

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

## 2018 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 no budget and free membership. It unites 24 institutions.

### 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 2018 took place at Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín. Which was a little bit controversial, because the Zlín University ceased to pay maintenance fees (they still run Aleph but no support nor newer version are available to them).

Since this year the IGeLU conference takes place in Prague, there was an option to have only one meeting in 2018. Either right before the conference or right after it. But that arrangement was voted down, the community wants two meetings as usually.

### Topics

Two major topics have been of concern in 2018 so far.

In May 2018, the new GDPR legislative came into action. We wanted to know whether and how the Ex Libris products (mainly Aleph) were GDPR ready. We expected that such an important milestone would trigger some changes in personal data storage and workflows. However, the systems were pronounced GDPR compliant as they were.

Only major GDPR related step Ex Libris undertook was drafting the GDPR Data Processing Addendums. Which were consequently accepted by our institutions as GDPR compliance guarantees.

On the great scale, the institution had to deal mainly with establishing the purpose of processing and achieving lawfulness. Solutions to this problems vary based on the type of institution and existing workflows.

Another big and persistent topic is a search for Aleph replacement. One of possible candidates is KOHA, which has quite strong developer community in the Czech Republic. However, these people are coming from smaller municipal libraries and don't have much experience with larger environments of big academic libraries. In November 2017 the KOHA community and Aleph admins from Czech libraries met at Moravian Library in Brno at Aleph2Koha Hackaton. The goal of this event was to actually migrate basic entities from Aleph to Koha. However, it turned out that some environments are too complex for KOHA to grasp, on the other hand, especially smaller libraries would have much less difficulties migrating. Anyways, in its current state, KOHA was not found an ultimate Aleph replacement suitable for everyone.

Of course, another solution to the problem, which comes naturally, is upgrading to Alma. Ex Libris have had no success persuading representatives of Czech libraries to subscribing Alma so far. In September 2018 they will have another chance at Ex Libris Solution Day at Brno University of Technology.