ACEF annual report
2019 IGeLU National User Group meeting

Introduction

Founded in 2000, ACEF was formerly known as AUFA (*Association des Utilisateurs Francophones d'Aleph*). It changed its name during an extraordinary general assembly on February 12th 2007 and became the ACEF (*Association des Clients d'Ex Libris France*).

Initially dedicated to Aleph, the association has grown with Ex Libris' customers base.

Membership

In 2018, the ACEF users group has fifty member institutions, a gain of thirteen compared to 2017, which is an all-time record. Most of them are academic libraries. Institution members are from France, Belgium, Switzerland and Québec.

Main events since the last IGeLU meeting

Primo admin training (free for members)

A two days training session was organized at Université Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle in November 2018. The training was given by Benoît Vicart (DBU Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 / Bibliothèque Sainte-Barbe). Members of five french universities have attended the training session (eight trainees).

It's getting difficult to organize a single admin session because of the multiple environments: local, cloud, VE.

SFX admin training (free for members)

A two and a half days training session was organized at Bibliothèque interuniversitaire Cujas in November 2018. The training was given by Isabelle Filliatre (Université Paris Dauphine) and Gabriel Raupp (Université Paris Nanterre). Members of six french universities have attended the training session (nine trainees).

Alma working group

The Alma working group actually started to work during Fall 2018. A roadmap was defined with the following topics:

- Inventory of Alma implementations
- Sharing Alma documentation
- Sharing data (reports, prevision patterns, normalization rules, XSL forms, query templates)
- Coordination of CKB watch for French resources
- Follow-up of functional evolution (NERS and Idea Exchange) and votes coordination
- Improving UI translations
- Design and animation of "Alma Administrator" training and workshops
- Participation in IGeLU activities
- Interface with Ex Libris

A meeting was organized both locally and via videoconferencing on December 7th. A survey was conducted the month before to collect the experiences of Alma customers. Seven French institutions responded.

A wiki is currently being created to house the Alma documentation produced by the institutions.

ACEF meeting in January 2019

The meeting was hosted by Collège de France, Paris, on January 22th.

Customer feedback sessions

- *Trends of the ILS market in French higher education* by Laurent Aucher (BIU Cujas)
- *Presentation of the work of the Alma working group and summary of the round table organized on December 7th* by Loïc Ducasse (Université fédérale de Toulouse).
- *Update on Alma / SUDOC data exchange* by Ewa Nieszkowska (UPEC) and Sandrine Berthier (Université de Bordeaux)
- *Presentation of the Swiss Library Service Platform* by Jürgen Küssow (SLSP)

Ex Libris session

In the afternoon, the Ex Libris Staff was given the opportunity to present several topics.

- *Ex Libris activities 2018 / 2019* by Arnaud Guénégan (Ex Libris)
- *Primo VE* by Maud Arnaud (Ex Libris)
- *Content corner Primo Central Index and Summon* by par Maud Arnaud (Ex Libris)
- Q/A

ACEF meeting in June 2019

The meeting was hosted by Université du Littoral – BULCO, Dunkerque, on June 6th.

Customer feedback sessions

- *Feedback on the transition to Alma & Primo at Caen and Lille Universities* by Sara Bernard (Université de Caen) and Sophie Demange (Université de Lille)
- *Summary of the ABES/ACEF/Ex Libris meeting organized on May 27th* by Ewa Nieszkowska (UPEC)
- *From Primo to Calypso – Feedback from Université du Littoral* by Alessio Biondo and Patrick Dancel (BULCO)
- *New workflows and services at ULiège with Alma, the « kaleidoscope way » in 25 examples* by François Renaville (ULiège Library)
- *Primo VE – General presentation* by Benoît Vicart (DBU Paris 3 / BSB)

Alma Workshops

Three Alma workshops were organized by members of the community:
- Acquisitions at Toulouse University on March 2019
- Analytics at Montpellier University on May 2019
- Electronic resource management at UPEC on June 2019

Each session welcomed a dozen participants from different regions. The preparation of the workshops is an investment for the trainers but it also allows institutions to build skills.

Trends

Market shift

In 2018, ALEPH was yet the leader LMS in French university libraries (number of systems). There were still twenty-five Aleph customers at the end of the year. The SGBm[1] project of the national bibliographic agency has already replaced many LMS since 2018. So far, all the institutions that published a tender have selected Alma and Primo among the three vendors in competition (OCLC, Decalog/DM Cultura/EBSCO, Ex Libris ProQuest).

In spring 2019, Alma has already become the leader LMS in French university libraries with twenty-nine institutions. If the trend continues, there should be no more ALEPH customers in France after 2023 (not all the customers will migrate to Alma).

Alma IRL

Alma customer base is now large enough to compare the promised services with truly operational services. There is room for improvements. The biggest concern is related to the quality and coverage of (French) electronic resources in Alma CZ. There is also a format issue because the Alma Community Zone (CZ) records are structured in MARC21. Unfortunately, two fully sealed directories coexist in Alma (UNIMARC and MARC21): it is currently impossible to dedup records belonging to either of these two directories. This is a regression compared to the SFX KB.

The survey conducted with Alma clients at the end of 2018 showed that project management quality is really different from one implementation to another. Ex Libris project management methodology is suitable for standard sized institutions and simple projects but proves to be seriously underestimated and insufficient when it comes to larger or complex projects (several data sources that need to be migrated into one Alma instance, shared consortium environment with network zone, merger of several libraries or universities during the project).

Primo VE (Virtual Edition?)

Since a few months, Primo VE has been systematically implemented. Our community is wondering why this is so urgent since this product is still under development. It is unclear if functional gaps - compared to Primo BO - will be reduced in the future. Furthermore, Ex Libris' trainers and analysts are not familiar with the new product.

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[1] Higher education mutualized system whose tenders are managed by the ABES agency. http://www.abes.fr/Projet-SGBm/Systeme-de-gestion-de-bibliotheque-mutualise-SGBm

IGeLU conference in Singapore

Due to the cost and travel distance, no French customers will be able to attend the conference this year.

On behalf of the ACEF user group

Laurent Aucher

July 2019

http://a-c-e-f.org