ITALIAN EX LIBRIS USERS ASSOCIATION
Annual Report 2010

Joint IGeLU SC and National/Regional User Group Representatives
Ghent, University Library
Sunday, 29 August 2010

Introduction

ITALE was established in 1999 when a group of ALEPH libraries, that had started as an informal discussion group, was driven by the need to have a more formal organisation. Since January 2007, the Association is open to all Ex Libris products users
Members: At present, 40
Membership fee: 250 € (it covers group activities and projects)
Two Product Working Groups are operative into ITALE organization:

- ➢ Aleph Product Working Group
- ➢ SFX/MetaLib Product Working Group

The Association aims

- to coordinate initiatives and activities in the field of library and information services
- to promote, distribute and implement new IT applications among its members
- to define common strategies and share standards for the development of innovative services among Italian libraries
- to cooperate to National and International research projects
- to coordinate all Members' requests for the development of Ex-Libris products
- to keep in touch with IgeLU and other user groups (national user groups, product working groups, ecc.)

Support

From July 2009 Ex Libris Italy (Ex Libris subsidiary for Italy and Slovenia) has provided Italian users with a new kind of support
At the beginning we have had a critical situation because of language (many users chose to sent communications for SI in Italian language), response time, technical problems with some products (SFX) but we have noticed positive changes and improvements in the last months.

Activities in 2009/2010

Since last IGeLU Meeting in Helsinki (September 2009) we have organized two Seminars:

- Searching in SFX and Metalib times: experiences, projects, expectations from Italian library systems – University of Parma, 1-2 December 2009
- New models for new scenarios – Certosa of Pontignano (Siena) 19-20 April 2010
  In this conference, organized with Ex Libris Italy, renowned representatives from

the library world have contributed to singling out and examining both new organizational models for libraries and new skills and strategies.

Many Italian libraries are planning to install the version 20 of ALEPH on their own with new kit of installation (AIK) arranged by Ex Libris. Just a few institutions are already working with the version 20 . True there were delays with localization.

Projects

ITALE is continuing testing, among its members, The New Italian Cataloguing Rules (REICAT). A working group with representatives from University of Basilicata and University of Udine is examining the processes to implement new workflows in cataloguing with ALEPH; in particular, the processes are suited to include FRBR in ALEPH, in order to achieve a display that helps the user to better explore the library's resources. ITALE working group assumes that action has to be taken at the cataloguing level.

We have asked Ex Libris team in Hamburg to give us an opinion on our enterprise but Ex Libris strategy sees a different approach; Ex Libris is not pursuing the idea of enhancing ALEPH with mechanisms to include FRBR on the back-end level, but to establish FRBR in URD environment, more precisely in Primo.

The future

Library budgets cutbacks make uncertain the future: they have repercussions on new projects, investments and on the quality in the library services.

Contacts

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Information and Documentation

Information about ITALE, technical documentation, announcements can be found at our web site: **http://www.itale.it**. We have also three mailing lists:

itale@itale.it: devoted to ITALE members
it-elug@liste.uniud.it devoted to Italian Ex Libris products users
itale-sys@polito.it devoted to system and library managers, members of ITALE

For the ITALE Association
ITALE Steering Committee