**Meli (Ex Libris Users Group - Israel) Annual Report - 2023**

Submitted to: IGeLU National User Group meeting (INUG), by Dr. Lynne Porat (University of Haifa) on behalf of the Meli Steering Committee on 10th September 2024 at the 19th IGeLU Annual Conference.

**Members:** 59 libraries from 47 institutions:

- University libraries: 21 libraries in 9 universities
- College libraries: 33
- Special libraries: 4 (including the National Library of Israel and the Inter-University Center for Digital Information Services)
- Public libraries: 1

**Steering Committee Members:**

- Lynne Porat (University of Haifa) - Chair
- Sarit Sambol-Szasz (Bar-Ilan University) - Bursar
- Shiri Berger (Emek Yezreel Academic College) - Conference registration
- Naomi Galor (Reichman University) - Website Editor
- Dorit Leshem (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) - Listservs Administrator and Conference Coordinator
- Meirav Aknin (Tel Aviv University) - Conference Coordinator
- Moran Lavi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Israeli Members of International Groups:**

- **Primo Working Group** - Nir Zinger (University of Haifa)
- **Analytics POC**, **Deputy Coordinator** - Maya Amichal (Weizmann Institute of Science)
- **IGeLU Conference Planning Committee** - Maya Amichal (Weizmann Institute of Science)
- **Alma Authority Focus Group** - Sharon Shapira (University of Haifa), Ahava Cohen (National Library of Israel)
- **Alma UX Focus Group** - Ruhama Amouyal (Bar-Ilan University), Dr. Aviva Levin-Belousov (University of Haifa), Dafna Mizrahi-Melcer, Adva Kramer, Esther Guggenheim & Ahava Cohen (National Library of Israel), Naomi Galor (Reichmann University) and Sivan Kedar (Tel Aviv University)
- **Leganto Focus Group** - Amy Dinnerstein (College of Management)

**IGeLU Travel Grant Recipients:**

- **Meli Grant** - Ido Aharon (Tel Aviv University)
- **Meli First-Timers' Grant** - Shiri Berger (Emek Yezreel Academic College), Limor Cohen (Ruppin Academic Center)

**Annual Meeting with Ex Libris Management:**

The Steering Committee and chairs of the Alma, Primo and ER PWGs met with Ex Libris management in June 2024 to discuss the following Israeli-specific issues:

**Content**

- EXL will send content providers detailed reports of the content sent to CDI by Q4 of 2023
- EXL will report on the progress at the upcoming IGeLU conference
- EXL is developing a tool for automatic uploading of content from providers

**Primo**

- PrimoVE will have an Arabic languages component as part of Melingo for local records by Q4 of 2023
- EXL will consider the possibility of allowing preliminary testing by the Primo PWG
- (CDI records will be checked at a later date)
- EXL will address the problems of Melingo in Arabic
- Retrieval problems in Hebrew will be prioritized over other Primo issues
- Representatives of the Primo/Alma PWGs will meet to discuss the problems of multilingualism in PrimoVE, and a development schedule will be drawn-up
- EXL will re-examine the problem of directionality with Hebrew (some of the problems have already entered the development process and others are being tested)

## Meli Activities:

**Meli@10 Webinars from November 2022 to June 2023**

1,439 participants

- Israeli Developments and Uses of Cloud Apps - Guy Shahaf, Efrat Alagem Tehar-Lev, Galit Greenberg, Yakir Siegelman (Technion), Adi Mor Yosef and Lynne Porat (University of Haifa)
- Development of digital collections for teaching and research - Moderator: Dafna Mizrahi-Melzer, speakers: Dalia Mendelsohn, Hebrew University, Hagai Bar and Hila Buzaglo (Tel Aviv University) and Marina Kalach (University of Haifa)
- Ex Libris Support Center - A look at the latest changes, how it affects all of us and how we can improve together - Zvi Vogel, Esther Hirschberg (Ex Libris)
- Updates in the field of content: metadata news in Ex-Libris - Tamar Ganor (Ex Libris)
- Access to full text in CDI, especially Hebrew content - David Hanegbi (Ex Libris)
- TAU Mobile App - Michal Lahav, Shlomit Golan, Ido Aharon (Tel Aviv University)
- Alma directly controls the warehouse, and the robot brings / returns the books - Revital Teler and Emanuel Philip (National Library of Israel)

- Primo Road Map overview - Nili Nathan (Ex Libris)
- Evaluating your collection using the Alma Overlap Tool - Uri Beladev (Ex Libris)
- Alma integration with external systems - Erez Shabo (Ex Libris)
- Alma Road Map overview - Lili Dai (Ex Libris)
- Deepening the relationship between the library and teaching / learning and UX in Leganto - Dolev Artzi, Eyal Kirchner (Ex Libris), Limor Cohen (Ruppin Academic Center)
- Effective working with the PO Line in Alma's new interface - Zohar Shemesh (Ex Libris), Ruhama Amouyal (Bar-Ilan University)

**Half-Day Workshops**

- Primo Data Visualization - Yoel Kortick (Ex Libris)
- Alma Data Visualization - Yehudit Mano (Ex Libris)
- Normalization Rules in Primo VE, part 1 - Ben-Yishai Ze'evi (Ex Libris)

**Full-Day Workshop**

- Normalization Rules in Primo VE, part 2 - Ben-Yishai Ze'evi (Ex Libris)

**Meli Annual Conference:**

The Meli annual conference will be held in January 2024 in Be'er Sheva as a hybrid conference.

**Alma Product Working Group**

The group is currently working on the following issues:

- English interface changes spontaneously to Hebrew
- Several UX Problems of the Hebrew interface in Alma Indexing problem of subfields in NLI authorities
- RTL language issues in the MD editor
- Search problems with ULI-V TESTNG
- Retrieval problem with hyphen and apostrophe
- Flip problem with authorities with different tags
- Problem when Hebrew translation was changed in NLI authorities and was not updated in Primo
- NNL raised the issue of the need for specific search in x, y, z subfields – will be further discussed with Erez.
- Integrating MarcEdit and Power BI with Alma.

**Primo Product Working Group**

- Initiation of two Primo VE workshops which Ex Libris will offer at IGeLU 2023
- Testing and release of Melingo for Hebrew records in CDI
- Cooperation with content providers and Ex Libris on adding new collections and databases in Hebrew to CDI (two new databases were added in the past year), and on improvement of metadata, linking and identifiers to existing CDI databases in Hebrew

- Work on the following issues:
    - Improving efficiency with content providers and Ex Libris
    - Adding morphological support for Arabic in Primo
    - Increasing Multilingual support for NLI authorities in Primo VE
    - Improving deficiencies in Hebrew morphological retrieval in Primo
    - Adding support for Right to left Directionality in UI

**Electronic Resources Product Working Group**

- Raising of issues with Ex Libris / content providers in an attempt to find solutions regarding Hebrew content in CZ
- Submission of Meli Sales Force cases about resources not being updated properly in CZ, e.g. the data for Magnes and Kotar doesn't always reflect the collections that were purchased through the Israeli consortium, MALMAD