

EXPANIA – Spanish Ex Libris Users Group Report to 2009 IGeLU National User Group Meeting

Helsinki, 6th September 2009

Expania two days Annual Meeting was held in Pamplona last June. It was attended by forty two users coming from twenty Institutions (Academic and Research Libraries, National Library, Bank of Spain Library and Health Libraries) and by Greendata (Ex Libris distributor). The points in this report are based on the conclusions of the meeting.

- Training: Expania contacted Ex Libris to organize a two days advanced Metalib configuration training seminar along with the Annual Meeting. It was not possible due to agenda problems but instead Ex Libris proposed a one day basic configuration training given by Ex Libris UK staff. We agreed and we think it was very positive to have training along with annual meeting. A working group on training has been established. We are planning several informal one day workshops on specific topics during the year and one more advanced course along with the annual meeting next year. For Spanish users training is a high priority issue.
- Ex Libris products roadmap: we think users are not receiving enough information about development plans from Ex Libris. Distributor claims he can not provide more information because Ex Libris is sending to him exactly the same information users have. We need more precise data about products roadmaps: dates, versions, etc. so that we can plan upgrading and budgeting in advance.
- Support: we followed the case of Portugal where support was withdrawn to former Ex Libris distributor Datinfor and assumed directly by Ex Libris. Spanish distributor informed there is not any planned change in support policy for Spain but we want to stress the importance of being informed and consulted by Ex Libris before any change in support policy.
- Spanish resources in SFX and Metalib knowledge bases: users group is coordinating inclusion of Spanish journals and databases in knowledge bases. Three new targets, including 117 journals, and twelve new catalogues and databases have been included from January 2008 to August 2009. There is a compromise from Ex Libris to include as soon as possible a list of resources sent by users group. The rhythm is not fast, but at least they did not stop. Two working groups (one for SFX and another for Metalib) are responsible for maintaining targets and databases up to date and elaborating list of new resources to be included. Metalib working group is also responsible for making available to all Expania members configurations for local resources developed by Spanish users through the group website.

- Other issues:
 - Expania is opening very soon a new and more interactive website based on Drupal software (see <http://www.expania.es>)
 - During the meeting, RedIris (Spanish Academic and Research Internet Network) presented the RedIris Identification System (SIR in Spanish), a Shibboleth compatible authentication and authorization system. It is already in use by some of the members of Spanish User Group and many more are interested in implementing it. Expania members were committed to make contacts with local representatives of electronic resources vendors so that they can be used through SIR.
 - During last year a working group continued maintaining a “Quick help wiki” for SFX which is used by Expania members to share very practical SFX knowledge, especially “How to...”

Contacts:Committee:

Chair: Gaspar Olmedo (Spanish Research Council) – acbic@cica.es

Deputy chair: Inmaculada Ribes (Valencia Polytechnical University) – ribes@bib.upv.es

Treasurer: José Félix Villanueva (Navarra University) – jfvilla@unav.es

Secretary: Bárbara González (Galicia University Libraries Consortium) – barbara@bugalicia.org

Website: <http://www.expania.es>