EXPANIA – Spanish Ex Libris Users Group Report to 2012 IGeLU National User Group Meeting

Zurich, 10th September 2012

<u>Annual Meeting</u>

Expania Anual Meeting has been established as the central activity of the User Group. This year it was held in Madrid, on May. Greendata (Ex Libris Spanish distributor) funding made possible to organize the meeting with a low cost for the group members. Number of attendees did not decrease regardless the heavy funding cuts suffered by Spanish public institutions, it can be interpreted as a sign of the high interest this meeting has for the group members. A new Steering Committee was elected incorporating two new members: a member from the BVSSPA (Biblioteca Virtual del Sistema Sanitario Público Andaluz) and another member from the Pompeu Fabra University Library.

Aside from technical communications of group members and organization issues, Primo and Primo Central along with Alma were the central focus of interest during the meeting. It was interesting to hear the user`s point of view (Universitat Politecnica de València and CBUC). Many Spanish libraries are beginning to install search & discovery tools, being Primo a clear candidate for Expania members, but drastic budget cuttings that will have to face Spanish libraries for the next years will pose a serious drawback to introduce new products. Both, libraries and the software company, will have to make an effort adjusting budgets and prices to introduce Primo in Spain because competition is very hard. This year, for the first time, some institutions resigned from the group because they had contracted discovery tools from other companies and they were no longer using Ex Libris products.

<u>Training</u>

A workshop on the open source software "Subject Plus" was organized and imparted by some members of the group as a satellite activity of the meeting. A training working group has been organized to carry out workshops on specific topics given by the group members to make better use of expertise which exists inside the group.

<u>Knowledge Bases</u>

Expania has two working groups to scan regional resources and making requests for their inclusion in Metalib and SFX knowledge bases. During last year SFX group was very active. Requests for inclusion of twelve new SFX targets were sent to Ex Libris using Pivotal, most of them could be voted using the "Me Too" mechanism and three of them have been already included in SFX KB. Metalib group was not very active. There are 13 requests for Metalib configurations pending from June 2009, and only three of them have been included from then. Furthermore, the quality of the already included Metalib configurations was rated as low by requesting institutions, but scenario has dramatically changed with introduction of Primo Central and discovery tools and Metalib configurations is currently a "low priority" task. There is some doubts in the Spanish group about what will be the relation between the new NERS KB requests mechanism and the already existing "Me Too", because the later mechanism has been

successfully used by Spanish users until now and there are many members of Expania who are not IgeLU members.

Support

Spanish users are quite satisfied with Greendata / Ex Libris support. It improved and there are not important queries about it.

The Future

Library budgets cutbacks make uncertain the future. It will not be easy to start new projects and to keep on the state of the art in library technology.

Expania snapshot:

- 19 institutional members across Spain
- 181 members in Expania mailing list.

Contacts:

Committee:
Chair: Belén Mosquera (Carlos III University Library) – mosquera@db.uc3m.es
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