

ALEPH USER GROUP NORWAY

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



About the User group

The membership of the Aleph User Group Norway is open to all Norwegian Aleph users, from all kinds of libraries. Currently, the user group's members range from public libraries to high school libraries to government libraries.

Our Norwegian system provider for Aleph is Bibliotekenes IT-senter (Bibits).

At present the user group has 23 paying members, some of them are collective members for several libraries. The yearly membership fee is 600 NOK (about 75 Euros), and covers user group activities and meeting expenses for the steering committee.

Our web presence can be found at our Wordpress blog, <http://alephbrukerguppe.wordpress.com>. The website is in Norwegian only. The mailing list (alephbrukergruppa@kundesenter.bibits.no) is still in use, but has seen little activity this last year. It is mostly used for announcements.

Objectives

- To be a forum for co-operation and sharing experiences concerning Aleph and Aleph-related matters, including arrangement of seminars and meetings.
- To coordinate and be a link between users and supplier.
- To coordinate and work through requests and demands on development issues, and work for improvement on supplier documentation and information.

Annual report 2009/10

The annual member meeting and conference were held at the Danish National Library, *den Sorte diamant (The Black Diamond)* in Copenhagen April 12.-14. 2010. The organizers put together an interesting program of information about Aleph and Aleph functionality, as well as inspirational presentations from Danish libraries. A tour of the National Library was held on April 13th.

Former Chair of the Aleph User Group, Helene H. Svihus, held a presentation at the IGeLU conference in Helsinki about the mobile services introduced at Stavanger Public Library. The presentation was held together with Christian Aune Thomassen, developer at Norwegian IT company WTW AS, who developed the services.

The last year most of the Aleph work in Norwegian libraries has been the introduction and implementation of version 18. All but one library now uses version 18. We are eagerly awaiting version 20, and hope we do not have to wait as long as we had for version 18.

Bibits has made a customized version of the web module for version 18 as we feel that the original web module for Aleph is unsuitable for the Norwegian Aleph libraries. The new version is unfortunately not an improvement. The steering committee is now working to

persuade Bibits to make a better version, which they have signalled that they are unable or unwilling to do. The User Group is in agreement that Primo will not be the best solution for the Norwegian Aleph libraries.

Steering committee meetings were held when needed. The steering committee meet in person at least once a year, combined with a meeting with Bibits in autumn. Most of the other committee meetings are teleconferences.

Library systems and Aleph in Norway 2010

The market for library systems in Norway is very stable; there are few libraries that change library systems. Norway-made library systems dominate the public library sector and also in school libraries, who also uses home-made systems. Open Source-systems are gaining interest in Norwegian libraries, and the first installations of Koha is now online.

BIBSYS, the library system for the Norwegian higher education institutions, has chosen OCLCs system ahead of Ex Libris' new system (URN).

For the Aleph User Group Norway

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