

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

2012 Annual Report

Introduction

Association of ALEPH users in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (SUAleph) was established in spring 1996. It is an informal and open association with free admission. It unites 24 institutions. The sole distributor for ExLibris products is Mutlidata Praha spol. s r. o.

Collectively updated web page of SUAleph can be found at <http://www.sualeph.cz>

Meetings

SUAleph group meets two times a year, in spring and in autumn. The later comes after IGeLU conference, therefore ideas and conclusions from the conference are presented to local colleagues. The autumn meeting is traditionally held by Brno University of Technology, the spring meeting is hosted by some other member institution. Spring meeting of 2012 took place at the National Library in Prague.

Topics

Since 2011 report two meetings (autumn 2011 and spring 2012) were held with following main topics (both formal and informal):

Authorities

Major changes in authority databases maintained by National Library were introduced and consequently implemented by libraries. It turned out, that the authority mechanism is amongst the most complex issues on the field of system management and must be approached with special care.

Primo ILS

Local distributor presented the libraries with the opportunity of obtaining a stripped version of Primo to be used solely as a web OPAC. Simultaneously, increasing number of institutions started to use (or at least consider using) different alternative to the outdated Aleph's stock web OPAC – opensource system VUfind, to be specific.

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Local distributor informed the libraries about the status of ongoing localization (ready) and new functionalities of the new version. Some libraries expressed their interest in upgrade in reasonable period of time. The rest was still resting after the 18->20 transition.

ExLibris goes mobile

Company's mobile endeavours (namely Primo mobile interface and Hot Articles service) were noted, but this trend doesn't seem to be critical issue for Czech libraries.

Shibboleth/SSO

Especially for academic libraries as parts of larger institution the Single Sign-On functionality (provided by Shibboleth authentication system) is very important. Therefore this is a living topic. Have to be said, that Aleph handles this problem quite well. Database providers are of bigger concern.

Future

Near future will be characterized by transition to the new version and search for resource discovery solution, which remains a big unresolved issue (especially because of the high cost – both initial and ongoing fees).

Although the date hasn't been settled yet, the autumn meeting will take place in Brno in November.