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Submitter Affiliation: ELUNA

Name of Proposed Group: Accessibility Community of Practice

Request Date: March 6, 2024

Initiator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Steering Committee (SC) request
Background Information	<p>Ex Libris customers need to use products that do not disadvantage users with disabilities. Many web accessibility problems have been discovered and reported by customers, with varying levels of attention and correction from Ex Libris.</p> <p>Likewise, members have used the products in innovative ways to improve experiences for users with disabilities that could be shared more effectively across the community.</p> <p>To advance accessibility, the customer-base can collaborate on directions and speak with a unified voice to more effectively influence Ex Libris' commitment to accessible solutions.</p> <p>Accessibility transcends individual products and content. Individual product working groups would benefit from the support of a community of practice to deal with the intricacies of the legal and civil requirements for accessibility that impact many of our libraries.</p>
Terms of Reference	<p>Accessibility Community of Practice members meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and create action items related to accessibility features, bugs, defects, and difficulties across Ex Libris products.</p> <p>Provide and gather feedback on accessibility problems discovered by Ex Libris customers and library patrons in direct meetings and related communications with Ex Libris. The Community of Practice can support and amplify the voices of those identifying and reporting accessibility bugs and issues.</p> <p>Provide and gather feedback on ways to improve and advocate for functional accessibility usability over technical accessibility (i.e WCAG, in the narrow sense) in direct meetings and related communications with Ex Libris. The user experience must be important beyond technical usability. In accord with the resolution agreement between the University of Montana and US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, "Accessible' means that individuals with disabilities are able to independently acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services within the same timeframe as individuals without disabilities, with substantially equivalent ease of use." Equity and utility should be put forward as a priority, not solely compliance.</p>
Type of Group	Community of Practice
Reports To	Steering Committee
Steering Committees Involved	ELUNA + IGeLU

<p>Outputs from Group</p>	<p>Each output contributes to building accessibility into the products:</p> <p>Share knowledge and resources to help the community participate in proactively finding accessibility problems and providing feedback on issues discovered.</p> <p>Communicate with Ex Libris representatives to contribute to the proactive identification and removal of accessibility defects and barriers across products.</p> <p>Share ideas and techniques across the community to improve experiences for users with disabilities.</p> <p>Liaison with product working groups to share information and surface opportunities, examples, and issues from the variety of Ex Libris products.</p> <p>Organize relationship-building activities to help the accessibility community achieve its goals. Examples include: hosting a discussion list, in-person meetings at ELUNA and IGeLU, and webinars. Activities could involve individuals from the disability community addressing needs with the CoP, and member libraries spotlighting their accessibility initiatives.</p> <p>Champion the future creation of a product accessibility development agreement with Ex Libris to address accessibility defects and issues</p>	
<p>Review date</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>Support Expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain listserv ● Section on ELUNA and IGeLU website with information on how members can communicate with our community of practice and provide feedback ● Shared document repository ● Captioning services for hosted webinars 	
<p>Requires Enhancement Vote</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Start Date / Sunset Date</p>	<p>From: June 2024</p>	<p>To: Review June 2026</p>
<p>Sunset Trigger</p>	<p>Difficulty finding chair replacements, low engagement or low membership</p>	
<p>Leader/Co-Leader</p>	<p><i>To be determined (staggered 2 year terms)</i></p>	

User Group Participants*	<p>Representatives from North American Ex Libris member libraries are invited to attend meetings and participate in discussions.</p> <p>Representatives from IGeLU member libraries are invited to attend meetings and participate in discussions</p>
Ex Libris Participants*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ex Libris Product Owners • Ex Libris liaison who is available to find appropriate expertise to answer the questions the chairs/co-chairs bring forward from the group • Ex Libris attendance at at least one accessibility community of practice meeting a year (scheduled in advance); additional attendance at the request of the community of practice
SC Action Required	ListServ, possibly basecamp access in the future
SC Decision Date	
SC Notes	