

Annual Report from the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries for Igelu National User group (INUG) 2014

*Sveinbjörg Sveinsdóttir, Managing Director, sveinbjorg@landskerfi.is
Sigrún Hauksdóttir, System Development, sigrun@landskerfi.is
Ásdís Huld Helgadóttir, User Services, asdis@landskerfi.is*

“Landskerfi bókasafna hf.”/ Consortium of Icelandic Libraries, www.landskerfi.is is a public limited-liability company. The company is jointly owned by the municipalities and the state of Iceland. Participating libraries pay a service fee depending on size. The consortium operates the following systems and services from Ex Libris: Aleph 500, SFX, Primo, Primo Central Index and bX recommender services. It also operates Sarpur, a cataloging system for museums and cultural heritage institutions in Iceland.

The Icelandic User Group for the Aleph libraries is called Alefli. It is a formal association that acts as a support for the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries. Due to consortia setup there is just one IGeLU vote for all the consortia libraries.

1. Gegnir – The National Library System of Iceland

Gegnir, www.gegnir.is, is a national library system for Iceland. It serves as a union catalog as well as a library system for about 280 libraries. Among the member institutions are the National and University Library of Iceland, universities, most public libraries, and primary and secondary schools as well as research and special libraries. Gegnir is a brand for the Aleph software from Ex Libris. The setup is one instance of Aleph500 version 22.0.1 and service pack level 3817. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 285 libraries are grouped.

The size of the system by end of 2013 is:

Bibliographic records:	1.102.527
Items:	5.534.567
Circulation:	3.394.023
Borrowers:	198.431
Libraries:	285

2. Leitir.is - A National Discovery Portal

Leitir.is, <http://leitir.is> is the National Discovery Portal for Iceland. It provides access from a single location to the diverse collections of Icelandic libraries, museums and other institutions. Leitir is a brand for the Primo software from Ex Libris, version 4.5.2. Access to electronic country licenses is provided via the Primo Central Index Service. A recommender service for electronic licenses is provided via the bX recommender Service.

3. “Sarpur” – cataloging system for museums and other cultural heritage institutions in Iceland

“Sarpur”, <http://www.sarpur.is/>, is an Icelandic designed cultural database. It is used to catalog and record artifacts, pictures, archaeological sites, historic buildings, place names and cultural history, and is used by museums and institutions around Iceland. Consortium of Icelandic libraries is responsible for the daily management and the future development of the system. It presents an opportunity to integrate this cultural material into leitir.is and further develop leitir.is as a national discovery portal for all Icelandic cultural and research material whether it is of bibliographic origin or not.

4. Projects

Gegnir

The main project in Gegnir was to upgrade Aleph to from v. 20 to v. 22, which was done in the spring. We were one of the first libraries serviced by the Hamburg office to carry out the upgrade. The upgrade work was outsourced to Ex Libris. Traditionally we have outsourced implementation/upgrade work to Ex Libris and it has proven to be a successful arrangement. During the upgrade we ran into quite a lot of problems. It took considerably longer time than originally planned and we got the feeling that these kinds of projects were not a high priority anymore with the company. It raises the question if there is a “brain-drain” within Ex Libris from Aleph to the newly developed systems Primo / Alma?

We encountered three major problems in the Aleph 22 upgrade:

1. Performance problems resulting in slowness in circulation and especially actions that have to do with the patron information. After the upgrade we fine-tuned the Oracle database in order to speed up the system. Our local Oracle specialists have advised us to add some Oracle indexes to certain tables to improve the I/O speed but Ex Libris has always been opposed to that. Our libraries are still (**four** months after the upgrade) complaining about a major slowness in the circulation module. Ex Libris has still not found the cause of the problem.
2. Printing – In some libraries the system does not print to the default printer. It has been a major task to analyze the problem with no results yet. It seems to be an interaction between Aleph v. 22, security settings in Windows and a third party software (Bersoft HTMLPrint) used in Aleph. The Bersoft HTMLPrint was upgraded from version 5.24 in Aleph 20 to version 9 in Aleph 22. As of today the cause of the problem has not been found despite tremendous efforts of trying to localize the problem. Ex Libris is currently working with Bersoft on trying to find a solution.
3. Preview window – in Aleph v. 22 it is no longer possible to copy from the print preview window. This function is essential to our libraries so we really had to find an alternative approach. Ex Libris' use of Bersoft HTMLPrint for the printing seemed to result in a situation out of their control and they were not able to assist us. We managed to stumble on an alternative approach to perform this task. However this approach is not a good one and really does not meet our needs.

These problems described above raise questions regarding the software quality assurance processes at Ex Libris especially in regard to integration with third party products. We wonder if Ex Libris really inspected the changes in the Bersoft HTMLPrint software prior to integrating them into Aleph 22?

RDA implementation

Currently we are in the planning stages for RDA implementation. The cut over date is scheduled mid 2016

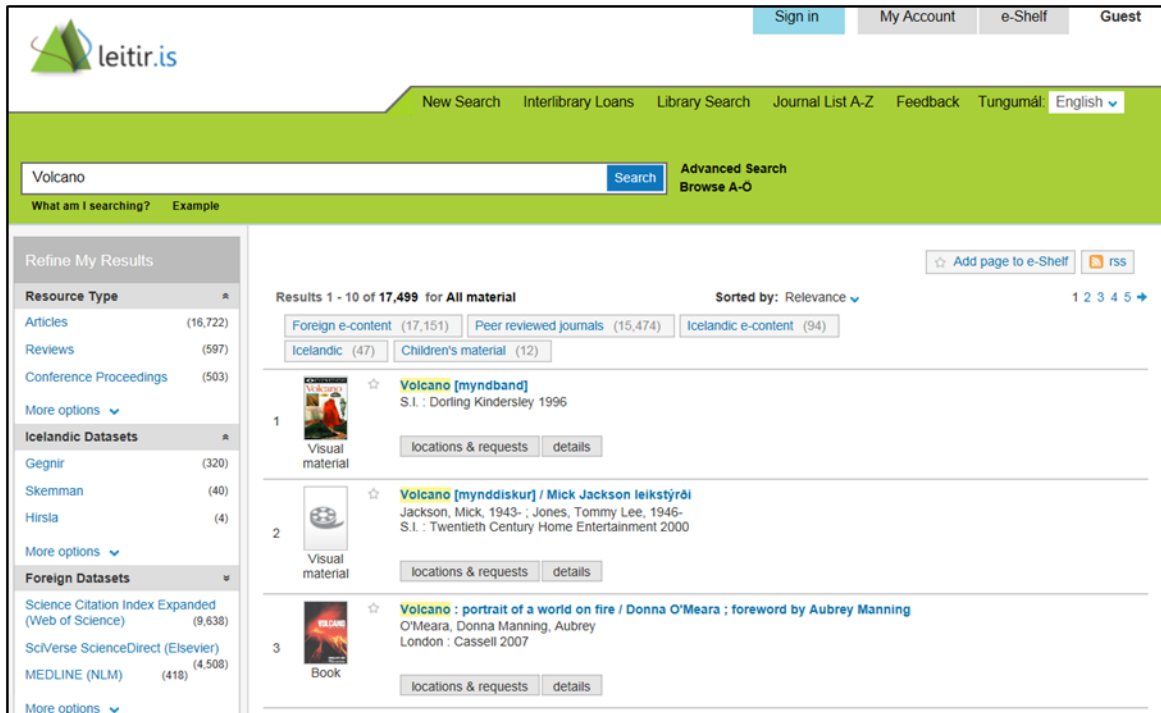
Leitir.is

The previous year our main work in leitir.is / Primo was to redesign the user interface as well as the main structure. Our Primo setup was two search tabs. One for our local data and the other for the Primo Central Index (PCI) data. It proved to be too complicated to explain to our users the difference between the search tabs. For example e-books and journal articles would be located on both tabs. The big challenge was to work around limitations in Primo and specially that we don't have any control over the PCI data. It results in two facets for databases, one for the local data and another for the PCI data. Despite the limitations we are extremely pleased with the results.

In order to simplify the user interface an agreement was reached in the library community to go ahead with these major changes:

- One search box
- EBSCOhost databases (Ebsco Adaptor) are not included in the main database setup. It is because the number of hits is omitted. Instead the users are able to transfer the search to EBSCOhost

- Tabs and buttons were moved and re-designed



The screenshot shows the search results page for the query "Volcano". The page features a navigation bar with links for "Sign in", "My Account", "e-Shelf", and "Guest". Below the navigation bar, there are links for "New Search", "Interlibrary Loans", "Library Search", "Journal List A-Z", "Feedback", and "Tungumál: English". The search bar contains the query "Volcano" and a "Search" button. To the right of the search bar, there are links for "Advanced Search" and "Browse A-O".

The results page is divided into several sections:

- Refine My Results:** A sidebar on the left with filters for "Resource Type" (Articles: 16,722; Reviews: 597; Conference Proceedings: 503), "Icelandic Datasets" (Gegnir: 320; Skemman: 40; Hirsia: 4), and "Foreign Datasets" (Science Citation Index Expanded: 9,638; SciVerse ScienceDirect: 4,508; MEDLINE (NLM): 418).
- Results 1 - 10 of 17,499 for All material:** A main section showing the search results. It includes filters for "Foreign e-content" (17,151), "Peer reviewed journals" (15,474), "Icelandic e-content" (94), "Icelandic" (47), and "Children's material" (12). The results are sorted by "Relevance".
- Result 1:** "Volcano [myndband]" by S.I.: Dorling Kindersley 1996. It is categorized as "Visual material" and has buttons for "locations & requests" and "details".
- Result 2:** "Volcano [mynddiskur] / Mick Jackson leikstýrói" by Jackson, Mick, 1943-; Jones, Tommy Lee, 1946-. S.I.: Twentieth Century Home Entertainment 2000. It is categorized as "Visual material" and has buttons for "locations & requests" and "details".
- Result 3:** "Volcano : portrait of a world on fire / Donna O'Meara ; foreword by Aubrey Manning" by O'Meara, Donna Manning, Aubrey. London : Cassell 2007. It is categorized as "Book" and has buttons for "locations & requests" and "details".

Currently we are working on accessibility compliance (W3C) for our Primo user interface. After a professional evaluation on the user interface in regard to accessibility we have i.e. made several improvements to our css- and js-files. To be able to fulfill all of the requirements made by the evaluation agency we would need to change the jsp-files - which we are advised by Ex Libris not to do. So far we have been unable to find information on Ex Libris's policy about the accessibility compliance in Primo. We think it is essential that Igelu try to get a focus on this matter at Ex Libris. It is quite important that Ex Libris put forward a standard in regard to accessibility and conforms to it in their programming efforts. In fact several changes might be needed in the software in order to improve consistency.