Annual Report from the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries for Igelu National User group (INUG) 2016

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The Consortium of Icelandic Libraries is a public limited-liability company. The company is jointly owned by the municipalities and the state of Iceland. Participating libraries pay a service fee depending on size. The consortium operates the following systems and services from Ex Libris: Aleph 500, SFX, Primo, Primo Central Index and bX recommender services. It also operates Sarpur, a cataloging system for museums and cultural heritage institutions in Iceland. The Icelandic User Group for the Aleph libraries is called *Alefli*. It is a formal association that acts as a support for the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries. Due to consortia setup there is just one IGeLU vote for all the consortia libraries.
For more info on our operations please refer to https://www.landskerfi.is/about_us and https://www.landskerfi.is/consortium-icelandic-libraries.

1. Gegnir – The National Library System of Iceland

Gegnir, www.gegnir.is, is a national library system for Iceland. It serves as a union catalog as well as a library system for about 290 libraries. Among the member institutions are the National and University Library of Iceland, several smaller universities, most public libraries, and primary and secondary schools as well as research and special libraries. Gegnir is a brand for the Aleph software from Ex Libris. The setup is one instance of Aleph500 version 22.1.4, service pack level 2269. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 290 libraries are grouped.

The size of the system by end of 2015 is:	
Bibliographic records:	1.164.188
Items:	5.867.957
Circulation:	3.193.499
Borrowers:	175.817
Libraries:	290

2. Leitir.is - A National Discovery Portal

Leitir.is, http://leitir.is is a locally hosted National Discovery Portal for Iceland. It provides access from a single location to the diverse collections of Icelandic libraries, museums and other institutions. Leitir is a brand for the Primo software from Ex Libris, version 4.9.5. Access to electronic country licenses is provided via the Primo Central Index Service. A recommender service for electronic licenses is provided via the bX recommender Service.

3. Sarpur – A National Cataloging System for Museums

"Sarpur", http://www.sarpur.is/, is an Icelandic designed cultural database. It is used to catalog and record artifacts, pictures, archaeological sites, historic buildings, place names and cultural history, and is used by museums and cultural heritage institutions around Iceland.

4. Projects and Activities

Gegnir

RDA. The main project in the library system Gegnir was implementing the new cataloging rules Resource Description and Access (RDA). The formal implementation project was finished in May 2016 after sixteen months of intensive work on every aspect of the cataloging environment. The main components of the project were:

- **Guidelines.** Creating guidelines for cataloging of different formats according to RDA.
- **Training.** Creating training materials in Icelandic. Ten training courses were held for 160 cataloguers, each course lasting eight hours with a combination of lectures and practical exercises.
- **System configuration.** Modifications were needed in all aspects of the cataloging workflow, including: validations, error messages, help texts, fix routines for copy cataloging, cataloging templates and indexing.
- **Translation of RDA terms.** The Introduction and part of the Glossary were translated into Icelandic. It was clear from the beginning that it was impossible for a small language area as Icelandic to translate and maintain the complete rules.
- **RDA Toolkit.** Connection to the RDA Toolkit was made available to the whole cataloging community.

See more about the implementation in: Magnhildur Magnúsdóttir. (2016). Community of cataloguers in Iceland : New cataloguing rules. (Vol. 49). *Scandinavian library quarterly*, 49 (1-2): p. 42-44. http://slq.nu/?article=volume-49-no-1-2-2016-22

Closing the Aleph Web OPAC. In February 2016 the Aleph Web OPAC was closed for public access although it is still running in the background as required by Aleph. It was a major project to include all features of the Aleph Web OPAC into leitir.is (Primo), see more in the next section on leitir.is.

Leitir.is

When the Primo system was purchased in 2011, our aim was to offer it as a replacement for the Aleph Web OPAC as the technologies it was built upon were outdated, and so provide better services to library users. Also it did not make sense to be operating two solutions for essentially the same purpose. We were however soon to find out that this was easier said than done. One of the hindrances was the tight integration of Aleph and the OPAC. Furthermore certain features did not exist in Primo and had to be developed especially for this purpose. Last but not least, catalogers were dissatisfied with the fact that changes to bibliographic data in Aleph are not updated on a real-time basis but only on an hourly basis –

and many library users were still accustomed to using the OPAC and were unwilling to switch to a new platform.

One of the objectives of closing the Aleph Web OPAC was to ensure that at all main features of the old Web OPAC were included in leitir.is (Primo). This included:

- A special view for searching only the library systems records
- A view for each library where the search is refined by library
  - Tailoring the item information display so that only items belonging to selected library are displayed
- New form for placing ILL requests for material not in the system
- Display of Marc records both in Primo and the OPAC view in the cataloging module in Aleph

Since February this year, we offer leitir.is (Primo) as our only discovery/search platform.

E-book lending

For some time now, we have been looking for ways to enable circulation of E-books and Audio-books in public libraries in Iceland. The consortium has together with its' largest public library, Reykjavik City Library, led talks with the Icelandic Publishers Association in order to allow for lending out Icelandic E-books to the libraries. Parallel to that we have been on the lookout for an appropriate system that will enable to us to lend out E-books in English and other languages as well as Icelandic. We have narrowed our search down to the German system Onleihe from Divibib Gmbh and Overdrive from Overdrive Inc. and hope to reach an agreement before the end of the year. Unfortunately, metadata from publishers present in these platforms is not included in SFX or Primo Central.

Finding a replacement for our current library system

One of the biggest challenges with finding a suitable new library system for our national network of libraries is to find a solution that can accommodate our multi-type consortium. Most vendors seem to focus on either academic libraries or public libraries but not a combination of both as is the situation in our case. The public libraries are more demanding when it comes to offering self-service solutions to patrons, variety of apps is also a must, as are integration capabilities with other systems such as E-Book and Audio-Book lending systems, but first and foremost a library system must consistently progress in step with latest internet technologies.

New website landskerfi.is

Early spring 2016 a new company website, https://www.landskerfi.is/ for the consortium was launched. Besides providing information about the company and its operations, the website is home to our customer service platform, where member libraries and museums can access help and training materials, sign-up for courses on Gegnir and leitir.is as well as issuing tickets to request assistance or to report system problems. The website and its components are based on the open source CMS Drupal.

Other activites

Other activities included an extensive course programme for the continuing education of library staff, an annual Cataloging Seminar in May 2016 and the annual meeting of the *Alefli* user group, also in May 2016.

5. Issues

During the year we have experienced severe problems with Aleph GUI client installation in Windows10 with no real solution from ExLibris. The installer software is outdated and seems no longer compatible with Windows10 system file structure and user permissions. Also a bug in Windows10 sometimes changes the timestamp of .exe files on client installation, making the use of the Version Check utility to update clients problematic. We have developed workarounds for client installation but we feel that is an unsatisfactory solution.