

Annual Report from the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries for IGeLU National User group (INUG) 2017

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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 *Aleflí*. 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.

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 22.1.7, service pack level 2355. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 290 libraries are grouped.

<i>The size of the system by end of 2016 is:</i>	
Bibliographic records:	1.287.054
Items:	5.914.538
Circulation:	3.067.395
Borrowers:	175.242
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 4.9.9. Access to electronic country-based 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 (Aleph)

Maintenance work in the Aleph system has slowed down but still the goal is to keep the system up to date so therefore three service packs were installed earlier this year. Current projects in Gegnir are:

- Global changes to legacy files. As a part of the RDA implementation it is necessary to change the existing AACR2 data in our bibliographic database accordingly. An analysis of the global changes to the data is in place and the plan is to carry out the actual changes on the data during the winter 2017-2018.
- VIAF and the authority file. Gegnir has been accepted into the VIAF authority cooperation. Currently the preparations for sending the bibliographic and authority data to OCLC are in process.

Leitir.is (Primo)

The new UI

The new UI was installed in the Sandbox environment in the spring and since then a constant work has been going on to amend the shortcomings and adopt the new UI to our local setup. There have been problems with the UI itself and the integration with our look. It has proven to be a rigid interface where adoptions are difficult to carry out. Another concern is that Ex Libris presented the new UI as a ready product although some components were missing and various corrections were in the pipes. This has led to a lot of unnecessary work on our end in order to fix something that later came or is expected to come in a service pack.

Examples of what has been lacking in the new UI:

- The mobile interface does not meet our expectations

Examples of integrating the current UI with the new one:

- Translation / new language tables for Icelandic were incompatible with the older ones. Originally we put a lot of effort into translating Primo terms into Icelandic. We were very disappointed with the new text tables and it needed a lot of effort on our end to fix it and we are still working on it.
- Lacking a flexibility to customize side panels, examples:
 - Adding an option to search in another database like EBSCO at the bottom of the side panels is seems impossible
 - “Expand beyond library collections”. Ex Libris says that it is impossible to move this option to the bottom of the side panel

In short; after many months of adoptions for the new UI we are not yet ready to make it available for our users.

Secure web

A milestone was accomplished when the web was certified as secure (SSL). We want to point out that online documentation was incomplete and that created a problems for us.

E-book lending

In early 2017 the lending of e-books and digital audio books became reality when Icelandic public libraries joined OverDrive. The project on lending e-books and audio books is called “Rafbókasafnið”, URL: rafbokasafnid.is. The Consortium of Icelandic Libraries is responsible for the technical aspect of the project but the Reykjavik City Library is in charge of acquisitions and user services. Currently the fourteen largest public libraries are members of the e-book consortium and the remaining libraries will join in the coming winter. The patron database in Aleph is used for authorization with the use of X- Services and the OverDrive bibliographic records are loaded into the Aleph bibliographic database.

Overdrive offers predominantly books in English but an effort is in process to make Icelandic e-books available for lending through Rafbókasafnið.

Finding a replacement for our current library system

Currently our main project is finding a suitable new system to replace Aleph in our national network of libraries. It is required that the system can accommodate a 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 demanding new approach in providing services to their patrons through various apps, self-service solutions, etc. Integration capabilities with other systems such as E-Book and Audio-Book lending systems would be appreciated, but first and foremost a library system must consistently progress in step with the latest internet technologies.

Consortia with public and small libraries

The Consortium of Icelandic libraries has been participating in a project that focuses on the needs of small and public libraries in cooperation with the LIBIS network in Belgium and the Luxembourg bibnet.lu library network. The goal of the project has been to identify workflows that are needed in the Ex Libris - Alma library system in order to fulfill special functionalities for small and public libraries in a mixed consortium environment. A short focus list for Alma development was compiled and sent to Ex Libris in order to get a commitment to improve areas with significant limitations in the Alma system.

Next steps

We have now officially embarked on a project to select and acquire a new library system. The next quarters we will be concentrating on completing the system analysis and preparing an invitation to tender.