

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

2013 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 2013 took place at the Regional Library Karlovy Vary.

Topics

Since 2012 report two meetings (autumn 2012 and spring 2013) were held with following main topics (both formal and informal):

Authorities

Further but minor (compared to the year before) changes were implemented by the National Library. They now support only the OAI-PMH way of distributing changes in authority files.

Discovery solutions

The era of implementing discovery solutions has arrived. Many institutions (and vendors) are in various phases of competitive tenders (price being the main criterion) or other forms of selecting and obtaining the solution. Although this process is not finished yet, we can say that market will be divided between 3 major vendors (Ex Libris with Primo, EBSCO with EDS and Serials Solutions with Summon). However, the underlying ILS is Aleph in most cases.

With this, not-so-obvious but important change in philosophy is coming. Instead of running local installations of systems the institutions start to use the products as SaaS (Software as a Service).

v21

Many institutions have already upgraded their system, others are planning to do so in the near future. However the big ones (namely the National library) are delaying this step to the furthest possible time. The reason is complexity of their agenda. Which generates some (minor) problems in the area of integration – where local v21 GUIs are used to access remote (National Library) databases on v20 server.

New staff member in local distributor

During this year Mutlidata Praha spol. s r. o. acquired a new personnel at the position of Senior Sales Account Manager – Mr. Libor Daněk.

Future

We all are keen to see how the initial phase of implementing discovery solutions turns out and how it is going to impact library services.

No sign of interest in obtaining Alma whatsoever yet.