The Danish Aleph User-group for Research and Special Libraries (DAB) – report / INUG 2010

MEMBERSHIP:
- Danish libraries who run Aleph through contract with Ex Libris
- At present 7 member-institutions. Several insourcing solutions means that the 7 actually represents more than 100 individual institutions
- Membership is free of charge

OBJECTS:
- Forum for co-operation and sharing experiences concerning Aleph and Aleph-related matters
- Co-ordinate and prioritise common suggestions, requests and demands (Fujitsu, Ex Libris, IGeLU)
- Contact with Fujitsu/Ex Libris and IGeLU
- Contact and co-operation with the Danish public libraries user group

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:
- National listserv
- Web-site (in Danish)- Contains list of members, contact persons, library-super-users etc. http://www.hba.dk/dab/dab-start.htm
- 3-4 annual meetings each of which includes also joint meetings with Fujitsu/Ex Libris

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES - 2010:

Now all members have upgraded from version 16.2 to version 18.

Primo is gradually replacing the Aleph OPAC as the standard user interface for members of the Primo Consortium, although the Aleph OPAC is still in use.

COOPERATION WITH Fujitsu

In general we saw Fujitsu as a very competent, open minded and cooperative distributor – especially when it came to developing special, local features and add-on's to our system in cooperation with the national user groups. Among projects this year are integration between Aleph OPAC and mobile phones and between Aleph budgets and cash information and Navision, which is used as standard in the Danish state organizations.

FUJITSU AND EX LIBRIS

As it may be known, Fujitsu ceased to be a vendor of Ex Libris products, and Ex Libris took over from 1st of February 2010.

During the months that followed, information meetings about the new way of life were held. The Fujitsu library department was integrated in the Ex Libris organization, and at last Danish libraries got access to Pivotal! Ex Libris guaranteed to maintain the local specials and works on their integration in Aleph. Thus all Ex Libris customers may benefit from the takeover.

Until now we have had just one meeting between the group and Ex Libris, and it is too early to draw conclusions as to cooperation and support. We are certainly missing the hotline by telephone, where Pivotal often is a slow process with a lot of writing forward and back with problems that might be easily solved by a conversation of a few minutes. It also was an advantage to have access to the Fujitsu resources in other products, hardware etc. On the other hand it may be an advantage to have a broader support organization, especially in the new products like Metalib, SFX etc.

ALEPH related PROBLEMS

Last year the main Aleph problem was the new ILL-module which proved to be rather difficult to adopt to real life in the libraries! Fujitsu/Ex Libris has continuously worked at the module, which seems to be working better now. A workshop was held at the beginning of May.

NATIONAL USER GROUP ORGANISATION

Up to now a national merger of the various Ex Libris user groups have not been considered relevant, due to the different interests of the groups. Last year, however a representative from the Danish Public Libraries Aleph User Group was present at our meetings, but this year the Public Libraries Group was dissolved (due to the fact that most public libraries have chosen another library system), and it was decided to form a national Aleph User Group. Likewise the Føroya landsbókasavni (National Library of the Faroe Islands) are attached to the group from last year.

The Danish group "DANSMUG" for users of Metalib, SFX and/or Verde continued on its own with one or two meetings a year. Instead of a listserv we have created a Google group (for invited members). It might have been a better idea to place it on the IGeLU website although some institutions are not IGeLU-members. There were no plans splitting the group into two groups for Metalib and SFX.

As mentioned, Fujitsu ceased to be a vendor of Ex Libris products, and Ex Libris took over from 1st of February 2010.

The two groups decided to have a common meeting on 14th September 2010 in order to (hopefully) merge the groups and create a new user group to respond to the challenges posed by the new organization of Sale and Support. As it is mostly the same customers to the different products and development going in direction of a

merged backup for, what is today different products, it seems to be a reasonable way.

Version
Aleph v. 18.01

IGeLU
We haven't been particularly active this year, but we do appreciate the SC and the PWG's for all their efforts and time building the new organisation and getting influence on the development of the Ex Libris Suite.

On behalf of the user-group

Peter V. Christensen
MiniBib/The Administrative Library
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