Report from

Alephswe

the Swedish Aleph user group

for the 2009 INUG meeting in Helsinki

The Swedish Aleph User Group (Alephswe) was established in 1999 when several Swedish libraries bought Aleph. The group started as an informal discussion group. As the user group grew there was a need for a more formal organisation. We have a steering committee with four members and since 2006 new statutes. There is a small membership fee since 2004.

There are 16 member libraries in Alephswe.

The main tasks of Alephswe are:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of practical experiences and information about local developments of common interest.
- To coordinate the activities of the Swedish Aleph libraries and maintain a list of development requests.
- To provide a common point of contact for the national distributor (Fujitsu dk).
- To keep in touch with IGeLU and other user groups.

Alephswe organizes two meetings a year, one with the annual association meeting. You can reach Alephswe at our website: http://Alephswe.kb.se. We also have a discussion list (e-mail).

Activities:
Alephswe had a meeting at the Library of the Government Offices of Sweden in Stockholm the 21th of October 2008.

The library of the Government Offices in Sweden showed us their really nicely designed internal OPAC.

We spent a large part of the meeting talking about x-server. Cristian Zeising gave us a background and examples of x-server use at the National Library of Sweden. Theodor Tolstoy from the Library of the Swedish Parliament told us of their plans using x-server.

Alephswe established a connection with the Swedish Voyager libraries last year. We decided to continue to invite Voyager systems librarians to the Alephswe meetings and we have an ongoing discussion on how we are to collaborate in the future.

Most libraries where about to upgrade to Aleph 18 and for libraries already at version 18 the upgrading went smooth. Some libraries are working on their OPAC:s, others with ARC, RFID or SFX . The Nordic Africa Institute Library experienced some indexing problem with ADAM.

AlephSwe had a meeting (including the annual association meeting) in Umeå 22-23 of April 2009. This was 10 year anniversary since Alephswe had the first meeting in Umeå in 1999. We had a small celebration dinner and the national distributor brought some anniversary cake. Siv Boman, former chair of the Steering Committee, gave us a brief look into the old days of Alephswe and the development of the cooperation with the national distributor and the system.

The Umeå meeting was rather focused on the OPAC. We started with an inspiration session where Daniel Forsman, Jönköping University Library described extended functionality in their OPAC. Daniel recommended everyone to take a look at El Commons. Daniel also held a much appreciated workshop on the role and functionality of the OPAC. The workshop generated interesting discussions.

Two libraries will continue with Aleph version 16. Library of the Government Offices of Sweden had some Citrix problem during the upgrade to version 18 and the Mid

Sweden University Library experienced problems with loss of special programming for their environment.

Contacts with the national distributor, Fujitsu dk:
The national distributor organized a training class in ARC (a request from Alephswe). Fujitsu extended a linking program from Aleph to cover several types of links in the bibliographic posts on request from Alephswe.
Alephswe asked for a collection of documentation from Fujitsu in the same style as the ExLibris Documentation Center. Kristian Wallin suggested to put documentation files on the servers together with new/updated programs.

Fujitsu attended both the Stockholm and Umeå meeting and informed us of news.

Fujitsu did not attend the system seminar in Tel Aviv. Alephswe would like Fujitsu to attend the system seminars so that attendants from Sweden can ask questions directly and so that both customers and Fujitsu share the same information.

IGeLU
Ragnar Helin (Library of the Swedish Parliament) is responsible for the IGeLU Newsletter.
Christian Zeising (National Library of Sweden) is Module Coordinator for Systems Administration in the Aleph Product Working Group.
Daniel Forsman (Jönköping University Library) is Module Coordinator for OPAC in the Aleph Product Working Group.

Best wishes for the Helsinki meeting!

For the steering committee:
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Member libraries in AlephSwe 2009:

AstraZeneca

Jönköping University Library

Library at University West

Library of the Government Offices of Sweden

Library of the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities

Library of the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV)

Library of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Library of the Swedish Parliament

Luleå University Library

Mid Sweden University Library

National Library of Sweden

Nordic Africa Institute Library

Swedish Agricultural University Library

Swedish Film Institute Library

Swedish Institute of Children´s Books

Umeå University Library