

Alex Forrest - nomination for IGeLU Steering Committee – 2023

My full name is Alexandra Forrest. Pronouns she/her. Everyone calls me Alex. I can be contacted @ alex.forrest@ed.ac.uk.

I'm based in Scotland (part of UK) – in the capital city Edinburgh. It's a beautiful place to be if you have never visited. We welcome visitors from every part of the world. We see ourselves as European and try not to mention the B word! (Brexit – not in our name! I believe we need to break walls down not build them up)

I work for Edinburgh University in the Library Systems Team. We have been running with Alma/Primo since 2015, Leganto since 2017 and we recently added Rialto and RapidILL.

Previously we were in a locally hosted Voyager consortium (SDLC). We still host one partner library but not within a consortial framework. At the start of my career I worked in various libraries and departments (acquisitions, cataloguing, front of house) – I learned a great deal about how products interact and when you need to take a holistic approach.

Part of my job is to make the most of the systems we manage and optimise relationships cross product and cross expertise. Within the library, within the institution, and with other ExLibris customers.

I am currently Chair of the UK and Ireland User Group (EPUG-UKI). We are a very active National group. We run two sessions a year and themed days covering specific products or services e.g. analytics, Leganto. We host a monthly call where any UK or Ireland site can share information or ask questions about ExLibris products and how to manage them.

I can honestly say participating in ExLibris User groups has made my job and my life easier. And the products better. IGeLU, ELUNA and EPUG-UKI are all truly great resources for expert knowledge. I never cease to be thankful for that, always freely given, always helpful, always sympathetic.

I would love to be considered for re-nomination to the IGeLU Steering Committee. I have been a member since September 2019. Being re-elected in 2021. I've been part of the sub-committee for Conference planning. I've been to ELUNA a few times as part of the Analytics Working Group and as a customer and most recently representing IGeLU.

I've enjoyed working with contacts across the globe and the current Steering Committees (IGeLU, ELUNA and EPUG-UKI) are a truly marvellous bunch of likeminded individuals who put in a lot of work to benefit the whole ExLibris community. Objective, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, approachable and ecumenical (product wise). All of my Steering Committee colleagues are that and much more. I hope I have a small part of their knowledge, expertise and kindness. I would love the opportunity to continue working with them to make the absolute most of our shared products and services.