changes for several regions: Italy and Scandinavia where the local distributors were turned to Ex Libris offices; and Portugal where the support in future will be conducted by the Ex Libris office in Hamburg. Other topics were the possible pricing models for the URM; the licensing model for the new Learning Center; and of course the Conference planning for Ghent itself. This very productive meeting was completed with a joint business dinner in the old town.

Jirka Kende

+++++ Conference planning update

The Steering Committee had an extremely productive meeting in early March with three of our Ghent hosts:  Veerle Van Conkelberge, Fran Vlaeminck, and Pieter Dejonckheere. The organizational planning and thought that they have put into the conference thus far instilled

great confidence in us that our next conference will be a wonderful success. The venues are convenient to one another but represent two vastly different architectural styles and historical periods: the 19th century Vooruit (http://vooruit.be/nl/gebouw), and the 21st century UFO (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkyiaIJuLP4 - this is a fun time-lapsed "video" of its construction taken with a camera positioned in the Vooruit). Our plenary sessions and some breakouts will be in the UFO, while our lunches and the majority of the breakout sessions will be in the Vooruit. That's going to require very good signage and directions because it has a wonderfully complex floorplan due to multiple additions made during the intervening century.

Finally, please don't forget to submit your proposals for presentations - the deadline has been extended to May 1st 2010. See http://igelu.org/conference-2010/call-for-presentations

Michele Newberry

+++++ Aleph PWG: Enhancements and coordinators

The Aleph enhancements cycle for 2010 is now proceeding. The requests database is open and will stay open until 17th April. So make sure you submit any new requests as soon as you can. 1st round voting will take place the week beginning 17th May 2010 and 2nd round from 20th September to 1st October. See the full schedule and access the requests database from here: http://igelu.org/aleph/enhancement-requests. The enhancements from this cycle will go into v.21. We are working with Ex Libris to get the requests voted in 2009 into minor releases of v20 – which may include a v.20.3 in early 2011.

Coordinator and module coordinator roles:
Two of the module coordinators left the group recently, Daniel Forsman (OPAC) and Martin Vojnar (Systems admin), due to job moves. Many thanks to both of them for the great contribution they made to our work over the last number of years. Another change to announce is that I will be stepping down as Coordinator of the group at the conference in Ghent. Invitations for candidates for this role and other vacancies this year will go out nearer the time of the conference.

We would really like to have applications now for the currently vacant module coordinator roles. To apply you should write to aleph@igelu.org with a short supporting statement. Module coordinators work as a team and an ability to contribute over a range of modules is most welcome.

Gerard Bennett

+++++ Digitool PWG: Enhancement results 2010

The results are in and the winner is ... "Bibliographic metadata management: Global changes with ret-01 and manage-21." The DigiTool enhancement vote began with a solicitation of enhancement requests, and after removing a handful of duplicates the final ballot offered seventy eight enhancement requests to choose from.

With a lot of support provided by Bob Trotter, University System of Georgia, the voting was carried out using the 'NERS' enhancement request voting system. Institutions were allocated 100 votes each, with a limit of 20 points for any single enhancement. Voting ran from March 9-15. The process was managed by Matthias Gross of the Bavarian State Library and Patricia

Hults, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA. Twenty seven out of forty seven eligible institutions voted.

The results have been presented to Ex Libris for their response. The top five enhancements were:
Bibliographic metadata management: Global changes with ret-01 and manage-21 (141 votes) Customization of RD by collection (117 votes) Bibliographic Metadata Management: More flexibility in including URLs in metadata (101 votes)
Delivery: Changing web design to modern html coding practice (90 votes)
Reports: sufficiency of built-in functionality (86 votes)

Patricia Hults

+++++ Metalib PWG: Face-to-face in Amsterdam

The MetaLib PWG had it's first face-to-face meeting of 2010 on March 29, at the Library of the University of Amsterdam. Planning for the event was carried out using Google Wave, and a number of topics were covered at the meeting:

EL Commons wiki – improving the structure and management of the MetaLib section IGeLU 2010 conference in Ghent – how to get more MetaLib proposals MetaLib CKB enhancements procedure – initial setup MetaLib Next Generation Advisory Group MetaLib use scenarios – to be used by MetaLib Next Generation Advisory Group (available on EL Commons) Performance of current version of MetaLib in Primo Primo Central demo – by PWG member Stefan Lohrum (KOBV Berlin)

Lukas Koster, Meg Bate

+++++ Primo PWG: Inaugural meeting

The Primo PWG met for its first formal meeting at the Royal Library of Denmark in Copenhagen on 17th February. Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard, Deputy Director General of the Royal Library attended the meeting in the morning to welcome us and join a general discussion on Primo. The Royal Library also hosted dinner for the PWG on the evening of 16th and we were all very appreciative of their wonderful hospitality.

At the meeting we established roles for the members of the group as follows:
Chair – Mandy Stewart
Deputy Chair – Gary Johnson
Conference Co-ordinator – Gary Johnson
Enhancement management group – Christian Haenger, Naomi Greidinger, Ole Holm
Secretary – Peter Christiensen Australia and New Zealand representative - Tom Ruthven

We also discussed the enhancement process for Primo, the further use of NERS (Primo customers were the first to use this), timescales, and how we wish to manage the submission and review process. We also discussed encouraging Primo presentations at the Ghent conference, and the plan for Gary and Mandy to attend the ELUNA conference in Fort Worth in May, where they will meet up with the ELUNA PWG members.

During the afternoon we held a conference call with Gilad Gal, Ex-Libris Product Manager, who gave a presentation on Primo Central, and on the collaborative testing of Primo Version

3 which took place in Jerusalem in January. Those who took part in the testing will provide a report later in the year.

The meeting was very productive and the group has agreed to meet again at the end of the IGeLU conference in Ghent. Our thanks once again go to Ole Holm, Anders Møldrup and Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard for providing such a great venue for the meeting.

Mandy Stewart

+++++ SFX PWG: Collaborative testing of SFX4

As you probably already know a major new version of SFX is imminent. In accordance with the Product Development Collaboration Agreement between Ex Libris, IGeLU and ELUNA that meant a new round of collaborative testing. After a call for volunteers from the customer base the Product Working Groups of IGeLU and ELUNA selected four participants covering as broad a customer range as possible:

Jessica Hartwigsen (CalState University Libraries, USA) Inga Overkamp (Max Planck Digital Library, Germany) Holly Thomason (Stanford University Library, USA) Bas Vat (Leiden University Library, Netherlands)

Testing took place in Jerusalem from 7 March 2010 for one week and was certainly an memorable experience for all four of them. We are eagerly awaiting their firsthand accounts of the new SFX version due in May/June for hosted customers and in July for local installations. On behalf of the entire SFX community a big THANKS for all their efforts to Jessica, Inga, Holly and Bas!

Mathias Kratzer

+++++ Verde PWG: Customer survey

The Verde customer survey (in which sites were asked to identify their priority areas for any product development resource that might be available) has now been completed. The ELUNA and IGeLU Verde PWGs will now compile the responses and present the outcomes to all Verde customers. Discussions with Ex Libris will begin shortly on how best to progress (where possible) the most popular areas and activities identified in the survey as in need of further development. Initial analysis suggests that around 40 Verde customer sites responded, which is a good response rate given the relatively small size of the customer community (compared to that for other Ex Libris products). The results of the survey will be published in the next few weeks.

Andreas Sabisch, Richard Cross

+++++ Voyager PWG: Collaboration with ELUNA

Voyager users will take advantage of NERS as we embark on the enhancement request journey. IGeLU and ELUNA VPWGs are working together, with investigations currently under way on how best to migrate all past enhancement requests into the new system, and talks with the NERS development team progressing on how to take the process forwards.

The two product groups' representatives plan to meet during the forthcoming ELUNA conference in Forth Worth, Texas, in order to develop more detailed plans on this and other joint efforts.

Habib Tabatabai

+++++ Web team meeting in Berlin

At the end of April IGeLU's web team – a group of volunteers who have committed to maintaining, administrating, and updating the IGeLU website – will be meeting in Berlin. This will be the first face-to-face meeting for the web team, and the aim will be to share knowledge about the website with a wider group, so that the burden doesn't all fall on a single person. We'll be reviewing the website structure, and planning ahead for the future, to ensure that IGeLU's web presence remains useful and relevant.

Michael Fake