



ACEF annual report

2009 IGeLU National User Group meeting
Helsinki, 6 September 2009

Association

Founded in 2000, the ACEF was formerly known as the AUFA (*Association des utilisateurs d'ALEPH*). It changed its name during an extraordinary general assembly on February 12th 2007 and became then the ACEF (*Association des clients d'Ex Libris France*).

Objectives

- To facilitate communication between Ex Libris Ltd (especially Ex Libris France) Ex Libris product users.
- To facilitate mutual support and exchange of experience and information between French-speaking users.
- To act as a spokesman for all its members towards Ex Libris, IGeLU, FULBI (*Fédération des Utilisateurs de Logiciels de Bibliothèques*), ABES (*Agence bibliographique de l'Enseignement Supérieur*) other users associations, public French authorities and any society or organization using Ex Libris products.
- To centralize and coordinate all kinds of requests concerning the improvement and development of Ex Libris products.

Activities

To reach its objectives, the ACEF:

- organizes meetings twice a year in June and December/January (these meetings are attended by directors and by practitioners, systems librarians or administrators);
- has created three product working groups:
 - ALEPH & ARC,
 - MetaLib,
 - SFX.

Once a year, each PWG organizes discussions or seminars ('user to user') where their own developments are presented, where experience is shared...;

- publishes on its website (<http://alix.univ-paris12.fr>) meeting minutes of the general assemblies and reports on topics discussed during PWG sessions;
- has got a mailing-list. The access to the list is only available to clients of Ex Libris France (exceptions for French-speaking institutions that are clients of another Ex Libris office are possible).

Membership

The ACEF users group consists of 37 member institutions:

- public libraries: 5
- academic libraries: 22
- special libraries: 10

In 2009, five new institutions decided to join the ACEF and two institutions left. Most institution members are from France, two are from the French-speaking part of Belgium, one is from Switzerland and one is from Quebec.

There is a small membership fee.

Products

- ILS ALEPH (v15, v17, v18 and v20)
- Link Resolver SFX
- Portal System MetaLib
- Discovery System Primo (only two members)
- Repository DigiTool (only one member)
- ERM System Verde (only one member)

What has happened so far in 2009?

1) Training sessions and seminars

The number of members is growing and, through the annual subscriptions to the ACEF, the receipts are growing too. So, there is a need for a good use of that money. Different options were suggested during the general assembly of January 2009. One of them is that the ACEF could play a financial part in training sessions organized by the ACEF and provided by Ex Libris France. For instance, when training sessions are organized, six institutions can register and each can send two representatives. Each institution pays a sixth of the global invoice. If less than 6 institutions want to participate (4 or 5), it doesn't change anything to the amount that each has to pay : each institution still pays a sixth and the ACEF pays the balance.

This system is based on solidarity and:

- encourages institution members to participate in training sessions,
- allows each member to know in advance how much they will have to pay,
- avoids unexpected withdrawals,
- avoids institutions dealing directly and on their own with Ex Libris France,
- ...

So far, only basic level seminars for ALEPH and SFX have been organized (eg for ALEPH systems librarians in January 2009 and for SFX administrators in February 2009), but this way of working could theoretically be extended to other products. For advanced level seminars, this solution doesn't seem suitable because of the discrepancies and different needs between the members.

These basic level training sessions are proposed each year since there is a real need for them: according to the French system, there are a lot a staff transfers each year between libraries. It often happens that someone who is very involved in a product (eg ALEPH) gets a transfer for another library where a quite different ILS is used.

2) Annual meeting in June 2009

The last annual meeting took place on June 4th 2009. It consisted of two parts: PWG sessions and visit of Ex Libris France.

PWG sessions

During the last meeting hold in June 2009, three parallel PWG sessions ('user to user') were organized:

- 1) ALEPH – ARC: The University Paris 5 and the University of Angers both presented their experience in the EDI on v18, two concrete presentations based on two very different and complementary experiences.
- 2) MetaLib: informal exchange of experience; among other things:
 - a. CKB : important French resources are missing, update problems, many local connectors...
 - b. Problems encountered while updating to v4.
- 3) SFX: informal exchange of experience

After each PWG session, a common debriefing for all was organized.

Visit of Ex Libris France

Ex Libris France tries to meet its clients regularly during meetings of the ACEF. It's a good way for them to appraise of the situation, to listen to our complaints and to show new products. This year, the quality of the support, the present state of the SFX KB and the new service bX were mainly discussed.

3) Systems Seminar in Tel-Aviv

Three members took part in the last systems seminar held in Tel-Aviv in March 2009. A report on that seminar will be made during the next meeting in December 2009 (or January 2010).

Goals for next year

- Trying to increase the interest of the ACEF members in the IGeLU in order to reach among other things a more active involvement in IGeLU activities.
- Developing the interest of our members for EL Commons.
- Better updating of the public pages of our website.

Steering committee (since June 2009)

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On behalf of the ACEF users group
François Renaville
August 2009