

VLENGEL

VLENGEL (VLaams En Nederlandse Gebruikersgroep van Ex Libris) Ex Libris Users Group of the Dutch and Flemish – Report for INUG 2014

Membership: 17 institutions, 4 Belgian and 13 Dutch.

Membership is free for all institutions, because VLENGEL only organizes activities without costs for participants. Whenever we have a meeting, everybody pays his own travelling costs and the host institution pays for the premises and lunch.

Because we rotate the hosting between institutions and between Belgium and The Netherlands all costs are shared equally in the end.

VLENGEL is an informally organized user group without much structure.

Continuity depends on a coordination committee of three people;

Bart Peeters from LIBIS Leuven (BE)

Bas Vat from Leiden University Library (NL) and IGeLU SFX-PWG coordinator

Theo Engelman from Utrecht University Library (NL) and IGeLU SC member.

Whenever needed, **Lukas Koster from Amsterdam University Library** kindly volunteers to assist the coordination group.

Theo Engelman acts as chair whenever formally needed, but internally there is no hierarchy.

This year the coordination group only organized one annual mid-winter meeting.

DECEMBER 2013

We had planned to visit the Ex Libris datacenter in Amsterdam, part of the Equinix venue.

This was not easy to achieve and we are very grateful to Philipp Hess of Ex Libris for making this extraordinary visit possible for us.

We learned a lot and got a very detailed and informative tour by Dan Marriott, cloud architect of Ex Libris. Because visiting the datacenter was only possible when accepting a non-disclosure agreement we cannot reveal any details, but we can say we were impressed by the professionalism of the datacenter and the Ex Libris policies that were explained to us.

UKB and OCLC

The UKB consortium (Dutch University and National Libraries) have signed a contract in spring 2014 to renew the Shared Information Infrastructure (GII) contract with OCLC-PICA. This contract facilitates the transition of the Dutch Union Catalogue to a subset of OCLC-WorldCat and gives UKB members the possibility to maintain the shared cataloguing tradition and Inter Library Loan and Document Delivery services for the next few years.

The platform OCLC offers consist of WorldCat, WorldCat collections and the OCLC Knowledge Base combined with the OCLC Open URL link resolver.

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What are Dutch libraries doing with it

All Dutch University Libraries will use at least WorldCat and WorldCat collection, the usage of the OCLC Knowledge Base combined with the OCLC Open URL link resolver is not mandatory but it's free of charge in the contract.

Some Dutch University Libraries will opt not only for all parts of the UKB agreement, but also implement the WorldShare Management System (WMS) for managing not only shared metadata, but also their local discovery, patrons, acquisitions and related transactions. Others may opt to use Alma for this, but up to this moment none has chosen for Alma.

Dutch Aleph customers working together

The implementation of the new Shared Information Infrastructure is due for 2015 and beyond. The Dutch Aleph customers have started talks to investigate if and how we can make the synchronization between the WorldCat bibliographic database and the local Aleph inventory work as smooth and automated as possible, thus gaining profit of a shared metadata management system that will be leading for all Dutch University Libraries in the near future and still being able to maintain the local business and transaction in Aleph.

LIBIS has gone live with Alma

Meanwhile in Belgium the LIBIS group has finally succeeded in converting their complex and vast infrastructure of three Aleph installations into Alma.

Alma is live at the LIBIS library network of 33 independent member organizations which includes the historic KU Leuven and its Association, as well as archives, museums, parliaments, and other specialized libraries. An Alma Development Partner, the LIBIS network has worked closely with Ex Libris for the past five years to refine the vision and priorities for Alma in a consortium environment.

LIBIS is part of KU Leuven and offers services to a library network comprising 33 independent member organizations, which include universities, colleges, national and regional organizations, and two networks of public libraries. LIBIS hosts a full suite of Ex Libris solutions, including Alma, Primo, and Rosetta.

Vlengel members are very busy

We hope to keep the VLENGEL community vivid and enthusiast. But it is hard to organize meetings for a coordination group having to deal with a lot of local responsibilities *and* IGeLU tasks. Also the focus on OCLC by the UKB consortium has an impact on the rationale of VLENGEL. If this results in more and more Dutch libraries moving away from Ex Libris products, then VLENGEL will die a slow but inevitable death. We hope this will not happen, but we see that during the last year it was impossible to organize a meeting. We sincerely hope next year will bring a change in this, feeding fresh blood into Vlengel and maybe the implementation of Alma in the KU Leuven will have a positive effect on the activities of Vlengel.