ACEF annual report
2025 IGeLU National User Group meeting

Presentation and membership

Founded in 2000, the ACEF users group was formerly known as AUFA (*Association des Utilisateurs Francophones d'Aleph*). It changed its name during an extraordinary general assembly on February 12th 2007 and became the ACEF (*Association des Clients d'Ex Libris France*).

Initially dedicated to Aleph, as its former name suggests, the association has grown with Ex Libris' customers base. Its statutes were amended in 2016 to include ProQuest customers, who did not have their own customer group. The effects of this change have remained limited, with the steady decline in the number of ProQuest customers in France since that date.

By 1st August 2025, the association had 77 members as in 2024 (no further growth in membership expected). The majority of the members are French institutions (most of them being academic libraries), but several customers are from Belgium (University of Liège, Free University of Brussels, European Parliament, etc.) Switzerland (Swiss National library, Swiss Library Service Platform, BCU Lausanne, etc.) or Luxemburg (Court of Justice of the European Union).

Several membership options are available, with annual fees ranging from €50 to €140.

Pays	Adhésions	Institutions
France	53	66
Belgique	4	4
Suisse	4	4
Luxembourg	1	1
Grèce	1	1
Italie	1	1
Total général	**64**	**77**

ACEF membership by country of origin

Alma and Primo are the most widely used softwares among the members of the association with at least 54 and 59 customers (both Primo BO and Primo VE). Aleph and SFX are still used by few

institutions (about 10 members for SFX, 5 Alepg). The others (Summon, 360 Link, Digitool, Rosetta, etc.) have become marginalized.

Logiciels : progression 2024-2025
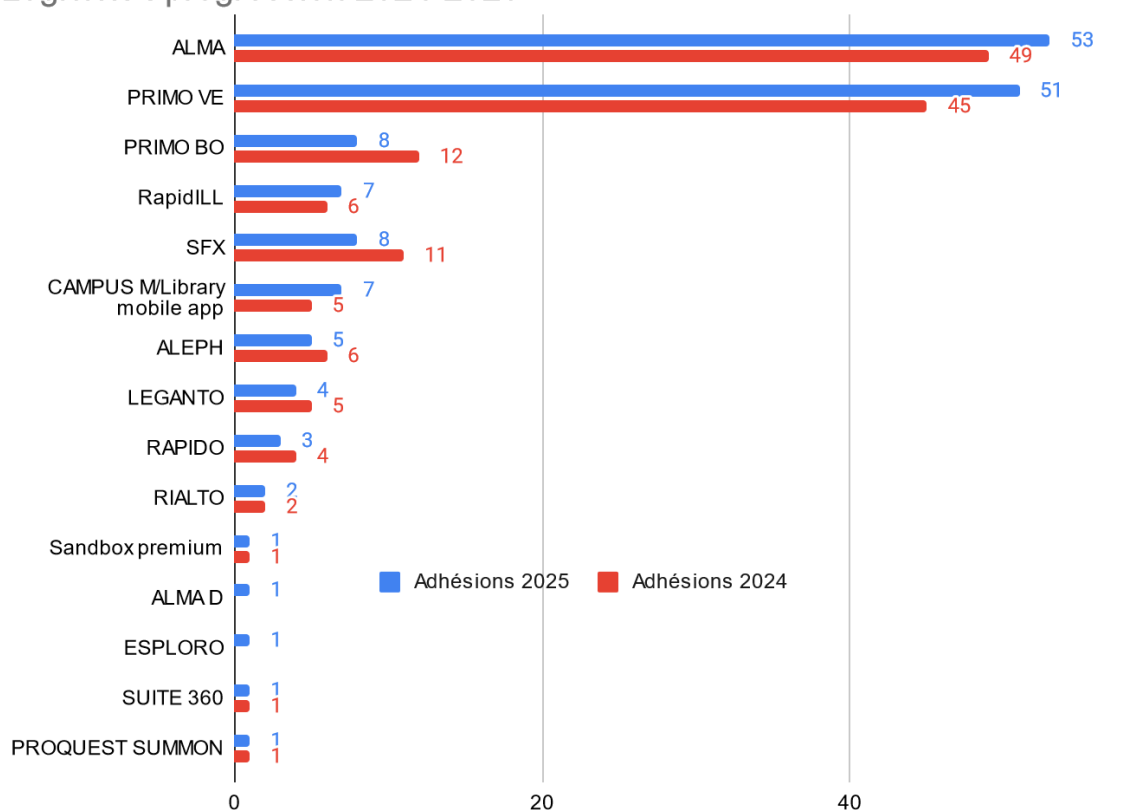
Organization

The association is directed by an executive committee composed of 6 persons.
The committee is assisted by a group of several referents. Most of them are referents for one software (Alma and Primo => 2 persons each, Leganto and SFX => one person each). As such, they are mainly in charge of coordinating votes for CERV and monitoring changes in these softwares. The other people are in charge of a thematic folder : the translation of the UIs from the English to the French (3 colleagues) ; the evolution of the cataloging format (one person) ; the sharing of IT developments (two persons).
The broadcast list is still very active with an average of 80 messages sent each month for almost 405 registered persons.

Main events since the last IGeLU meeting

Training campaign

The 2024-25 training sessions (58 hours for 101 trainees) covered :
- Alma administration
- Primo VE administration

- Primo BO administration
- SFX administration
- Analytics

Training is provided by association members paid by ACEF. They are free of charge for member establishments.

All of these courses are available online on the association's Intranet site (the videos are broadcasted thanks Youtube and a private channel).

2 webinars were organized to present how Alma's APIs work and the IT developments made by some of our members : resource sharing and purchase requests forms; broken link report form

One webinar was dedicated to Managing electronic documentation statistics via Sushi harvesting, in connection with Clarivate's request to retrieve data used in the French national portal for collecting statistics on electronic resources, Ez mesure. https://ezmesure.couperin.org/

General Meeting

Our annual meeting was held in Paris, on June 10 &11. We were hosted by Institut National d'histoire de l'Art, right in the heart of Paris . This meeting was attended by almost 100 people.

The first morning was dedicated to the review of our activities ; the afternoon to Ex Libris for a presentation focusing on the following topics : Alma and Primo VE roadmap ; Primo NDE ; Library workflows ; Specto.

The second day was devoted to experience feedbacks in the form of several sessions

- API acquisition management

- Koha/Primo integration

- Configuring letters in Alma

- Learning to work with regular expressions

Alma/Sudoc Synchronization

26 institutions benefit now from synchronization between the national SUDOC catalog (shared catalog of the French academic libraries) and Alma for ebooks (the circuit was the subject of a presentation at IGELU 2023). Support webinars were organized, as well as sessions on cataloging individual titles and managing duplicates.

The project to set up the same type of synchronization circuit for e-journals and printed copies is at a standstill, and Abes will probably not be working on it before its reinformatization (2027-2028).

ACEF also participated in the preparatory work for drafting the specifications for changing the ABES information system.

Outlooks for the coming year

A number of projects will be carried out this year:

- Establish consortium membership for IGELU via ACEF for ACEF members, in order to facilitate the membership process and increase participation by French-speaking institutions within IGELU.

- Reinstate regular meetings with the Ex-libris teams: ensure widespread implementation of the customer success program in France, improve follow-up on specific requests concerning French suppliers (books, electronic documentation, CDI), or concerning Unimarc format, and provide training materials and documentation in French.

- Primo NDE: several French-speaking institutions have volunteered to implement Primo NDE. Their feedback on this change will be shared with ACEF members, and new training courses will need to be set up.

- Integrating linked open data into Alma and Primo is a major challenge for our members. French institutions use Unimarc for document cataloging, and we will have to work with Exlibris to adapt the functions already offered (like infos cards) to our national format.

- ACEF will continue to regularly takes part in exchanges with ABES (notably as part of the Abes reinformatization project) to draw up the specifications for the future national catalog management system.

On behalf of the ACEF user group
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August 2025
http://a-c-e-f.org