

2020 ANZREG Chair's Report to INUG

2020

Introduction

ANZREG is a recognized national user group for the International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU). The group, led by a community elected committee, strives to promote communication among users of Ex Libris products at different institutions in Australia and New Zealand. ANZREG provides feedback locally and internationally to IGeLU. Membership is free to Australian and New Zealand libraries and institutions using one or more of Ex Libris products.

Snapshot

- ANZREG has 60+ institutional members across Australia and New Zealand
- 327 members of the ANZREG-L mailing list (list is currently hosted by the State Library of Queensland)
- Activities coordinated by the ANZREG Committee – elected by the membership every 2 years.

Current Status

We have had a number of committee changes this year with new roles and an increase in the number of committee members to ensure a better spread of portfolios and workloads. The current ANZREG Committee is comprised of the following:

Chair	Cate Bardwell	University of Otago
Co-Deputy/Chair elect	Amelia Rowe	RMIT University
Co-Deputy/Chair elect	Stacey van Groll	University of Queensland
Secretary	Lynne Billington	State Library, New South Wales
Financial Officer	Annette Schryver	Macquarie University
Programme Coordinator	Vacant	
Communications Officer	Stacey van Groll	University of Queensland
Web Manager	Deborah Fitchett	Lincoln University
Product Development Advocate	Amelia Rowe	RMIT University
Conference Coordinator	Peta Hopkins	Bond University
General Member	Rachel Salby	La Trobe University
General Member	Roshan Thapa	Charles Sturt University

Activities to Date

- The Committee said farewell to three members of the Committee Sue Harmer, Julie Wright and Megan Lee. A call for nominations from the community was put out for two new General Members. Four nominations were received so an election process was followed. Two new Committee members were appointed: Rohsan Thapa, Coordinator, Discovery Services & Fulfilment at Charles Sturt University and Rachel Salby Coordinator, Library

Discovery at Platforms at La Trobe University. Both Rachel and Roshan bring a depth of experience and knowledge of Ex Libris products to the Committee.

- In response to a number of concerns from the ANZREG community about Central Discovery Index (CDI) rollout issues, and lack of capacity for many community members during the COVID-19 first wave and ongoing, as well as associated adjustments in Semester periods aligned to the original Switchover timelines, ANZREG advocated for the extension of the CDI switchover date to 30 September. Thanks to Amanda Healy, Senior Director of Sales, Australia & New Zealand and Christine Stohn, Senior Product Manager for Discovery and Delivery for being responsive to ANZREG community needs.
- The ANZREG Committee is now meeting quarterly with Osher Gilinsky, Asia Pacific General Manager, Ex Libris and Amanda Healy Senior Director of Sales, Australia & New Zealand. Topics for discussion are distributed beforehand. These meetings are proving to be an excellent exchange of information and also a good avenue for highlighting and resolving issues arising from the ANZREG Community. Thanks Osher and Amanda!
- The ANZREG Webinar series has been impacted by COVID-19, however we have still managed to deliver a shortened programme of knowledge sharing and collaborative sessions over the year.

Planned Activities

ANZREG Conference October 14 2020

The ANZREG annual conference showcases customer adoption of Ex Libris products and provides members of the community with the opportunity for face-to-face discussion and dedicated time to consider the prioritization of common customer technical requirements. It is also the venue for the ANZREG Annual General Meeting.

The conference this year will be free of charge and run entirely via zoom – a first! I would like to acknowledge the support of IGeLU who are providing the zoom access for our conference. It has also been reduced to a one day event. The main complexity is delivering the online event across multiple time zones for NZ and Australia, as well as China and Israel for Ex Libris attendees. It will require some early starts and late finishes for some attendees. It is hoped we can return to a face-to-face event at some stage however it is looking unlikely that will be in 2021 with significantly reduced travel budgets for many members of the community

Issues

Alma Release Dates

The January release date continues to cause issues across a number of ANZREG institutions. Staff availability is an issue as many institutions enforce a lengthy close down period from December 23 – January 6 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. At other institutions, staff opt to take leave for their summer holiday and will not return to work until the end of the first week in January, including Systems Librarians responsible for Alma management, release testing, and review of new features.

Last year the ANZREG Committee requested that the January 2020 Production Release date be moved from January 5th to January 12th and the Release Update moved to January 19th. We have submitted the same request for the 2021 January release, and we appreciate that the January Release is on January 10th and the Release Update is on January 17th in 2021. We would like such considerations to be ongoing without the Committee's need to request this acknowledgement of our regional needs each year, and for the January Release to be either a maintenance release or very low of significant changes, to further support our community in this area.

Micro-languages in Primo

Australian sites are interested in standard in-system support of micro-languages by ISO 639-3 and Austlang indigenous languages in both Primo and Primo VE, within the existing Language functionality, in recognition of the equal standing of these languages. This is particularly important for Austlang, which is an authorised MARC language source code by the Library of Congress as of October 26, 2018. Many members of the community actively participated in a national NAIDOC Week Codeathon in July 2020, adding Austlang codes to more than 8,000 records, only to find that these were not displayed in Primo environments.

ANZREG Salesforce Account

During the INUG meeting at IGELU 2019 it became known that other regional user groups such as MELI – [Ex Libris Group Israel] have a regional Salesforce account. It was also mentioned during the IGELU conference that the Analytics Working Group have an account for creating Community Knowledge Articles. The ANZREG Committee are interested in an ANZREG regional Salesforce account, to be used to flag regional issues with Ex Libris, such as Austlang language support and the Libraries Australia publishing profile, and to streamline visibility between national user groups and Alma, Primo, and other Working Groups by these published cases. This visibility would foster ease of communication between these groups, for activities such as the yearly NERS voting process. Additionally, this central account would allow the ANZREG Committee to collate and post collaborative Community Knowledge Articles, to support our community further with knowledge sharing and expertise, as well as encouragement of the use of this Ex Libris provided option. *The ANZREG Committee has raised this in the September meeting with Osher Gilinsky.*

Cate Bardwell

Chair ANZREG

September 2020