

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

2015 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 still Mutlidata Praha spol. s r. o., however, things are about to change.

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 2015 took place at the University Library of University of West Bohemia (in Plzeň).

Topics

Since 2014 report two meetings (autumn 2014 and spring 2015) were held with following main topics (both formal and informal):

Online payments

The number of libraries which have implemented some kind of online payments has reached such a significant number, that we can call it a trend. Integration with Aleph isn't without its drawbacks, the greatest being the inability to pay the transactions separately (for each sublibrary, which can also mean on a different account). However, the user-friendliness and contemporary standardness of this feature have outweighed any drawbacks.

Version 22

During 2015, basically all libraries will be running version 22 of Aleph. The upgrades (mostly from version 20) were almost flawless.

RDA transition

Much greater transition happened in logic rather than in software infrastructure. On 1st May (postponed from 1st April) all the libraries, under the governance of the National Library, stopped creating new records according to AACR2 and started creating them according to RDA. The old records will remain in their old form. This "eternal duality" may (or may not) bring some problems in the future.

The transition required configuration changes (prepared by the National Library crew) which were successfully implemented. Moreover, most of the issues were solved by upgrading to RDA-ready version 22.

Distributorship change

The exclusive distributorship of Ex Libris products should switch from Multidata to Computer Science Center of the Charles University (same people, different moniker). The switch-a-roo was first officially announced during the 2014 autumn meeting and was planned to be executed before the end of the year. However, due to bureaucratic and other complications on both sides (Ex Libris and Charles University), it has not happened yet.

Future

The future looks still rather bleak due to the budget cuts. But we are still running.