

Alex Forrest
alex.forrest@ed.ac.uk

Nomination for IGeLU Steering Committee election 2023

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.
- I'm very proud to call myself 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, Leganto in 2017, Rialto in 2019 and RapidILL in 2021
- We are on 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 was re-appointed in 2021 (thank you)
- 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 liaison to various product groups. Currently liaison for Rialto, RapidILL, Rapido.
- 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 Institutional 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 2021.
- 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.

