

Welcome to the third edition of the International Group of Ex Libris User's News in Brief. You can read the email digest, or follow news updates on the IGeLU website at <http://igelu.org/news> or via our twitter feed <http://twitter.com/igelu>

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+++++ Conference 2010: Draft programme available

This is another reminder that registration is now open for the IGeLU 2010 Conference in the beautiful Belgian city of Ghent – <http://igelu2010.org>

We now also have a draft version of the programme available

http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=tUL0xVbKYk4PNYaCky86_eg&output=html

With over 40 sessions covering all Ex Libris products, the URM, and if course our keynote speech from Herbert Van de Sompel (not to mention the reception and social events), we hope you'll find plenty to entice you.

+++++ URM Focus Group changes

In response to suggestions from the user community, and due to the progress of the URM development, Ex Libris announced at the end of May a change in the structure and work of the URM Focus Groups.

In order to optimize communication the existing four groups and their separate listservs will be consolidated into one. The work of the Focus Groups will be now more interactive, reviewing the actual developments and providing detailed feedback. This new process will start in June, and in Ghent, the Focus Group members will meet to discuss the new structure and the progress made up to then.

Besides restructuring the work of the groups, Ex Libris have promised to put together a more active programme of regular customer webinars on the URM which should start later this year.

Jirka Kende
Steering Committee Chair

+++++ Licence sharing in the Ex Libris Learning Center

Since the beginning of the year Ex Libris have offered more and more training courses in its new Learning Center (<http://learn.exlibrisgroup.com/>) with many interactive sessions - from basic functionality to new developments of its products. Access to the Learning Center is available to all Ex Libris customers as a subscription service.

After discussions with the IGeLU Steering committee Ex Libris agreed to enable licence sharing within one customer institution. Until now institutions could purchase only a personal ("named") user licence for each staff member that would be accessing the Learning Center. From now on Ex Libris offers, alternatively, a general institutional login that can be used within the institution that purchased the licence.

However, it is important to note that institutions that opt for an institutional login will not be able to see individual use history and knowledge review scores that gauge the capabilities of specific staff members; nor will they be able to benefit from certification exams which will soon be featured on the Center.

Jirka Kende
Steering Committee Chair

+++++ INUG meeting: Nation shall speak peace unto nation

In time honoured tradition the IGeLU National User Groups (INUG) meeting will take place again on the Sunday just before the IGeLU Annual Conference. Representatives of the National User Groups will meet with each other, the Steering Committee and the Product Working Group Coordinators, where feedback will be provided on the past year's activities. NUG representatives will have the opportunity to share experiences and concerns and explore these with colleagues within a small group.

Ex Libris Management will join the group later in the afternoon, which will provide an opportunity to hear developments they're planning, and to discuss issues and concerns.

Invitations to the meeting will be sent to the INUG group during July, when all NUGs will be encouraged to participate. The invitation will include a request for NUG reports in order to share national activities and experiences with all, as well as to contribute to the INUG meeting agenda.

Hoping to see all NUGs represented at the INUG meeting in Ghent on Sunday 29 August.

Pat Busby
Steering Committee

+++++ NERS is now named...

...NERS! After naming competitions run by each user organization, IGeLU and ELUNA, which both produced two strong candidate names (CORE, for Cooperation Oriented to Resources Enhancements, and EVA, for Enhancements Voting and Analysis) the decision was made to... keep NERS (New Enhancement Request System)! This was primarily because it is now already so well recognized as the system for submitting enhancement requests and voting on them. Developers take note when assigning 'temporary' project names!

Currently, the NERS developers, Bob Trotter (ELUNA) from the University of Georgia and Mark Dehmlow (IGeLU) from the University of Notre Dame, are working on integrating features that were requested from the Primo and SFX Product Working Groups. These were based on use of the system for voting on the last round of Primo enhancements, and on the procedure the SFX group intend to implement for CKB enhancement requests. Bob and Mark have also been working with other PWGs to acclimate them to the system, integrate requests from Pivotal and the Aleph voting systems, and complete voting procedures and policies.

The system is live and in use and will continue to have regular developments applied as needs or bugs emerge. There is a planned move from its current location <https://ners.galib.uga.edu> (at the University of Georgia) to <https://ners.igelu.org> (at the University of Siena). The current round of developments and the move to its new location are scheduled to wrap up this summer. Near the end of June, the SFX and MetaLib Product Working Groups will begin rounds of CKB voting. Stay tuned for more announcements.

Mark Dehmlow
NERS co-developer & PWG Coordinator, SFX

+++++ Aleph PWG: Enhancements and a call for volunteers

The Aleph PWG has been very busy of late preparing for and holding the first round of the annual enhancement process. The first round of voting was completed on 17 May. The 30 requests that received the highest votes have now been forwarded to ExLibris for "pointing" in preparation for the final round of voting currently planned for 20 September to 1 October.

These 30 requests are listed on the enhancements database at <http://nt-server.unisi.it/sugg/>. Click on the link to Voting Procedure where they are sorted by number of votes received. The top 30 are all those that received 75 or more votes.

The PWG members are also heavily involved in planning for the conference in Ghent and believe that we will have a very attractive slate of presentations. During the conference business meeting we will hold an election of officers and will soon be issuing a call for members to stand for office. Please consider getting involved in the PWG and supporting our activities as either a module coordinator or as an officer. The enhancement process is not possible without interested and knowledgeable members becoming involved.

Gerard Bennett
PWG Coordinator, Aleph

+++++ Fort Worth: A worthwhile trip to the ELUNA conference

In May 2010, the ELUNA Conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas. Nine IGeLU representatives attended, providing the PWG Coordinators with an opportunity to meet with their ELUNA counterparts, and to find out, review and question the latest Ex Libris developments and directions.

The main topics of discussions between the Coordinators were as follows:

A) Administrative issues:

- The future of the PWG. This was of particular interest in light of Ex Libris' product-service structure revolving around URD2 (Unified Resource Discovery and Delivery), URM (Unified Resource Management) and MMS (Metadata Management System)
- NERS: Getting the voting procedures for enhancements improved and enabling the CKB resources voting to start.

B) Product-related issues:

- Support issues
- Concerns about possible end of end-of-life for products....Yes, Voyager and Aleph will be continue to be supported and development is continuing; Verdi will be rolled into the URM; MetaLib will be moved into the Primo environment.
- Product improvements
- Progress on current and soon-to-be-released products
- ExLibris strategies for the future
- Communication

Our IGeLU representatives have been writing up reports of their visit, and we'll post a summary of their experiences on the website very soon.

Meg Bate
PWG Coordinator, Metalib