

Alex Forrest  
alex.forrest@ed.ac.uk

**Nomination for IGeLU Steering Committee election 2021**

Who am I

Where am I

What do I do

Why vote for me

# University of Edinburgh

- I am currently systems librarian at the University of Edinburgh.
- We have ~45k students and 15k Staff
- We operate over a multisite campus of 13 different libraries.
- As a city we invite guests from every part of the world. We have missed the buzz of activity which our yearly Festival brings to the city and looking forward to opening our doors again as soon as possible.
- I'm very proud to call myself Scottish and European



# Experience with ExLibris and ExLibris products

- We migrated from GEAC to Voyager in 1999 so we come to ExLibris as an Endeavor customer.
- We migrated to Alma in 2015 and Leganto in 2017
- We have just moved over to Primo-VE
- We run Selfcheck, Lapsafe for laptop loans, WPM online fine payment, ezproxy, premium sandbox
- We use all modules of Alma including Resource Sharing (moving over from ILLIAD)
- We integrate with institutional systems for student, staff, course, web portals and financial data transfers.
- We continue to explore opportunities to streamline those integrations and implement new ways of saving time for a diminishing staff resource.



# User group experience

- I was appointed to the IGeLU Steering Committee in 2019 just before everyone stopped travelling. Not sure if I jinxed that, sorry.
- I am the current Chair of the UK and Ireland User Group ([EPUG-UKI](#))
- I've been fortunate to attend ELUNA a number of times.
- I've worked in the Analytics working group and Leganto dashboard improvement group
- I've been part of the conference planning committee for both user groups.
- I see it as one of my roles to ask stupid questions on the user group lists 😊



# Why should you vote for me?

- I have varied library experience within the public and educational sector.
- I've had various roles within libraries:
  - Front of house (Helpdesk); acquisitions; Cataloguing
  - Wider technical support for library computing (hardware; server and application)
- This experience has given me a better understanding of why each part of the system is important. And how we need to continue to improve cross product enhancement.
- Special areas of interest are Analytics; Oracle SQL; integrations with Institution Systems; Training and Support.
- I have an Information Postgrad and qualifications in project management (Prince and Agile)



# What input would I have to IGeLU

- I've been on the Conference Planning committee for both IGeLU and EPUG-UKI
- We hosted the UK conference in Edinburgh in 2018. We aim to host conferences twice a year.
- I helped with virtual conference planning for both groups in 2020/2021
- I'm interested in training and wider collaboration with system and module experts. Always looking for new opportunities for bringing us together.
- I see IGeLU as being crucial for our best use of ExLibris products. And our best way of continuing to improve ExLibris products and services.
- I'm an advocate for fair representation for all libraries and all systems.



# Thank you

- Thank you so much for voting for me in 2019.
- If you feel I would be a good candidate to continue on the Steering Committee please think about voting again.
- Working on the group has been a wonderful experience and I know we make a difference.
- I have learned so many things from you as fellow customers. I'd love to be able to continue to share that experience.
- Finally – Alex is short for Alexandra (Sunday name!) in case it's important to you, I'm female.
- I hope that we will continue to have as diverse a committee representing as wide a range of customers as possible.
- I look forward to the future and meeting with you for a pint in the real world again. Hopefully one day soon.

