

IGeLU News in Brief, October 2011

It's a short News-in-Brief from IGeLU this edition as many of us gear up for the start of another academic session. There's just time to remind you of some of the things we achieved together at the Haifa conference last month, and give you an update on some of the issues that were raised at the meeting.

Don't forget, you can read you can read the stories on the IGeLU website at www.igelu.org, and follow us on Twitter for the latest updates <https://twitter.com/igelu>.

Michael Fake, IGeLU Steering Committee

In this issue:

- +++CKB agreement signed
- +++Haifa presentations
- +++Stand up and be counted: the all-singing, all-performing IGeLU stars
- +++Football: a friendly rivalry
- +++The minds have joined: MetaLib and Primo PWGs
- +++Aleph PWG: report from Haifa
- +++Special Interest Group PWG: report from Haifa
- +++Elections and personnel

++++CKB agreement signed!

During the conference in Haifa the representatives of Ex Libris, IGeLU and ELUNA finally signed the "Agreement on the procedure for additions of resources to the Ex Libris Knowledge Bases" (<http://igelu.org/development-cooperation/enhancements/ckb-enhancements>). This agreement may not be snappily titled, but by confirming the process for getting resources added to the SFX/Verde/MetaLib Central Knowledge Bases it represents an important milestone in ensuring fairness and balance in how resources are assigned.

Under the terms of the agreement all IGeLU/ELUNA members can use NERS to vote in an 8-week cycle for resources to be added to the CKBs. For their part Ex Libris commits to implementing (where technically possible) the top 4 "general" resources, plus a further top 2 resources from one "region" each cycle. The region being selected for changes every voting cycle.

The agreement was based on discussions and work dating back more than a year – many of you will be aware that we have been running the process in pilot form since the Ghent conference in 2010 – but in Haifa we were able to finalise and agree on this as the way forward for future resource additions.

So please do remember to use this opportunity to get resources in to the CKBs that are important for you, and for your region!

Jirka Kende

++++Haifa Presentations

Once again a final thanks to our Haifa hosts, for the splendid work they did on making our 2011 conference such an excellent experience. Work has already started on planning for Zurich 2012!

For those who missed the conference, or who want to remind themselves of some of the interesting presentations and talks that took place, we'll be adding copies of the user presentations to the IGeLU website over the next few weeks – you'll find them at <http://igelu.org/conferences/haifa-2011> soon.

Most of the Ex Libris presentations (including product updates) from the conference are already available from the Ex Libris Documentation Center: <http://www.customercenter.exlibrisgroup.com/DocumentationCenter/Ex%20Libris%20Documentation/Forms/Custom%20view.aspx>

Finally, a last minute reminder to those of you who did attend the conference, we're still gathering feedback on the event via the Haifa Survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HaifaEval>) – if you haven't already then please do take a moment to let us know what worked well, and what things we can improve for 2012.

Jirka Kende

++++Stand up and be counted

Haifa 2011 was a memorable conference for lots of reasons, but not least were the contributions made by three of our members – Peter Klien, Lukas Koster, and Mark Dehmlow, who made welcome appearances on stage at the joint IGeLU Conference / Systems Seminar reception.

Lukas and Mark kicked off proceedings with a stirring rendition of U2's 'One' (with some slightly modified lyrics - <http://youtu.be/JqZx4h-UlLc>). Peter Klien (finally unleashed from the constraints of the Ex Libris Q&A session) followed with his stand up routine (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQRu5XWvxao>) which included riffs on marrying Ex Libris; why people search for "weather" on Google; and the two most important rules in cataloguing.

Both acts left the stage to standing ovations, wolf whistles, and demands for an encore.

Michael Fake.

++++Football: a friendly rivalry

In between the conference and the adjacent System Seminar there was an optional tour of Galilee and other northern sites of Israel, but some of us preferred to support the Customer team, during what has become the traditional football game against Ex Libris.

After the knock-down blow two years ago, where for the first time the Customers lost 6-1, this time our team showed great spirit and fortitude.

We lost again.

However, with a scoreline of just 1-0 to Ex Libris it's clear that we are improving our game, and I'm sure that next time the victory will belong to us!

Jirka Kende

++++The Minds Have Joined

There has been much discussion within IGeLU during 2010/11 on the future of the MetaLib Product Working Group, and in particular the need to consider its relationship with the Primo PWG (see <http://igelu.org/archives/2358>).

The discussion has been driven by the maturity of the MetaLib product; the difficulty of finding new recruits to serve on the PWG; and the emergence of the Primo Central Index and MetaLib+. The two groups have a common interest in resource issues, and in the Primo front-end.

The subject was discussed again at a combined MetaLib/Primo business meeting at the Haifa conference last month, where a unanimous decision was made to join the groups together to form a double PWG, rather than to merge. This was felt to be a better solution than either fully merging, or continuing as separate groups, as it underlines the need for the communities of both products to continue to have separate voices, but to work together on common issues within a framework of mutual coordination, cooperation, and support.

The details of the new joint Primo/MetaLib PWG have yet to be resolved, but Mandy Stewart (Primo) and Jeremy Acland (MetaLib) will provide joint coordination, with Lukas Koster acting as the liaison with the IGeLU Steering Committee. Group members will have product-specific responsibilities. There will be a joint face-to-face meeting for the two groups early in the new year.

All in all this is a highly satisfactory outcome to what has been a difficult question to resolve. Could a joint Primo and MetaLib PWG be a precedent to a new structure within IGeLU that is flexible, and able to evolve in the light of its URM, URD2 and data services orientation?

Watch this space!

Jeremy Acland, Mandy Stewart, Lukas Koster

++++Aleph PWG

The Aleph PWG met at Haifa for a product update by Carmit Marcus, the Ex Libris Aleph Product Manager, as well as for the annual business meeting. This meeting was very well attended (with additional chairs brought in to accommodate the large audience). Carmit reviewed the many IGeLU enhancements that will be in version 21 and due for release in January 2012.

Mike Ryan, the PWG Coordinator, briefed the membership on PWG activities over the past year, most of which involved reviewing and approving enhancement specifications for version 21, and coordinator with ELUNA in preparation for the next voting cycle on NERS. NERS voting is still scheduled for October 15th to November 1st.

The membership completed the meeting by confirming PWG positions (see <http://igelu.org/products/aleph>).

++++Special Interest Working Group

In this year's meeting, the Consortia Special Interest Working Group (SIWG) focused on the main topic "Alma and Consortia". The session was attended by about 40 people and split into two 45 minute blocks. During the first half, participants discussed impressions, observations, thoughts and misgivings concerning a common future "in the cloud". A vivid conversation took place with many people contributing. In the second block, Axel Kaschte (Strategy Director Europe) and Asaf Kline (Alma Software Architect) discussed with participants upcoming topics.

Manufacturer and users exchanged views in an open and concentrated atmosphere. Though more and more consortia issues in the Alma environment are becoming clearer, there are still many things to be discussed and decided.

++++Elections and Personnel

At Haifa we said goodbye to Pat Busby, who has completed her term on the Steering Committee. Her contributions to IGeLU will be sorely missed.

With her departure two of the IGeLU Steering Committee positions came up for election by the Assembly of Members. After the votes were counted Peter Klien (Austrian Library Network) was newly appointed, while Michael Fake (London School of Economics) was confirmed for a second term. To find out more about the responsibilities of each of the Steering Committee members please see the website <http://igelu.org/about/organisation/steering-committee>.

Elsewhere there was a change of personnel in the Voyager Product Working Group – Habib Tabatabai (University of Central Oklahoma) came to the end of his term as Coordinator and the baton was passed to Ray Delahunty (University of the Arts London). Several other PWGs also see new members join and old members move on – see the Product Working Groups [<http://igelu.org/products>] and Special Interest Groups [<http://igelu.org/special-interests>] for more details.

IGeLU is a community of volunteers, and we'd like to thank everyone who contributed in 2010/11 – you all make an enormous difference! And of course our thanks and welcome to our new members and volunteers!

IGeLU Steering Committee