Meli (Ex Libris Users Group - Israel) Annual Report 2024

Submitted to: IGeLU National User Group meeting (INUG), by Dr. Lynne Porat (University of Haifa) on behalf of the Meli Steering Committee on 8th September 2024 at the 20th IGeLU Annual Conference.

Members: 54 libraries from **48** institutions:

- University libraries: **16** libraries in **10** universities
- College libraries: **32**
- Special libraries: **5** (including the National Library of Israel and the Inter-University Center for Digital Information Services)
- Public libraries: **1**

Steering Committee Members:

- Dr. Lynne Porat (University of Haifa) - Chair
- Dorit Leshem (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) - Bursar, Listservs
- Moran Lavi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) - Minute-taker
- Naomi Galor (Reichman University) - Conference planning
- Naomi Avraham (Bar-Ilan University) - Conference planning
- Amy Dinnerstein (College of Management) - Website
- Irit Kloner-Margalit (Tel Aviv University) - Website

Israeli Members of International Groups:

- **Primo Working Group** - Nir Zinger (University of Haifa)
- **Analytics CoP** - Maya Amichal (Weizmann Institute of Science) **Coordinator**, Ariel Lock (National Library of Israel)
- **RapidILL Working Group (Eluna and IGeLU)** - Dr. Lynne Porat (University of Haifa)
- **IGeLU Conference Planning Committee** - Maya Amichal (Weizmann Institute of Science)
- **Alma Authority Focus Group** - Sharon Shapira Glaubach (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 (Hebrew University of Jersualem), Esther Guggenheim, Ahava Cohen (National Library of Israel), Naomi Galor (Reichmann University), Sivan Kedar, Rona Terenblit (Tel Aviv University)

IGeLU Travel Grant Recipients:

- Karen Elisha (University of Haifa) - **Moving to Primo VE in a Multilingual Environment**
- Dr. Aviva Levin-Belousov (University of Haifa) - **To Fit Like a Glove! Best Practice of Involving Alma UX Customer Group in Developing New Circulation Desk Interface**
- Irit Kloner-Margalit (Tel Aviv University) - **Finding Hidden Treasures on Library Shelves**

Additional IGeLU 2024 Presentations by Meli Members:

- Efrat Alagem & Guy Shahaf (Technion) - **AI-Enabled Book Validation and Shelf Management: Effortlessly Identifying Missing, Misplaced, and Lost Books in Your Library Collection**

Annual Meeting with Ex Libris Management:

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

- **AI for EXL documentation** - EXL will implement this

- **Deletion of portfolios with changed ownership -** EXL will try to improve warnings before deletions

- **Exporting and sharing of cases submitted by other Israel institutions** - EXL will do this providing that each institution signs a consent agreement

- **SLA for resolution of cases** and not just for responses - EXL has no such SLA

- **Support staff sign-in without requesting credentials from the customer -** EXL will try to find a solution

Meli Activities:

Meli@10 Webinars from November 2023 to June 2024

882 participants

- New content as a catalyst to change
- Strategic update, EXL Management
- Activation of CDI of electronic resources
- Alma roadmap
- Digitization of Passover Haggadot
- Next generation Digital Assets Management and AI
- Creating an ISO community to improve workflows
- To fit like a glove: Cooperation between the community and EXL on the new UI for the Alma Fulfillment module

Key Meli Achievements 2023

- Many new subscribers to Meli Listservs
- Many volunteers for PWGs
- 80-120 participants at every Meli@10 session

- Creation of guidelines for changing Fulfillment configuration during war - initiated by Amy Dinnerstein, Meli SC, carried out by EXL
- Free RapidILL for Israeli colleges during war - initiated by Dr. Lynne Porat, carried out by EXL
- ISO-ILL in all Israeli libraries - initiated by Limor Cohen, Director of Ruppin Academic Center and Dr. Lynne Porat, Chair, Meli SC, and carried out with help of EXL. Currently 37 libraries have joined.
- Improved workflow for Meli cases on new Support platform

Meli Annual Conference:

The Meli annual conference will be held in December 2024 in Tel Aviv or Beer-Sheva as a hybrid conference.

Alma Product Working Group - Dafna Mizrahi-Melcer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) - Chair

Key Alma Achievements 2023

- Hebrew Interface - many bugs were corrected
- Hebrew Menu - testing of fuzzy keywords search

Key Alma Outstanding Issues

- Cataloging Hebrew (LTR, directional characters)
- Melingo in Alma

Primo Product Working Group - Michal Lahav & Nir Zinger (University of Haifa) - Chairs

Key Primo Achievements 2023

- Support of Melingo for Hebrew records in CDI
- Improvement of UI Labels in Arabic

Key Primo Outstanding Issues

- Missing Multilingual support for NLI authorities in Primo VE

  a. Lack of Authority Enrichment for local indexes - loss of NLI multilingual capabilities

  b. Authority metadata cannot be edited by NR

- Multilingual Basecamp Project & Israeli Team are waiting for EXL collaboration
- UX in mobile devices - needs improved responsiveness, especially the Advanced Search in the Hebrew interface

Other issues

- Possible integration of Hebrew, RTL and Israeli CDI content into the upcoming AI releases
- Possible support of Language Models in NDE
- Possible full-text indexing of Israeli providers' content

Electronic Resources Product Working Group - Sarit Sambol-Szasz (Bar-Ilan University) - Chair

Key Content Achievements 2023

- CDI new Hebrew collections
- Improvements of metadata in existing collections

Key Content Outstanding Issues

- Electronic Inventory
- AutoHoldings - CZ and publisher feeds still not calibrated
- Existing CZ activations require perpetual monitoring and repairing of baseline inventory
- Maximizing the full metadata potential of universities' and National Library's collections in CZ & CDI
- Non-preferred terms (cross-references) from Authority Enrichment
- IHP - Missing support for multiple full text links (in records)
- Portfolio Public Notes containing volume / Issue