SMUG 4 EU

EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER FOR SFX/METALIB USERS

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We'd like to hear from you

What comes next? For serial librarians this newsletter must be a nightmare as there is not even a publication pattern on the horizon.

What comes next? To be frank we still don't know. We are not yet sure about the coverage, content or format. We have received little feedback and are left wondering; have we met your needs? Did we meet your interests? Are we striking the right note?

Please help us by filling out the short questionnaire below with your comments and opinion. You can submit the form during the London SMUG 2005 conference. Alterna-tively you can fill out the form online at http://smug-4-eu.org.

This questionnaire will close on the 30th September 2005.

The result will be published in the next issue which is (rather optimistically) scheduled for October.

Questionnaire

Please select <u>one</u> option given by numbers, in 3a multiple answers are allowed.

1.   Who are you?

a)   I am from Europe (1), US (2), Asia (3), Australia/New Zealand (4), another continent (5).

b)   My main interest is SFX (1), MetaLib (2), both (3), neither SFX nor MetaLib (4).

2.   What do you think about SMUG-4-EU?

a)   In my view the newsletter SMUG-4-EU is superfluous (1), nice to have (2), very important (3).

b)   Have you read the first issue? Yes (1), no (2), partly (3).

c)   How did you like the first focus story on the MetaLib user interface?
It was boring (1), quite informative (2), very useful (3), haven't seen it (4).

3.   What do you expect? (Multiple answers are possible)

a)   I would like to read best practise articles (1), user portraits (2), conference reports (3), how-tos (4), strategic debates (5), others (6).

b)   My advise to the editors would be (Any comments are welcome):

     ………

7 M1LLION LONDONERS

Inside

IGLU: Do we really need it?

By Lukas Koster, National Library of The Netherlands (The Hague)

Contact: Lukas.Koster(@)kb.nl

IGLU (International Group of Ex Libris Users) is the new organisation that is meant to unite all institutions that use one or more of the Ex Libris products Aleph, MetaLib, SFX, Verde, DigiTool (and other future ones). The plan is, that both current user groups ICAU (International Consortium of Aleph Users) and SMUG (SFX MetaLib User Group) will become part of IGLU.

The big difference between ICAU and SMUG is, that ICAU is a formal organisation with a paid membership and legal status, while SMUG is an informal organisation without formal membership and legal status. IGLU will have paid membership and a legal status, just like ICAU.

For ICAU there will be an official voting procedure, in which the members decide whether ICAU will cease to exist and be transformed into IGLU. For SMUG there will be no such official procedure. Institutions using MetaLib and/or SFX are free to join the new IGLU organisation or not, after it has been established. Of course there is nothing to prevent the SMUG to continue as an informal organisation, if no SFX/MetaLib users want to join IGLU. If organisations are going to pay money for IGLU membership, they will need to benefit from it.

In my opinion there are 3 reasons to join:
1. some kind of formal enhancement procedure with Ex Libris
2. a virtual community website for exchanging information, configurations, plug-ins, X-server modules, etc. on a user to user basis, without Ex Libris
3. attendance at user group meetings included in the annual fee

Of these, the enhancement procedure is the most important. But for this to happen, a commitment from Ex Libris is needed that enhancement procedures for SFX and MetaLib will be acknowledged. An enhancement procedure should concentrate on main areas of interest, such as "user interface", 'knowledge base", "statistics", etc., instead of minor details. If this proves to be impossible, then IGLU must at least offer a real and living platform of exchange. This could be achieved by making use of the proposed Product and Special Interest Working Groups. This way a kind of "open source" area could be added to the commercial Ex Libris products.

Finally, the decision making process must be transparent and available to all members, whether they will be present at the annual meetings or not. Otherwise the danger exists, that active participation of member institutions without a voice will disappear. In this case IGLU will not be a success.
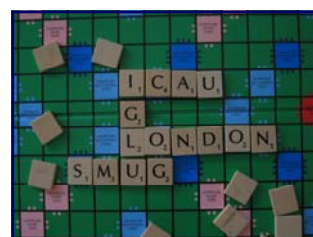

IGLU to be discussed in London

IGLU incorporating ICAU and SMUG

Further Info

♦ http://smugnet.org/iglu

Quote: On conferences

„The modern conference resembles the pilgrimage of medievial Christendom in that it allows the participants to indulge themselves in all the pleasures and diversions of travel while appearing to the austerely bent of self-improvement. To be sure, there are certain penitential exercises to be performed — the presentation of a paper, perhaps, and certainly listening to the papers of others.

But with this excuse you journey to new and interesting places, meet new and interesting people, and form new and interesting relationships with them; exchange gossip and confidences (for your well-worn stories are fresh to them, and vice-versa); eat, drink and make merry their company every evening; and yet, at the end of it all, return home with an enhanced reputation for seriousness of mind."

(David Lodge: Small World, London 1984)

Wish you all a pleasant SMUG 2005 in London!

Events: SMUG Conference 15-16 September 2005

Welcome to London — Not only Facts and Figures

COMPILED BY BEATE RUSCH

Cockney: Tradition says, Cockneys are only those who are born within the sound of Bow Bells (the peal of the church bells of the parish church at St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London).

Food: Britain's true National dish is Chicken Tikka Masala. Who said that? Robin Cook, the former British Foreign Secretary. Try it yourself in one of the many curry houses

Humor: A classic: The Ministry of Silly Walks by the Monty Python Group with John Cleese as the Minister of a fictitious British government agency responsible for developing Silly Walks through grants. As Minister, he's presented with a "walk in progress" by one Mr. Pudey — which turns out to be actually not that silly. The Minister tells Pudey that he does not believe the Ministry can help him, as his walk is not

silly enough, and funding is short. The government, he explains, is supposed to give equally to Defence, Social Security, Health, Housing, Education, and Silly Walks, but recently has been underfunding his department.

BTW: It has also been said, that the term 'spam' comes from a Monty Python sketch.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Spam_%28Monty_Python%29

People: 7.1 million Londoners are living on 1.579 km^2 in 85.000 streets. If you ever get lost, you could always ask someone to lend you their A-Z. The A-Z, London's street atlas was created by the female artist Phyllis Pearsall (1906-1996). The idea came to her a few days after her 29th birthday after she returned to London and became lost trying to find the homes of people whose portraits she had been commissioned to paint. Within

days, she had taken to the streets - all 23,000 of them - determined to sketch, index and publish them.
Useful also:
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/

Pubs: Abbreviation of public house. From the mere number of pubs, London's god must be god Bacchus. However, there still is a last round — a restriction from WW I. Doors are closing Monday to Saturday at 11 pm, Sunday at 10:30 p.m.

Time: London is home of Greenwich Mean Time, also known as Zulu Time or Universal Time. London has also been a well known center for watchmakers. A visitor once wrote In London, the people do not talk much and they walk fast — to save time, perhaps.

Further Info:

♦ *Peter Ackroyd: London — the Biography. London 2001*

Westminster Abbey
Photo by: Owen Stephens

Thames by Night
Photo by: Owen Stephns

My Local London

Photos by: FTJ

Damyanti's favourites:
My favourite restaurant is **Tas** (Great Turkish food. I can recommend the mezze) 33, The Cut, SE1 8LF http://www.tasrestaurant.com/

My favourite gallery is the **Tate Modern** (Fantastic space) Bankside, SE1 9TG http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/

My favourite walk in London is along the **Southbank** http://www.mysouthbank.co.uk/

My favourite wine bar is **Gordons** (Plenty of character and good wine) 47, Villiers St, WC2N 6NE

My favourite cinema is **Electric Cinema** (Comfortable arm-

chairs) 191 Portobello Road, W11 2ED http://www.electriccinema.co.uk/

My favourite market is **Camden Market** (Great Bargins) Camden High Street, NW1 http://www.camdenlock.net/markets.html

My favourite green space is **Regents Park** (a park, a zoo, open air theatre and more) http://www.royalparks.gov.uk/parks/regents_park/
Regent's Park, NW1 4NR

(Damyanti Patel — Royal Holloway — is speaker of SMUG-UK and editor of SMUG-4-EU)

Owen recommends:
I recommend **Café Emm** – great food, low prices 17, Frith St, Soho, W1D 4RG http://www.cafeemm.com/

I recommend the **National Portrait** – forget the Tate Modern. St Martin's Place, WC2H OHE www.npg.org.uk

I recommend the **Lamb and Flag** – good old fashioned English pub. 33, Rose St, Covent Garden, WC2E 9EB

I recommend the **London Eye** – the best place for an aerial view of London http://www.londoneye.com/

I recommend the **100 Club** – great music late into the night

100, Oxford St, W1D 1LL http://www.the100club.co.uk/

I recommend the **Science Museum** - from Babbage to SFX - the history of computing sits alongside the Hitchhikers. Exhibition Road, South Kensington, SW7 2DD http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/

I recommend the **Pillars of Hercules** - a small and cosy old English pub, mentioned by Dickens, and frequented by Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, and Ian McEwan 7, Greek St, London, W1D 4DF

(Owen Stephens — also Royal Holloway — is member of SMUG-Steering Committee)

SMUG 4 EU

European Newsletter for SFX/Metalib Users

Why not change your role ?

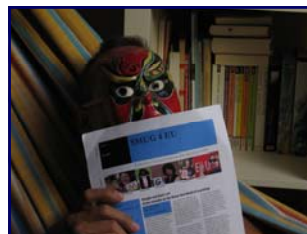SMUG-4-EU offers you the chance for a second career.

Join the board of editors

as a funny and thoughtful expert for all questions on linking, SFX and MetaLib

as a wild and creative layout designer

as a quick and inventive administrator for Plone

as a passionate organizer

All you need to do, is contact editors(@)smug-4-eu.org

Photos by: Beate Rusch

Unknown readers

VISIT:
HTTP://SMUG-4-EU.ORG

Preview — Issue Number 2

What we have planned so far:

* Results of the questionnaire

* Conference Report from SMUG 2005 London.

* New postcards from around the world.

* An interesting wild mix of best practise articles.

* Tried and tested rubrics, such as: The Crow and the Jewel — Summary from the mailing list.

* The focus story will be Knowledge and Knowledge Bases.

* You will learn that repositories are everywhere.

* You will read that any portal needs metadata.

* You will hear about a sophisticated metadata sharing process in Berlin, and why the Berliners can not live without it.

* Once again we will discuss the question: What is actually a local, a regional and an international resource and who is providing what.

* We will introduce to you the unknown MetaLib Module for copy cataloguing.

* If we find somebody, we will have SMUG-4-EU not only as a PDF but as a WEB-Publication as well.

* For all the news, tips and tricks you want to send to us, the deadline is Saturday, the 8th of October.

* Your questions, comments, photos (other unknown readers) and articles are welcome
editors(@)smug-4-eu.org

Happy Reader

Credits:

Many thanks to our friends and colleagues who acted as model readers.

1000 thanks to FJP for his permission to use his shots from London's eye. Don't miss his web site at www.fantasyjackpalance.com