



## ITALIAN EX LIBRIS USERS ASSOCIATION

### Annual Report 2017

#### **Introduction**

ITALE was established in 1999 to collect the Italian institutions that had adopted ALEPH. Since January 2007, the Association is open (as in the model provided by IGeLU) to all Institutions that use Ex Libris products.

Since June 2015, ITALE, as Association, became a member of IGeLU.

Members 2017: 36 Institutions

Membership fee: 250 € (it covers group activities and projects)

Products in use: utilised: ALEPH, ALMA, Primo, SFX, Metalib, MetaLib Plus, DigiTool, Bx, Leganto, CampusM.

Since 2009 the local support is provided by the Italian subsidiary of Ex Libris (Ex Libris Italy).

#### **The Italian requests about Ex Libris products**

With the introduction of new products (Primo, Alma, Leganto), the need to control more effectively the impact on Italian community has stimulated the formation of dedicated Working Groups, which started their activity in 2016, publishing the results on the web site of the association.

There are currently three active Working Groups about the followings subjects:

- 1) Discovery Tools
- 2) Bibliographic standards and Italian National Union Catalogue (SBN) integration with Aleph/Alma
- 3) Alma

We discussed about the performances of standard UNIMARC and Marc21 in Alma, about the plan of integration SBN/Alma, and about the new Primo interface released on 2017.

The Working Groups started a direct relationship with some members of Ex Libris staff to resolve some crucial issues for the Italian community of users.

Among these issues, we spent a great deal of effort in resolving the problems faced in Alma regarding the UNIMARC format. This project started on September 2016 and involves all the ITALE members. First of all, Alma users compiled a document listing all the problems present in the implementation of UNIMARC Standards, both Bibliographic and Authorities formats. This document was the baseline for the process of making Alma compliant to the UNIMARC Standards. This activity is currently in progress, with some positive results.

Another important issue is the project for the Alma Integration with NILDE (Network for Inter-Library Document Exchange), a Document Delivery service and software among research and academic libraries.

Recently, our users made a new request about the translation of the documentation in Italian, concerning the new products (Primo, Alma, Leganto). Although the availability of video tutorials in Italian (i.e. Alma Academy tutorial, released in 2014 for Italian Early Alma Adopters) is appreciated, the Italian users, for the sake of training purposes, require that the Italian translation of the whole documentation is made available, as it is already the case for French and German users.

ITALE hopes that this requirement will soon be satisfied, given the efforts the Institutions are making to introduce innovation in their communities and the impact that this technological change has on internal staff involved in self-education and in the training of Librarians.

### **Activities and Events 2016-2017**

The last event of 2016 organised by the Association was the Seminar "*The evolution of catalogues: the Italian landscape*". It dealt with bibliographic formats and strategies of data exchange, was held in Rome, about the future of bibliographic formats i.e. UNIMARC and Marc21 in order to manage the Italian Aleph Platforms. The choice of Alma can be an opportunity to evolve to Marc21 environment? The Italian Ex Libris Users have a variety of opinions about this issue, but all Alma Users regret that Alma supports UNIMARC with several crucial problems.

During the Seminar was also held a meeting with the representatives of ICCU (the National Institution of library services), about the integration between Aleph and the National Italian Catalogue (SBN) via the SBN/MARC protocol: an opportunity to exchange experiences accumulated using Aleph and to propose the future integration of Alma and SBN.

The choice of the bibliographic format for future ALMA installations in Italy (UNIMARC or MARC21) – discussed in this occasion, was a topic for a survey promoted by ITALE after the Seminar: the conclusion was to try to improve the performances in Alma UNIMARC through a stronger relationship ITALE WorkGroup – Ex Libris.

In January 2017 there was an opportunity of comparing our experience with the French colleagues. ACEF (Association des Client d'Ex Libris France) invited a representative of the ITALE Steering Committee to their annual Assembly of Members: this resulted in a stimulating opportunity for debate and confrontation.

Another event organised by ITALE was the Seminar "*Bibliographic services and teaching: territories of the research*", held in Bolzano on 25 May.

In the first part of the workshop Julie Hart (Aberystwyth University – Gales) presented the experience of the WHELP Consortium - Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum.

Then Tamar Sadeh, Director URD Strategy, Ex Libris reported about the product Leganto: *the Library at the heart of teaching and learning*.

During the second part Alan Oliver, Business Development Director EMEA and Carmit Marcus, Director of Product Management and Partnerships, reported about *Alma: new [inter]faces and new developments*. In particular it was presented the planning about the integration of ALMA with the National Union Catalogue (SBN).

In November 2017, during the next Meeting of the members of the Association, ITALE will renew the Steering Committee for the period 2018-2020.

## **Contacts**

Steering Committee 2015-17

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## **Information and documentation**

Information about ITALE, technical documentation, and news can be found at our web site: <http://www.itale.it>

Genoa, 08/09/2017

On behalf of the Italian Users Group  
Fernanda Canepa



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