

# SMUG 4 EU

EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER FOR SFX/METALIB USERS



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- In Focus: The MetaLib user interface
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- SFX and Google Scholar
- Kos: the Ex Libris system seminar 2005

## Google and that's it?

### Some remarks on the Brave New World of searching

BY JOACHIM LÜGGER,  
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*Google's mission is to organize the world's information* – states Google Inc. briefly and self-confidently in the introduction to *Google Print*, their *Library Project* and *Publisher Program*. The first results of this sense of mission can be examined at *Google Scholar (Beta)* and at *CrossRef Search Pilot*, which was released recently.

It is amazing, the way Google Inc. is indexing, analysing and sorting the full text of scientific articles and books that belong to *The World*, rather than the company, and finally giving the content back to *The World*.

The media celebrated *Google Scholar* enthusiastically. Academia and their libraries even regarded *Google Scholar* as a further incarnation of the digital revolution. Advocates of the *Open Access* movement suddenly saw their dream of free flow of information become a reality. But the *Crossref Search Pilot* will crush their hopes. You have to pay money.

In some parts of the world *Google Print* – supported by

major American libraries - is regarded as a threat. Not without reason. The predominance of Google makes us think, that the *Google-Impact* is the measure of all digital information. In fact, Google succeeds in not only defining this measure, but also in commercializing it, by making books and articles an advertising medium.

Everything is fine, isn't it? *The World* has a capable company offering a trick that is not easily imitated. This company defines by technical means, what is important and what is not. Both *The World* and the company benefit from it.

Can we be really satisfied with this situation? Not in the long run. If *The World* is accustomed to Google-only searches, it finds itself in a serious dependency. If the "*Google Impact*" can establish itself permanently as the dominant power in digital ranking, this will lead to a critical situation. There is a need for other methods of ranking and rating. A "*Google Impact*" can not be the final say.

Furthermore, Google's ranking is not available presently for meta-search and metadata-navigation systems. Metadata does not know about

(bibliographic) references. Thus the classical OPAC is inevitably falling behind, as well as the federated search. Both are isolated. The relevance of information can not be calculated on the basis of metadata alone - it results from its position in a net. Reference counts.

The greatest achievement of Google's inventors is their view of documents as nodes in a network with links as valuable information. The paradigm for this idea is Eugene Garfield's *Science Citation Index*. Here the *Impact Factor* is manually determined on the basis of citations in a set of *Core Journals*. It has a tremendous influence on the value of publications and the reputation of authors. In wide areas of scholarship and science, it is this impact factor, which decides on the fate of a career, of a project funding and, of tenure.

So the question is: how to assess the impact factor of books and articles not only in OPACs but also in library portal resources? Then we could catch up. And we should, shouldn't we?

Issue No 1 was edited by

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## Let's talk

### Let's talk - Instead of an editorial

BY BEATE RUSCH,  
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It is silent. It is very silent in the world of E-Mail. No Babylonian language confusion in the virtual living room for MetaLib and SFX-implementers. No one from southern Europe around, from France, Italy, Portugal. Don't they share our worries, concerns, is everything going smoothly over there? Only a lonely guy from Spain is raising his voice. The British .... the people from the Netherlands, fluent in English, the Czechs .... Where are the Scandinavians? They seem to know each other

well, like the Germans are close with the Swiss, the Austrians and the few guys from Luxembourg.

Is it a problem of language, of time, of different communication cultures? Some may prefer a phone call to an E-Mail discussion. Surely, it is easier to talk to somebody in your mother tongue, to meet each other personally. But these occasions are rare and sometimes costly.

Assuming, you are like me. You are curious, have quite a strong interest, but little knowledge about what is happening in other countries. You want to

know, if others share your visions and requirements, then there is only one way. We must talk, talk more and talk openly. SMUG-4-EU is providing the forum.



Photo: private

Beate Rusch

## Call for editors

SMUG 4 EU is an independent initiative by individuals, who strongly believe in the idea of communication and collaboration. SMUG 4 EU offers a platform for the European SFX and MetaLib users as one important group within the SMUG community. SMUG 4 EU regards itself as the missing link between national and international activities.

Each issue should be edited by a new board of editors. This principle of rotation may help to reflect the cultural diversity in Europe and to make SMUG 4 EU a success.

Often, you need to ask people personally, if you want them to contribute an article. However, you can only ask those you know. This fact actually explains the slight German-Holland-Finland flavour of the first issue. We know each other and we talked already.

From this background it would be great, if new editors from other countries would join. And promised: It is not only work, but a lot of fun as well.

Ideas for coming issues include knowledge base, user studies, quality control or consortia models. Issue 2 is planned for October 2005.

If you want to become an editor or a helping hand, please contact

editors(@)smug-4-eu.org

## Pen pals

### News from the US

BY LARRY WOODS,  
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SMUG-NA and NAAUG (the North American Aleph Users Group) are working toward establishing a single umbrella user organization in North America for all Ex Libris users. The discussions have been carried out parallel to the ICAU/SMUG discussions and while the organization will have a definite North American flavor, the structure will be similar to the international

organization which is being planned. One of the major differences will be the differentiation between "contract" members (institutions that actually hold the contract with Ex Libris) and "participating" members (all the other institutions who use one of the products as a member of a consortium, etc.). It is anticipated that the new organization will be in place by January 2006.

The SMUG-NA conference will be held at the University of Maryland from June 8-10 right after the NAAUG conference.



Larry Woods

Photo by Lukas Koster

#### Further Info

◆ For the agenda visit: [http://usmai.umd.edu/SMUGProgramAgenda\\_2005.doc](http://usmai.umd.edu/SMUGProgramAgenda_2005.doc)

### A postcard from

BY SUSAN LIEPA,  
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AARLIN is a consortium of 12 Australian Universities formed to create a search portal using MetaLib and SFX as the principal applications. All members are past the pilot stage and the majority are rolled out to all users within their institution.

The AARLIN members share all costs and the 3 permanent staff who provide technical and administrative support for MetaLib/SFX and the consortium activities. In addition, a team of 5 staff from consor-



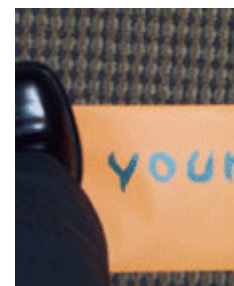
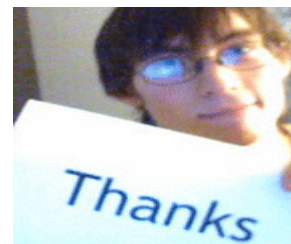
tium members work part-time to assist to create new MetaLib resource configurations which are shared between the member institutions. Since February 2004 this team has created 188 new configurations, 50% plus are for Australian resources. AARLIN has offered its new configurations to Ex Libris for inclusion in the Ex Libris CKB. AARLIN operates on a distributed architecture implementation with separate servers being used for production installations of MetaLib and SFX. In addition, a backup pair of servers is deployed to provide 100% redundancy for the production servers and a test server is used for both development of local scripting and the test-loading of upgrades to

MetaLib, SFX and the Operating System (Red Hat Linux).

Future developments will include configurations for a broader range of resources, including digital repositories and links to course management systems.

#### Further Info

◆ <http://www.aarlin.edu.au>



Photos © <http://zefrank.com>

## In Portrait

### The incredible Nelli Portal

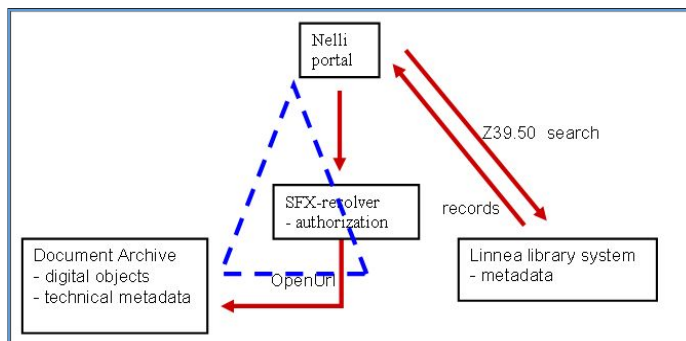
BY ARI ROUVARI, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND (HELSINKI)

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The Nelli information retrieval portal has been acquired for the use of various library sectors in Finland. Nelli was utilized first in university libraries (20), followed by regional public libraries (20) whose portal services are expected to become accessible in 2005. It is likely that the first polytechnic libraries (30) will also begin exploiting the Nelli portal's capabilities in autumn 2005. Special libraries will come on board later. Nelli is going to be a genuine *nationwide* service. A shared Sun Fire 4800 server has been acquired specifically for portal services in Finland. The server is maintained by third party vendor CSC. CSC is responsible for the hardware and for maintaining and updating the operating system (Solaris). The National Library is responsible for maintaining the application software. This division of labour between the National Library and CSC has proved to be an extremely successful arrangement; we do not have to pay any attention to the hardware or the operating system. Instead, we can just focus on what is important – improving functionality and services.

The Nelli portal is maintained and developed centrally by the National Library of Finland, but services and user interfaces can be tailored locally.

Centralized tasks by The National Nelli office:



Triangel

- ◆ co-ordinating the project
- ◆ implementing & maintaining application software
- ◆ updating MetaLib CKBs and application software
- ◆ configuration files and external programs
- ◆ SFX monthly updates and activation instructions
- ◆ multilingual user interfaces (in English, Finnish and Swedish)
- ◆ planning and developing future services (e. g. Shibboleth)
- ◆ training of local administrators

Local Tasks by members of consortium:

- ◆ authentication
- ◆ activating SFX-targets
- ◆ copying of configuration files
- ◆ tailoring of user interfaces
- ◆ local services
- ◆ end user training

The Nelli portal is part of a more extensive library technical infrastructure called Triangel. Triangel is made up of three application programmes: the Nelli Portal (MetaLib/SFX), the Linnea Library System (Voyager) and the Doria Docu-

ment Archive (Encompass). The entire architecture is kept in place using standard interfaces.

The different systems offer considerable potential for developing national library services. In planning electronic library services, the focus is on improving the entire architecture, not on improving the function of individual systems. Using modular construction and standard interfaces means the systems can be updated flexibly and new parts can be added without having to change the whole Triangel.



The Nelli team: Ari Rouvari, Ere Maijala, Jukka Pennanen

© Nelli Team/ Ere Maijala

### Further Info

- ◆ <http://www.nelliportaali.fi>



In Portrait

MetaLib Shibbolized

BY ARI ROUVARI, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND (HELSINKI)

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To begin with, the idea was to use LDAP technology for customer authentication in the Nelli portal. The downside of LDAP technology is that critical information (i.e. passwords) go through the portal server, albeit encrypted. The information managers at Finnish institutes of higher education have tried to replace LDAP technology using Shibboleth middleware as the authentication system. As a technology for federated identity, Shibboleth has been increasing in popularity substantially and it guarantees a higher level of security and privacy in user authentication and authorisation than LDAP. In Finland our aim is to use Shibboleth authentication technologies in all our universities and polytechnic schools. Besides secure authentication,

Shibboleth enables single sign-on. Having been authenticated once, the user is able to use all the services permitted for him/her without further authentication.

As an authorisation tool, Shibboleth is more secure and more flexible than IP-based restriction. The libraries should undoubtedly be involved in supporting its development and introduction. After all, it will improve customer services.

Implementing the Shibboleth authentication system is technically a fairly simple matter. At the moment we use it via PDS's Remote CGI authentication hook.

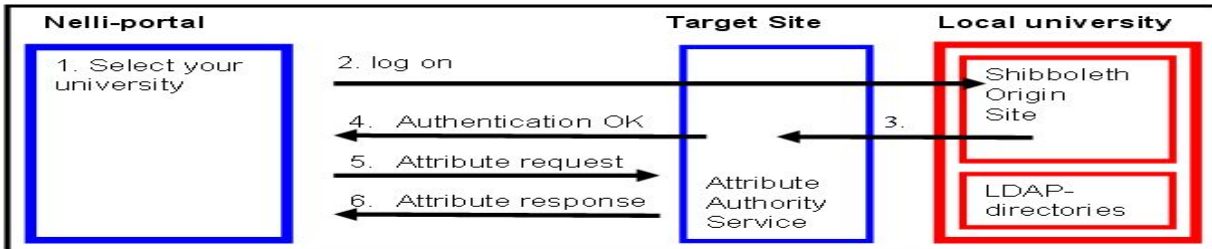
The most visible result of the project is the creation of the national HAKA federation. It is an IT infrastructure for Finnish universities and research institutes which permits user authentication on any server

opening onto the network, irrespective of which organisation the user is a member of.

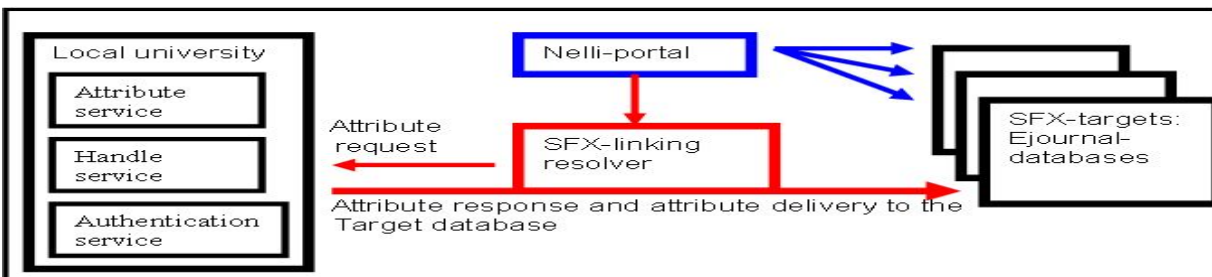


© Shibboleth (<http://goshibbolethgo.com>)

Shibboleth is everywhere



The Shibbolized Nelli portal



Shibboleth authorisation/user rights as a management tool

Further Info

- ◆ <http://www.nelliportaali.fi>
- ◆ Ari Rouvari: Nelli - The Shibbolized Library Portal: <http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/finelib/english/nelli/articles/shibbo.doc>

## In Focus

## Lost in translation - The multilingual MetaLib user interface

BY LUKAS KOSTER,  
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*"It's a user interface, Jim, but not as we know it"*

Translating texts is not as easy as it seems, as professional translators can tell you. Translators are faced with rules of morphology (different forms of words), syntax (the order of words in a sentence), semantics (the meaning), and last but not least context (different meanings in different contexts).

While translating "simple" texts is already difficult, it is even more difficult when dealing with computer user interfaces, which can be both static and dynamic. In MetaLib, textual elements that are candidates for translation, can be found in HTML template pages, JavaScript code, icons and additionally in Message tables, Static text tables, System variables, Categories, Resource names and descriptions, QuickSet names and descriptions, Help files.

For each language separate directory trees and files are created with a suffix <lng>. For instance for the directory containing French HTML templates, help pages and stylesheets it is: "www\_v\_fre". There are also images and message tables.

With MetaLib version 3 a new concept was introduced. For every language a new www\_const.<lng> table is created. In these tables all static



Photo by Sofia Coppola -  
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text elements that have to be presented in the HTML pages, can be entered. For all terms in the HTML templates that are enclosed in two forward and two backward slashes the corresponding term is looked up in the table and displayed in the actual HTML page.

While this makes maintaining translations very easy if set up correctly, there still remain a number of problems, connected with morphology, syntax, semantics and context. In the default www\_const.eng table words and phrases are entered on a one-to-one basis, which of course does not automatically comply with the rules of other languages. Also dynamic phrases containing system variables may cause problems (like: "Search has found 15 results").

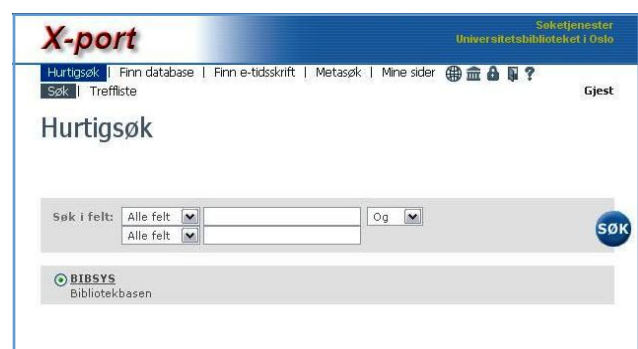
Solution: edit the www\_const.<lng> table for the new language and group terms according to the context they are used in. Then add and replace terms in the HTML templates where necessary,

using codes rather than normal words. Make a copy of the changes in the English www\_const.eng table. Once you have done this, maintaining translation is relatively easy. You still have a set of HTML templates per language, but they can simply be copied without having to edit the contents.

But beware: there is more to this. There are some practical problems, some textual elements that cannot be translated, but also some positive solutions.



Universidad Politecnica de Valencia : QuickSearch in Spanish



University Library of Oslo: QuickSearch in Norwegian

## Further Info

◆ Practical issues and requirements for the future: <http://smugnet.org/metalib/KB311customization.pdf>

## In Focus

### Accessibility of web content

BY ERIK ALTMANN, MAX PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT (MUNICH)

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If the WWW is seen under the aspect of availability of information, rather than from a purely visual point of view, the question of general accessibility of web front ends arises.

The key criteria whether a web page works or not is still thought of as the (visual) output of most frequently used web browsers. Source code is considered the barely machine-readable internals of a web interface which need not be understandable. On the other hand, HTML is a logical mark-up language which was designed to be quite intelligible to humans readers.

If the output of a web page is read aloud by a screen reader software, it becomes fairly obvious that focussing on a logical and semantic use of HTML elements (in contrast to HTML used for mere display) is most valuable in order to present web content to visually handicapped people.

The design of web documents ought to follow the logical



steps of document creation, which basically means separation of content, structure and formatting. As a consequence, customised versions of display could be created without the need of touching the structure of the actual HTML interface. This process is demonstrated impressively by <http://www.csszengarden.com>, where completely different screen output of an unchanged HTML source is generated by applying diverse CSS style sheets.

A WWW front end may be considered little more than a user interface to a program, which is expected to be available for a certain group of clients fulfilling basic requirements such as support of JavaScript. This is how general accessibility of content is given away. Control elements of interactive, dynamic web pages can be real-

ised as pure server tasks. The look and feel of a page can admittedly be enhanced by using non-standard code. However, creating an accessible interface does not necessarily imply doing without facets of design. Generally, non-standard web interfaces do not mean enhanced quality of design, but a lack of accessibility.

In a nutshell: Accessibility is achieved by 100% compliance to W3C standards.



(No) access

Photos by Beate Rusch

#### Data Transfer in MetaSearch 3.12

Function	Bytes
Login	28.249
Category Browse	156.966
Find Request & History	131.891
Short Result List	32.106
Full Record Display	99.785

Remark: no GIFs

#### Further Info

◆ Web Accessibility Initiative: <http://www.w3.org/WAI>



#### Legal aspects

Legal measures to enforce accessibility of web content have been taken in various countries. In the UK, the DCR (<http://www.drc-gb.org/>) informs about accessibility of web resources in the context of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act). In Germany, the web pages of the project Aktionsbündnis für barrierefreie Informationstechnik (<http://www.wob11.de>) give an introduction to the legal aspect of web accessibility on a national level according to the BITV (Barrierefreie Informationstechnik-Verordnung).



## In Focus

## To do or not to do – The do's and don'ts of MetaLib customization

BY LUKAS KOSTER,  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHER-  
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*The scene: a large European library has purchased MetaLib as a toolbox suite for embedding the search facilities in the main website. The project manager discusses the customization with the MetaLib implementer.*

**Project manager:** We would like to have the navigation bars on the left side of the screen, like we have in the main website. Can you do that?

**Implementer:** No, not with the standard MetaLib tools. But you can use the X-server and build your own user interface of course!

**Project manager:** But surely we will be able to adjust the colours and fonts to match our new website design?

**Implementer:** Yes, of course.

Up to a certain extent that is...

**Project manager:** And some of the labels, titles and other texts must be replaced by our own wording.

**Implementer:** That one is easy. We can use the static text tables that are used for translation.

**Project manager:** We probably want to leave the e-Journals module out altogether. We will use the SFX A-Z list for that. That shouldn't be too difficult.

**Implementer:** No problem there: we will just "comment out" the e-Journals option in both HTML navigation templates.

**Project manager:** We also want to present the user interface in both Esperanto and English, as is the official policy of our library.

**Implementer:** Piece of cake. At least 90% of the interface can be multilingual. And for Categories, QuickSet and Resource names and descriptions I have discovered a workaround, which has to be managed very

carefully though! So not more than 5% will only be available in English.

**Project manager:** We would like to add some explaining text in the module's main pages.

**Implementer:** Possible, but not more than one line! But you can have more space if you leave out the "Simple" and "Advanced" tabs and offer only one search type per module.

**Project manager:** Removing the "Simple" and "Advanced" tabs, that is exactly what we wanted to do!

Well, all in all, I guess we'll have to make the best of it then...

**Implementer:** Yes, but what about our customers?



### Further Info

- ◆ Practical issues and requirements for the future: <http://smugnet.org/metalib/KB311customization.pdf>

### MetaLib user interface developments

At the Ex Libris seminar in Kos, during the session about Integrating MetaLib with external applications and the X-server, the customization of the default MetaLib user interface was subject of discussion. At the same time a discussion about the customization and accessibility began on the SMUG mailing list (<http://listserv.nd.edu/archives/sfx-metalib-discuss-1.html> - "MetaLib version 3 stylesheets", April 2005).

On April 28th an official Ex Libris reaction was posted to the list by Jenny Walker ("Ex Libris response: MetaLib - customization and accessibility"), stating among others that "work to address these issues will start immediately".

Photos © <http://zefrank.com>



## In Focus

## Living without JavaScript - The Helsinki University experiment

BY TEEMU NUUTINEN,  
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The default MetaLib user interface design relies heavily on JavaScript. JavaScript is meant to enhance browsing and not to stop special browsers with limited or no scripting support.

Organizations may want to disable JavaScript because it is a security risk and W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines require that content and functionality must be accessible with and without scripting.

Default MetaLib offers zero functionality without JavaScript. Modifying the existing user interface was out of the question because not all browsers can handle the iframes without alternatives and the bloated table layout. Thus work on a lightweight, text-based interface began.

Several PDS files had to be modified before one could even get into MetaLib without JavaScript. Most of the work consisted of stripping down the templates, modifying the forms, replacing JavaScript links with normal links and some forms with links as well. Scripted iframes were discarded. Categories were put in one hierarchical menu like in MetaLib 2. Instead of using scripted iframes, MetaSearch almost fits on a single page (meta-1-result) with locate and categories. However, My Databases (QuickSets) are listed on another page because of the dynamically generated data.



QuickSearch in FireFox with JavaScript disabled

Problems arose with embedded HTML containing JavaScript: placeholders creating JavaScript links. Some of these links or functions, such as adding a resource to My Space, could be implemented by constructing a normal link and using another placeholder available in the section to get the required parameter. At this point functionality without JavaScript was pretty good.

Things got difficult e.g. with QuickSearch's placeholders, which create a lot of HTML and JavaScript links of course. It looked like there was no way around this kind of embedded JavaScript and resource native/info links could not be used without JavaScript. Also the way MetaLib offers records to be saved to disk posed problems. The fact that MetaLib needs no cookies and that the session is always available and passed as a part of the request makes it possible for an external CGI-program to use MetaLib. Only a few different routines were needed to parse JavaScript and offer an intermediary page with normal links - this is the

cost of full functionality without JavaScript.

Currently, it's not possible to create valid XHTML or even HTML 4 pages using MetaLib's rigid templates and the maintenance is difficult. This "experiment", supporting even the Lynx-browser, will serve a purpose while a better UI based on the upcoming X-server is being built. The User interface without JavaScript requirements will be put to use around mid May at the University of Helsinki instance of the Nelli-portal.



QuickSearch in Lynx (text-only browser without JavaScript)

## Further Info

◆ More info and screenshots: <http://www.helsinki.fi/~tsnuutin/neli/teksti.html>

In Focus

# Starting from scratch - X-Server experiments

BY JOERG LUETTGAU, HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITY EVIFA (BERLIN)

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Many implementations have stuck to using the provided technology but at EVIFA, the Virtual Library of Social Anthropology we deliberately went in another direction to get the best results. Our first aim was to develop a user interface which adhered to common usability principles and had no restrictions.

Our current open-source content management system, typo3, fulfils our needs perfectly unlike MetaLib. Owing to its peculiar template driven architecture the closest similarity we could achieve with MetaLib is to provide the general look and feel of EVIFA. This left us in an unsatisfactory position, especially as testing had proven that MetaLib has a number of usability issues. In addition the MetaLib user interface, contains functionality which is not required in EVIFA.

Owing to these issues we decided, early on, to integrate the x-server functionality of MetaLib into EVIFA in order to exploit MetaLib's core functions. This technology grants access to basic MetaLib services and returns results in an XML based structure, thereby allowing the integration of the MetaLib user interface and the results list into any web design.

After extensive testing, EVIFA



Evifa X-server: Search in one database

achieved some partial success; a minimalist MetaLib integration. This consisted of just one single search field with the resource being searched transmitting in the background. This is possibly, an acceptable solution for quicksearches with one resource, in our case an online content database.

The next milestone is the entire integration of MetaLib into EVIFA. As the control mechanisms of the x-server have been well known up to that point the effort was deployed in developing the environment

framework; administration of searchable resources in a separate database, integration of the basket functionality as the x-server does not support the get functionality of MetaLib's own basket and navigation between and within the results.

This work will soon come to fruition when EVIFA will be relaunched with a fully integrated MetaLib on May 27th 2005 .



Evifa X-server: MetaSearch

## Further Info

◆ More info: <http://www.evifa.de>

## In Focus

## MetaLib 3.12 at the University of Westminster

BY GERARD BENNETT,  
WESTMINSTER UNIVERSITY

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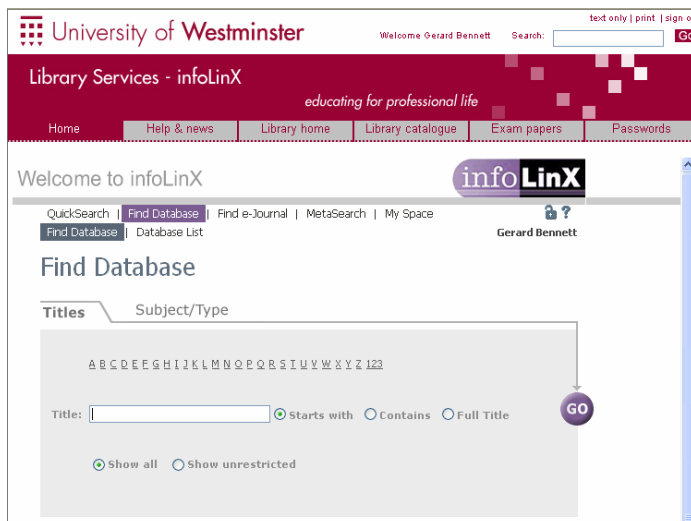
At Westminster we have been live with MetaLib version 2 since the autumn of 2003. As I write we are 'soft-launching' version 3.12 alongside version 2 until the end of the summer term when we will switch to the new version.

Our chief requirements in the upgrade were to:

- ◆ embed MetaLib in our CMS (Immediacy)
- ◆ ensure integration with our Single Sign On environment
- ◆ retain our 'infoLinX' branding, present in our Blackboard VLE as with version 2 – a navigation tab opens MetaLib within Blackboard.

The screenshot shows MetaLib as a frame within the CMS. The 'Library Services - infoLinX' banner and links are part of the CMS and are retained as the user navigates through MetaLib. The institutional links and search box persist in the same manner. The infoLinX identity is retained within the frame. Marrying the twin requirements of the CMS 'look and feel' and the infoLinX identity was tricky but we think we have managed it. Note also the retention of the MetaLib logout icon, along with the CMS 'sign out'. We will probably remove the former for our full launch as it is effectively redundant.

Is MetaLib integrated with our SSO? Yes. On campus the user logs on to a PC and is not further challenged when they access protected resources such as Blackboard (VLE), exam papers, and of course



MetaLib home page defaulting to 'Find Database'

infoLinX. This is achieved using the Novell 'ichain' system which handles authentication and passes the user through to the application. Other than by timeout, the user is effectively logged into the application until they log off the PC. Although we do use the PDS (i.e. we do not use the 'remote login') this is never visible to the user. The ichain takes the user credentials and handles the PDS login. Off-campus the authenticated user can access any protected resource, signing in only once.

Getting MetaLib to work well with ichain and CMS has not been a straightforward task. For example, ichain rewrites for the user interface the links that MetaLib generates and, where the latter does so using JavaScript this can be problematic. Deep linking remains to be addressed and we await 3.13 in this regard.

The requirement to offer the new MetaLib within Blackboard still remains to be achieved. This is something we are working on as we move towards the final switch over.

One issue that still concerns us is the inability to hide paid-for resources from users not entitled to use them – as we were able to do in version 2.

We have not transferred our customised version of the SFX citation linker from the old to the new MetaLib. Ex Libris have responded positively to our request to have the Citation Linker as a feature of the default MetaLib, and we look forward to this.

In conclusion we are confident that version 3 offers our users a much better interface than version 2 and that we have achieved the primary objectives that we set ourselves.

## Special Effects

## Just another SFX source?

BY MARCO STREEFKERK,  
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

CONTACT:  
M.STREEFKERK(@)UVA.NL

Traditionally web search engines and digital libraries were gateways to quite different information domains, but today information users demand integrating both worlds and technology makes this possible. The launch of Google Scholar gave new momentum to this development. One way to link web search engines, like Google Scholar, to digital libraries is to make its search results OpenURL-aware.

This is what Google agreed to do when requested by a number of libraries. Commencing in February Google launched a pilot service for about 25 libraries. During the pilot Google Scholar acted OpenURL-aware

for users that were affiliated either by IP or by preferences settings to one of the library's linking services. Only a subset of search results like books and references that contained a DOI or PMID show OpenURL's.

Soon an OpenURL service for Google Scholar will be available to all libraries. Owing to the potential popularity of Google Scholar among library patrons, this is a very important service to us. At the same time it is also important for Google to hook up their search engine to the library services especially for a service targeted at scholars.

In the OpenURL model a linking source like Google Scholar is not able to know what services will be offered to a particular user given a certain reference. This is only decided

after the user clicks the OpenURL link and it is decided by the library. Google wants to change this model because they want to show their users if full-text can be provided at the level of the search results. In order to do so they require access to some of the knowledge which at present the libraries own: the (electronic) holdings. Besides the fact that it would be a step back if libraries had to provide vendors with up-to-date holdings data, some libraries don't want to give prominence to full-text over for instance the printed collection.

Google Scholar will be on the agenda for the next SMUG meeting in London. Maybe we can come to some kind of shared opinion on this strategic issue, if it's not too late...

## Google Scholar on the mailing list

*In May 2005 on the SFX mailing list a discussion was going on about the subject of Google Scholar and holdings information ([http://listserv.exlibris-usa.com/mailman/private/sfx\\_supp/](http://listserv.exlibris-usa.com/mailman/private/sfx_supp/)). The majority of the participants in that discussion seemed to be against supplying Google with their holdings information.*

Firefox plugin for Google Scholar  
An alternative for the Google server side OpenUrl

BY LUKAS KOSTER,  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS (THE HAGUE)

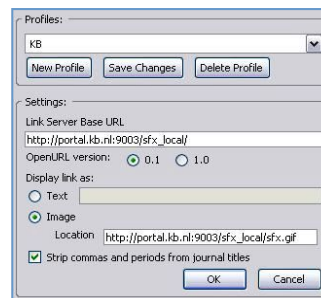
CONTACT: LUKAS.KOSTER(@)KB.NL

For institutions that have objections to the Google Scholar conditions for participating in the Google Scholar/SFX scheme, the plugin for Firefox might be an alternative. The downside is that it only works in the Mozilla Firefox browser and is a pure client implementation.

In Firefox go to <http://www.openly.com/openurlref/>, download the plugin and click "install" or open the file with Firefox. Restart the browser and there you go: a configuration popup window is opened, in which you can enter your own link resolver address.

Now when you do a search in

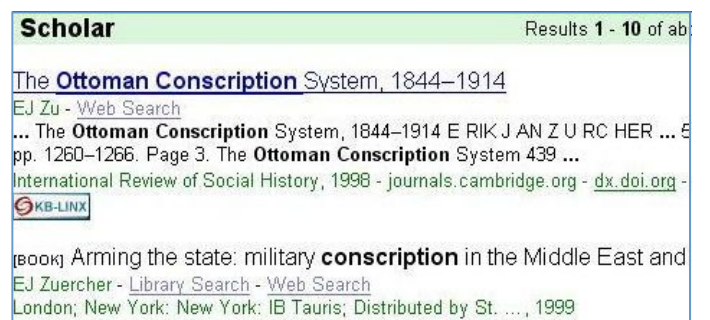
Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>), the link to your preferred OpenUrl link resolver appears in the results page.



Plugin configuration window



SFX menu from Google Scholar plugin



Google Scholar search results with SFX-button



## Special Effects

### SFX rethought - the anonymous user and the appropriate copy problem

BY MARC ANDRÉ SELIG,  
UNIVERSITY OF TRIER

CONTACT: MAS(@)SELIGMA.COM

Traditional use of SFX from within a library is geared towards a predefined audience -- patrons of that particular library -- with well known authorisations as regards the right to view electronic documents. This makes management of the Knowledgebase a matter of activating only those Targets for which electronic rights exist within that particular institution.

Open SFX up for remote users, and you no longer know which user is permitted to access which document. Moreover, a substantial number of documents exist in more than one electronic instance; there might be the publisher's copy as well as several alternatives from aggregators. Users of different institutions have access rights to different copies, taking the Appropriate Copy problem to another level.

In creating a cross-institutional portal, we use national repositories of subscription data to

select the appropriate copy for each individual user, or to provide pay-per-view or document delivery alternatives if direct access is not available. We will also try to support Shibboleth once its use becomes widespread.



SFX--it's everywhere!

© Nelli Team/ Ere Maijala

## From the mailing lists

### The crow and the jewel

BY REPKE DE VRIES,  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS (THE HAGUE)

CONTACT:  
REPKE.DEVRIES(@)KB.NL

Starting with a bit of philosophy: searching for Crow and Jewel in Google gives me 1.080.0000 hits and **Sheryl Crow & Jewel** Section with the lyrics of "Anything But Down. Now you don't bring me anything but down" as the best result. However: searching JStor (Arts and History) yields 119 results with this journal article deemed best: **Emily Dickinson's Jewel Imagery** by Rebecca Patterson, *American Literature* > Vol. 42 No. 4 (Jan., 1971), pp. 495-520. As mediators between information needs and best sources of answers, what should be the doors in our portals?

This crow flies around a bit, sits in tree tops, crow crows his guttural sounds and some-

times finds a glitter, a gem, a precious stone, imageries -- anything but down.

Here are some:

**Christine Turner** in the States asks November 3<sup>rd</sup> last year [SFX-M-D-List]: "Who has gone live with MetaLib V 3.x?" and asks among others: Are you offering MetaLib as a portal, or just certain tools; How are your users responding to this version? What are particularly useful aspects and what is challenging?

**Richard Cross** in the UK January first this year reflects his experiences [SMUG-UK-List] with "eSearch (MetaLib) launched today .." and reports on website integration and deeplinking: "strong preference is that after logging-on, users should be delivered to the MetaSearch page with the Categories 'Identify database' option pre-selected (rather than at the QuickSearch page). It seems unlikely that we'll be able to achieve this at present,

and we have currently chosen to make the 'Find Database' page as the post log-in arrival point"

**Dídac Margaix** however from Valencia in Spain on February 15<sup>th</sup> [SFX-M-D-List] reports on their MetaLib 3.12 customizing: - the QuickSearch will be the entrance to MetaLib, we think users prefer a "googelized" search; - many quicksets, but not too much (between 3 and 6); - some quicksets will be for all users, others only for specific groups (by subject)

And **Joerg Luettgau** from Berlin on March 22 shares the MetaLib X-server approach in the EVIFA project [SMUG-DACH-L; in German]: create-your-own jewel, like the work by Roy Tennant in the US.



The crow

Photo by Repke de Vries

## Inside

### IGLU - Just another acronym?

BY BEATE RUSCH,  
KOBV (BERLIN)

CONTACT: RUSCH(@)ZIB.DE

It was cold and rainy, when a proposal for IGLU was born, a new association for the International Group of Ex Libris Users.

In a small conference room at the University of Amsterdam, where normally PHD-Students defend their theses, in February for two days different models of user groups were under discussion: a central organisation or a federation of user groups, with one overall steering committee or different steering committees for each product. SMUG-Representatives (Larry Woods: USA, James Mouw: USA, Pat Busby: South Africa,

Marco Streefkerk: Netherlands, and Beate Rusch: Germany) and the ICAU Steering Committee (Guido Badalamenti, Jiri Kende, Else-Marie Poulsen, Mark Ellingsen and Larry Woods) examined the alternatives carefully. Optimists and pessimists were both present; from time to time they even exchanged their roles.

However, IGLU with its current outlines is the work of optimists. Proposed is a lean organisation with an overall Steering Committee, institutional members and a single low fee. The emphasis is on working groups, here is the forum for discussion, networking, communication and collaboration.

This is exactly why the concept of IGLU is the work of optimis-

tic people. They want to believe, that there are enough users - with excellent skills - around, willing to organise themselves in groups on the product level. As the groups can be more or less formal, existing forums such as ICAU and SMUG can easily find their way into IGLU.

One crucial question is still unanswered: What will Ex Libris's commitment toward IGLU look like?

Will there be a formal IGLU enhancement procedure for MetaLib and SFX such as the existing ICAU policy for Aleph?

It is up to all of us, what IGLU will be in the end - just a four letter word, another acronym or a user group with a strong central voice to Ex Libris.



Photo by Beate Rusch

Pat Busby and Amsterdam results



Photo by Beate Rusch

Pat Busby and Marco Streefkerk

### Further Info

- ◆ ICAU newsletter Vol. 4, No. 1, Pat Busby on the ICAU/SMUG meeting, Amsterdam 14&15 February 2005: <http://www.icaug.org/icaug/>

### When partners don't talk

BY REPKE DE VRIES,  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS (THE HAGUE)

CONTACT:  
REPKE.DEVRIES(@)KB.NL

I would be curious to know, how at first sight you translated "partners" in the title. We all know the importance of sharing and openness in our personal relations.

Some of these values certainly extend into entrepreneurship. The two synonyms free enterprise and private enterprise however already hint at complications. Private companies like Ex Libris indeed keep some informa-

tion private to be competitive and be first or best in the market. The Open Source movement as free enterprise on the contrary depends on the networked society and sharing. The Finnish philosopher Pekka Himanen writes about it in "The Hacker Ethic and the Spirit of the Information Age".

Sometimes the respective ethics of the different types of entrepreneurship collide. If some of us, MetaLib users, do beta testing of new versions or get involved in new algorithms, then we don't talk to our fellow implementers. Confidentiality gets in the way. Another clash of ethics is the extensions or (X Server) improvements to the

standard product and making these freely available. They are invitations to Ex Libris: this is how the community of users of your product sees it. Can we talk, as partners in development?

When partners don't talk. - there is so much to it and so much to be gained if we do. Advisory boards and focus groups are a good start. Open Standards a good incentive: look at [www.hollandopen.nl](http://www.hollandopen.nl) It is not about playing golf.

### Abbreviations

**ICAU** - International Consortium of ALEPH Users

Status: formal organisation, founded in 1991

<http://www.icaug.org/>

**IGLU** - International Group of Ex Libris Users  
Status: draft proposal

**NAAUG** - North American Aleph Users Group  
Status: formal organisation, founded in 2000

<http://www.naaug.org/>

**SMUG** - SFX/MetaLib Users Group  
Status: informal


<http://www.smugnet.org/>

## Lost and Found

### Developed: Metadata exchange parser for MetaLib

BY ANDRES IMHOF,  
KOBV (BERLIN)

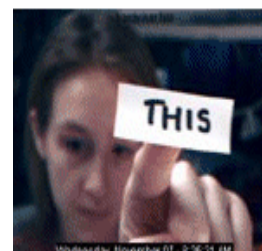
CONTACT: IMHOF(@)ZIB.DE

 The Kooperativer Bibliotheksverbund Berlin-Brandenburg (KOBV) has built a framework for a bi-directional exchange workflow of electronic resources descriptions (metadata) between the KOBV Portal (based on MetaLib V 2) and other Information Portals in the region. The Information Portals use different exchange formats, metadata schemata and controlled vocabularies for their descriptions of resources. In

order to overcome this metadata heterogeneity, an application, the KOBV Metadata Exchange Parser (KMA-Parser), has been developed.

The KMA-Parser maps the local portals metadata schemata into the metadata schema of the KOBV Portal. If necessary, it transforms the exchange format, converts contents of individual elements by means of concordances and produces new metadata elements on the basis of existent elements. It checks elements contents on completeness and controls the metadata exchange between

the portals. However, the transformation process takes place not only towards the KOBV Portal, but also vice versa.




#### Further Info:

◆ (sorry only in German) in *B.I.T. online*, Vol 8 (2005), Issue 1, pp 29-36

### SOAP-interface for MetaLib

BY LAVINIA HODOROABA,  
KOBV (BERLIN)

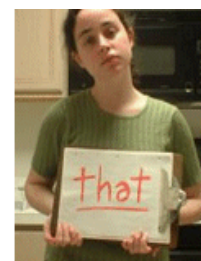
CONTACT: HODOROABA(@)ZIB.DE

 The KOBV strives to realize the goal of implementing a virtual "peer-to-peer network of information portals". The metasearch is the first portal component, which could be meaningful to be integrated in this network. One method to accomplish this task could rely on the Web Services framework. Therefore the development of a SOAP-client and a SOAP-server for the metasearch in MetaLib 2.15 was started in Dec. 2004. Due to lack of manpower there is presently no beta version, which could be offered externally for testing. The implementation will be carried out further, as soon as

staff is available. Our first experiences are summarised below.

A SOAP-client could be easily put into practice with the aid of the "find"- and "present"-applications. The SOAP-server should deliver the results of the metasearch in a predefined pool of targets. For this purpose it should provide at least two operations: one for returning the number of hits and one for delivering the results in ranges [from.., up to...]. Important keywords for the SOAP-server's implementation are XCQL (<http://www.loc.gov/z3950/agency/zing/cql/xcql.html>), DC-Elements (<http://dublincore.org/>), SOAP::LITE (<http://search.cpan.org/~byrne/ SOAP-Lite-0.60a/lib/SOAP/Lite.pm>) and the MetaLib's X-

Server. The main problems encountered here are the format-conversion and the performance. Although the "marc"-Format was configured, the X-Server returns for a MAB target the "original format", namely MAB. Moreover for the converted resources the metadata is delivered in different subfields or display formats. During implementation it was observed, that the SOAP-server needs a considerable amount of time for returning the results.




## Lost and Found

### SRW/SRU and MetaLib

BY ERE MAIJALA, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND (HELSINKI)

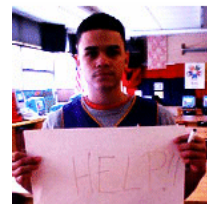
CONTACT:  
ERE.MAIJALA(@)HELSINKI.FI

 SRW and SRU are siblings in the ZING (Z39.50 International: Next Generation) family. They offer search services using methods familiar to web developers. SRU sends the request in a URL and SRW uses SOAP (web services). Both return results in XML and use CQL as the query language. The feature set is limited but well suited for search applications. The learning curve for implementing these services is very gentle compared to traditional Z39.50.

We have created a simple SRW/SRU implementation for MetaLib as an external program. The model MetaLib uses works fairly well, but it's not as effective as it could be. SRW/SRU is designed so that everything can be done at once, but the externals in MetaLib are divided to two parts: find and retrieve. Another problem is that there's very little room for configuration in MetaLib IRD record, but SRW/SRU often requires some parameters. We solved this by using external configuration files, but it would be nice to have the parameters in the IRD.

Ex Libris has announced integrated support for SRW/SRU

along with other XML gateways in forthcoming MetaLib versions. It's difficult to say how useful this will be in its first incarnation, as in my experience there are many subtle differences in how services of different vendors work, but I'm quite sure it will be important in the future.




#### Further Info:

- ◆ For more information on ZING, SRW, SRU and CQL: <http://www.loc.gov/z3950/agency/zing/>
- ◆ Our external programs are available at <http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/finelib/english/nelli/>

### Online Help

BY DAMYANTI PATEL,  
ROYAL HOLLOWAY LONDON

CONTACT:  
DAMYANTI.PATEL(@)RHUL.AC.UK

 At Royal Holloway we have created online tutorials using some software called RoboDemo, now called Macromedia Captivate. RoboDemo automatically records the on-screen action and creates professional-quality Flash simulations complete

with text captions, mouse movements, and scored interactions. I created an online demo to promote the key features of MetaLib when we moved to version 3 and I have also created two instructional demonstration, illustrating how simple it was to log into MetaLib and how it can be used in order to locate useful subject resources.



#### Further Info:

- ◆ The online demo's: <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/information-services/library/undergraduates/>




## Lost and Found

### SFX-PAPI Connection

BY GASPAR OLMEDO, CSIC (SEVILLE) AND DIEGO R. LÓPEZ, REDIRIS (SEVILLE)

CONTACT:  
ACBIC(@)CICA.ES  
DIEGO.LOPEZ(@)REDIRIS.ES

 PAPI is a system for providing ubiquitous and seamless access to restricted information resources across the Internet developed by RedIRIS, the Spanish National Research Network, as an open source project. It is currently being used by Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), the main research institution in Spain, and a number of

Spanish and foreign universities to provide off-campus access to information resources. The operation of the RewritingProxy component of PAPI is rather similar to EZProxy, so we used the standard EZPROXY.pm module in SFX to create the PAPI.pm module. The main difference between both proxy systems is that, unlike EZProxy, PAPI does not have the ability to check directly authorised IP addresses, so we added to EZPROXY module a subroutine to check IPs against the so called proxy\_papi.config table of the SFX configuration directory. Connecting PAPI and SFX V.2

has been an easy task and its results very satisfactory, we are currently working in linking PAPI to MetaLib.


#### Further Information

- ◆ Source code is available on request. PAPI: <http://papi.rediris.es/>
- ◆ Rediris: <http://www.rediris.es/index.en.html>
- ◆ CSIC Libraries: <http://bibliotecas.csic.es>

### Catalogue enrichment via SFX

BY INGA OVERKAMP, MPG (MUNICH) MICHAEL RATHAI, GBV (GÖTTINGEN)

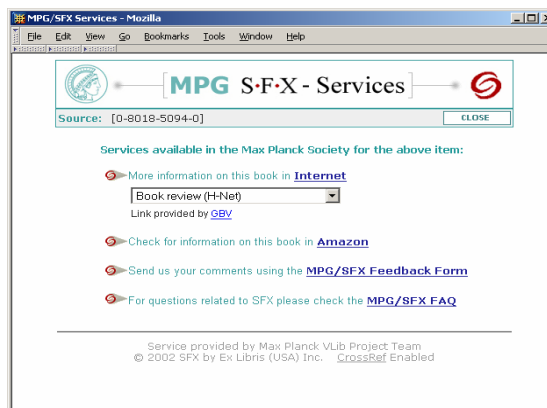
CONTACT:  
I.OVERKAMP(@)ZIM.MPG.DE  
RATHAI(@)GBV.DE

 More and more libraries have started to enrich the records of their online library catalogue with additional content such as tables of contents, reviews, cover images, etc. to support users in discovering and selecting relevant materials. Library consortias focus on efforts to collect and exchange enriched information in order to improve the distribution of value adding services.

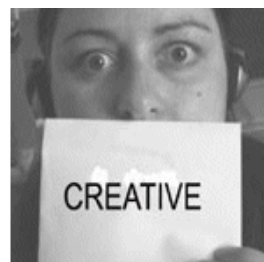
From the perspective of an institutional linking resolver it is quite challenging to offer relevant services for book requests which go beyond a link

to the library holdings or Amazon. Therefore the project team of the Max Planck Virtual Library (VLib) worked together with the GBV to design an SFX service which checks the GBV common union catalogue for enriched content and to display these options on the MPG/SFX menu.

Example: Several links to additional information are provided, incl. a book review at H-Net (see [http://sfx.mpg.de/sfx\\_local?sid=sfx:citation&genre=book&isbn=0-8018-5094-0](http://sfx.mpg.de/sfx_local?sid=sfx:citation&genre=book&isbn=0-8018-5094-0)) Any comments are appreciated.



Example: SFX service



Photos © <http://zefrank.com>

## Events

## Impressions from Kos - The Ex Libris system seminar

BY GÜNTER HIPLER,  
IDS (BASEL)

CONTACT:  
GUNTER.HIPLER(@)UNIBAS.CH

Among the most interesting presentations of the seminar were the presentations of Herbert van de Sompel about the ideas of the Open Archive Initiative and the new OpenURL 1.0 standards. Before the seminar I had read some articles about these matters but there is really a difference between studying a dusty scholarly piece and following the vivid and enthusiastic explanations of Herbert about the principles of OAI and OpenURL ("It's a beauty..."). A good understanding of the more generic concept of the Ope-

nURL 1.0 (in contrast to its predecessor 0.1) is very helpful for the daily work with the new version of SFX 3.0.

Beside those presentations I visited the lectures on MetaLib and SFX. The main topics of the MetaLib lessons were:

- the configuration of local resources
- optimising, support and analysing of a productive system
- writing external configuration programs
- the integration of MetaLib with external applications

Particularly useful was the lesson on the integration of MetaLib with external applications. With the new X-Server functionality, to be delivered this summer with version 3.13 of MetaLib, customers get the possibility of using the core

functionality of MetaLib, in particular the MetaSearch capabilities, as a component within their own implementation, e.g. in a special presentation layer or a larger web portal. Additionally, this presentation dealt with the integration of PDS within MetaLib.

The SFX presentations focused on:

- the new data model of the SFX database (especially the SFX Object Table and their relationships)
- the use of Citation Linker and A-Z List in version 3
- the menu and consortia configuration options in version 3

On Friday, April 22, we went on a tour of the island in jeeps. Winner of a competition that took place was the blue team.

### Further Info

◆ Seminar website: <http://www.kenes.com/exlibris>

### SMUG 2005 – LONDON, ENGLAND

#### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The 2005 SMUG International meeting will be held in London, England on September 15/16<sup>th</sup> 2005. The meeting will include presentations from user sites, presentations by Ex Libris on new features and plenary sessions on topics of interest to SFX and MetaLib users. If you would like to make a presentation at this conference please submit the following application to Gerard Bennett e-mail: [g.j.bennett@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:g.j.bennett@wmin.ac.uk)

Presentation Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Poster Session/Plenary Session/Other format [delete as appropriate]  
If Other format, please give details:

Brief Description

Presenters name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Requirements:

Internet connection

Projector

Software

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

### Further Info

◆ <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/icau2005/>



Opening reception

Photo by Peter van Boheemen



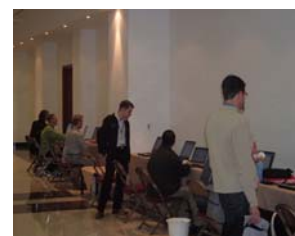
Herbert van de Sompel

Photo by Peter van Boheemen



Coffee break

Photo by Lukas Koster



The internet cafe

Photo by Lukas Koster



Football match Ex Libris vs. customers

Photo by Peter van Boheemen



Before the jeep tour: the Asklepieion

Photo by Lukas Koster

## QUOTE: On portals

BY JUHA HAKALA, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND (HELSINKI)

CONTACT:  
JUHA.HAKALA(@)HELSINKI.FI

"Only with appropriate metadata (service and collection descriptions) a portal will help people to find information about deep Web (databases) which is out of reach of Google. I see portals as an important extension of what full text can provide us, but portals will only be as good as

the metadata they contain; in the worst case there is no added value and a portal may even make IR more difficult. If for instance a description of a remote database is not correct, a user is better off if he/she uses the native interface instead of the portal. This of course has implications of who should create and maintain this metadata (people who run the service or somebody else close to it) and how it should be updated (as often as possible, in an OAI-PMH like distrib-

uted network). Any centralized model is neither scalable nor flexible enough for producing large quantities of high quality portal metadata."

(Email: April 28, 2005)

### *Further Info*

- ◆ *Herbert van de Sompel on repositories: [http://public.lanl.gov/herbertv/presentations/olybris\\_keynote\\_2005.pdf](http://public.lanl.gov/herbertv/presentations/olybris_keynote_2005.pdf)*

# SMUG 4 EU

European Newsletter for SFX/MetaLib Users

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## Credits

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Thanks to all authors, all photographers and all people in the photos for their permission to publish.

Special thanks to:

- Ze Frank (<http://zefrank.com>) for permission to use the "word" photos.
- Don Cento of the band Shibboleth (<http://goshibbolethgo.com>) for permission to use the "Shibboleth is everywhere" photo.
- The Nelli team for permission for using their idea of the SFX and MetaLib hat photos.
- Ivan Boev of KOBV Berlin for creating new SFX and MetaLib hat photos.
- Matthijs van Dam of A-Film Netherlands (<http://www.a-film.nl>) for his efforts in getting permission to use the Bill Murray photo from the movie "Lost in Translation".
- Focus Features (<http://www.focusfeatures.com>) for permission to use the Bill Murray photo.
- Duccio di Blasi and the University of Siena (<http://www.unisi.it>) for hosting our website <http://smug-4-eu.org>.
- Repke de Vries for ideas and concepts.

Readers response as well as helping hands are highly welcome:

Write to:

[editors\(@\)smug-4-eu.org](mailto:editors(@)smug-4-eu.org)

Your letters will be published on our website.



Photo by Lukas Koster

Our reader Heidi Mayer

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VISIT:  
[HTTP://SMUG-4-EU.ORG](http://smug-4-eu.org)

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## What we skipped or missed

- \* A report on the outcome of the consortia workshop in Helsinki in May (our deadline came first), Ari knows more: [ari.rouvari\(@\)helsinki.fi](mailto:ari.rouvari(@)helsinki.fi).
- \* Some words on the new SFX Version 3. Hopefully in the coming board of editors there are more SFX-people!
- \* Herbert van de Sompel's repository model (maybe in the next issue?)
- \* Some angry words about lost functionalities in MetaLib Version 3 (give peace and Ex Libris a second chance!)
- \* The wonderful cartoon by Randy Glasbergen on consultant's secret. ([http://www.selfhelpmagazine.com/psychtoons/glasbergen/consultant\\_secrets.gif](http://www.selfhelpmagazine.com/psychtoons/glasbergen/consultant_secrets.gif)). We couldn't afford it.
- \* More comments on the upcoming ideas of user involvement in the MetaLib and SFX enhancement procedures. A hot topic in Kos.
- \* The French view on Google.
- \* Juha Hakkala as an author (due to his other commitments). BTW: He would like to contribute to the next issue.
- \* An answer to the question, why the Germans are always commenting on the whether. (Do they really?)
- \* How to get your own service pack
- ...
- \* All the hot topics which weren't raised by you.

Before we say good-bye Andrea's joke:

User is calling the help center:  
I see a door on my screen and I want to open it, but when I click on it, it disappears...