

Association of ALEPH users in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (SUAleph)

Annual report, INUG meeting 2010 in Ghent

Introduction

Association of ALEPH users in the Czech Republic and Slovakia was established in spring 1996. It is an informal and open association with free admission. Recently, it unites 24 institutions. The sole distributor for ExLibris products is Multidata Praha Ltd.

Meetings

Since the last IGeLU conference in Helsinki, two meetings have been organized. The first one-day meeting was held in December 2009 in the newly opened National Technical Library in Prague. The second meeting lasted two days and was held in March 2010 in the University Library of Ostrava University. Both meetings recorded a high attendance of more than 40 delegates from different institutions and distributors.

Training

One-day training organized by the distributor immediately followed the second meeting in Ostrava and the topic was the new ISO ILL.

News

Last year had brought many changes. First of all, big libraries converted to a higher version of ALEPH system, version 20 and new ISO ILL. The distributor team underwent several personal changes, which influenced us directly. Martin Vojnar left the first line of support and Jaro Sivak came as his replacement. Big thank you to Martin for his excellent work. As far as support, we have not noticed any big complaints, everything is working great. We also changed the web pages of our association, where the main change was conversion of pages pattern to google sites. Every institution that shows interest, gets access privileges to editing data. In line with that, it's all checked periodically if there are any changes made to the pages. If so, the changes are automatically transferred to our page www.sualeph.cz.

The meeting in Prague also brought one personal change. Tomas Prachar from Moravian Library became the Chairman of Association. He replaced Petr Zabicka, who resigned because of time related issues.

Future

Unfortunately, the future is not looking too optimistic. For the first time in history of the Czech Republic, Republican Party was elected and holds a strong position in the government. Its goal is an balanced budget economy, which together with worldwide economic crisis means significant budget cuts for institutions. It's already sure that the budget will be cut by at least 10% next year. As a result, limited expenses for new projects and purchase of new projects will take place. Because maintenance fees for ExLibris products count for indispensable part of our budget, we would really

appreciate if there was no increase of these fees, not even by inflation. Almost all of the institutions in the Czech Republic are interested in this act of good will. There were 18 institutions that reacted positively to an appeal of our library. Only one institution reacted negatively (based on different terms of agreement with ExLibris) and one of them didn't answer at all. In case of increase of licence fees, some institutions are planning cancellation of „side“ licences (ex. SIP2) to keep the same level of costs for licence fees as previous year.