

Annual Report from the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries for Igelu National User group (INUG) 2015

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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 290 libraries. Among the member institutions are the National and University Library of Iceland, several smaller 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 22.1.1, service pack level 2153. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 290 libraries are grouped.

<i>The size of the system by end of 2014 is:</i>	
Bibliographic records:	1.141.645
Items:	5.713.791
Circulation:	3.266.704
Borrowers:	196.943
Libraries:	290

2. Leitir.is - A National Discovery Portal

Leitir.is, <http://leitir.is> is a locally hosted 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 4.9.1. 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

“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 cultural heritage institutions around Iceland.

4. Projects

Gegnir

Most recent system projects in the Aleph system (Gegnir) have aimed at preparing the system for the Resource Description and Access (RDA) cataloging rules. One of the main components regarding the implementation of RDA has been keeping Aleph up to date by upgrading to version 22 and implementing the latest service packs. It has secured the validation of new MARC fields, another big advance has been the direct connection to the RDA toolkit. Other system preparations have included indexing new MARC fields in both the bibliographic and authority databases. A revision on this scale requires modifications in most areas of the cataloging environment. We have had to work with validations, error messages, help text, display and so on. Working with the display in leitir.is (Primo) is the next project in the RDA implementation planning.

The kickoff for implementing RDA for all libraries in Iceland was in September 2014 and the plan is to finish the implementation and start cataloging with RDA in May 2016. Other big projects in the RDA implementation are translating essential terms into Icelandic and training 150 catalogers.

We are starting the process of discontinuing the Aleph Web OPAC and plan to have leitir.is (Primo) as the only interface for our end-users. However, for functionality in the cataloging module and in Primo we need to have the Web OPAC running in the background. In order to close the access for end-users we will strip the web down to the bare necessities, but we find the Ex Libris documentation regarding closing or disabling the Aleph Web OPAC somewhat inadequate.

Leitir.is

The major development in leitir.is has been incorporating over a million accessions from “Sarpur2 (cataloging system for museums and other cultural heritage institutions in Iceland) into leitir.is (Primo). This project has been a milestone in incorporating 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. Further developments in process are integrating photographic collections and archives into the discovery tool. Examples of other projects are implementation of linguistic features in Icelandic, sitemap tool and accessibility standards.

As a national portal, accessibility for all is extremely important. The previous year we had external professional evaluation to improve the user interface. Currently the Primo accessibility standards do not comply with all our needs. Ex Libris is improving the accessibility in Primo and new changes will be added to the July release.

New library system?

Aleph is getting old and a replacement will be needed in the future. The Consortium of Icelandic libraries serves 290 diverse libraries. Majority of these libraries are school and public libraries, (180 school libraries and 75 public libraries). Consortium issues and simplicity and flexibility in circulation will be primary factors in the selection criteria for a new library administration system.