

2009 IGeLU National User Group meeting
Helsinki
6 September 2009

**Ex Libris Product User Group – UK & Ireland (EPUG-UKI):
Report 2009.**

Objectives

- To facilitate communication between Ex Libris Ltd and its associated companies and Ex Libris product users in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, to their mutual benefit.
- To identify areas of common interest or concern for action by or comment from Ex Libris.
- To provide a channel for user input to the development of systems.
- To facilitate mutual support and exchange of experience between users.
- To liaise with the International Group of Ex Libris Users and other relevant professional groups.

History & development.

Founded 2000. 2 one-day meetings per year, to which ExLibris (UK) are invited. Because the Group's membership continues to grow, we are continually reviewing the meeting format (e.g. a change to one or more two-day meetings per year as a possibility in future)

Nearly all members are institutions of Higher Education: the exceptions include the British Library and the Royal National Institute for the Blind

Meetings are attended by practitioners – System Administrators and Systems Librarians, with some module specialists. There is a limit of 2 people from each institution although in practice this is often extended.

Sub-groups for each module, consisting of specialist practitioners, meet at least once a year, and are heavily involved in the selection and recommendation of enhancements.

Progress in 2008-2009

The Group has continued to increase its membership and the figure currently stands at 60 member institutions. The growth in membership and the consequent increase in the number of Ex Libris products represented has led to the creation of a number of product-specific spin-off groups and it is likely that these new groups will continue to evolve over the coming year

The Group has continued to foster, through its meetings and its email discussion lists, two underlying activities – exchange of experience between members and development of the relationship between libraries and ExLibris.

- Module Groups have continued to meet regularly
- Training sessions (e.g. Acquisitions, etc) have been arranged and funded by the User Group
- The SMUG constituency held a very successful dayschool
- VERDE and Digitool groups have begun to form and meet
- The regular EPUG-UKI meetings have been cut to two as a consequence of the other product-specific activity

Specific foci of interest in 2008-9 have continued to be:

- strengthening the role and administration of the module sub-groups. EPUG-UKI has financially supported at least one meeting a year per subgroup.
- participating in the Pivotal focus group
- improving the currency and functionality of the User Group website
- the ongoing integration of SFX/MetaLib and Voyager user communities

Current concerns:

- The reconstitution of the AUG-UKI into the Ex Libris Users' Group – UK and Ireland was successfully achieved, but we continue to review the structure of the group so we can ensure that the different needs of the user community (Aleph, SMUG and Voyager customers) continue to be voiced effectively
- Organising a new timetable and structure for EPUG-UKI meetings
- To be an integral part of the development of new products. This is especially important at a time when the ERM is being developed.
- To support the international user community
- The committee elections as the current inhabitants of the various posts come to the end of their terms.

The role of EPUG-UKI in the development of the post-Aleph URM system is still unclear. Individual UK institutions have nominated themselves for the URM Focus Groups that have been arranged by IGeLU, but the opportunity for EPUG-UKI to present a co-ordinated approach in its own right has not yet emerged. It will be important in the future that the new EPUG-UKI committee considers exactly where it can be most effective, i.e. should there be an emphasis on facilitating product/module meetings and training, or should the group attempt to be more of a direct influence on Ex Libris and product development over and above the work that IGeLU does in this area? Or can both aims be happily accommodated?

Other Areas of Interest.

- We continue to get requests from non-UK and Ireland Ex Libris customers who wish to join EPUG-UKI. We are very happy to discuss this with those members of the international user community who have no national user group of their own
- We are keen to see how Ex Libris will handle future maintenance costs as new products increasingly replace elements of functionality within existing products.
- The migration process from Aleph/Metalib/Voyager to URM

Contacts

Committee 2008-9:

Chair: John Williams (Newcastle University) John.Williams@ncl.ac.uk

Secretary: Mandy Stewart (British Library) Mandy.Stewart@bl.uk

Treasurer/Membership/mailling list: Bill Pollard (Anglia Ruskin University)
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Committee member: Kingsley Boulton (University of York) kgb2@york.ac.uk

Co-opted:

Jill Gravestock – Voyager (Open University) J.D.Gravestock@open.ac.uk

Caroline Thorpe – SFX/Metalib (Sheffield Hallam University)

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Richard Cross – Verde (Nottingham Trent University) richard.cross@ntu.ac.uk

EPUG-UKI in IGeLU

Gerarrd Bennett is the Chair of the Aleph Product Working Group. Matthew Philips (Circulation) and Janet Wharton (Cataloguing) are module co-ordinators.

Aleph Configurations

Versions in use:

Aleph500 v14.2, 15.2, 16.2, 17.1, 18, 19, 20

Hardware and OS:

Mostly Sun platforms. Windows XP, Windows NT, Win 2000, Win98, are all in use.

Communications.

Mailing-lists: epug-uki-aleph@jiscmail.ac.uk; epug-uki-smug@jiscmail.ac.uk; epug-uki-voyager@jiscmail.ac.uk

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John Williams 25.8.2009