

# ITALIAN EX LIBRIS USERS ASSOCIATION – ITALE

## Annual Report 2025

### Introduction

ITALE was established in 1999 as the Association of the Italian institutions that adopted ALEPH. Since January 2007, the Association has been open to all institutions using all Ex Libris products.

ITALE became a member of IGeLU in June 2015.

Since 2020, all institutions that use Italian as their official language are welcome to join ITALE.

*ITALE "can evolve only through the commitment and participation of all, through the sharing of experiences and knowledge, the exchange of ideas, and the coordination of common needs, thus overcoming obstacles and challenges for which individual efforts would be insufficient"*<sup>1</sup>.

These principles are inspired by the UNESCO Manifest for public libraries, which "*proclaims the belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and welfare through the minds of all people*"<sup>2</sup>.

Members 2025: 49 Institutions; 35 ITALE institutions are also members of IGeLU, 29 of which are in consortium mode.

Membership fee: 250,00 € (it covers group activities and projects) per year<sup>3</sup>.

Membership fee: 500,00 € (for ITALE and IGeLU Consortium member) per year.

Products in use: Aleph, Alma, Alma-Digital, Leganto, Primo and Primo VE, SFX, Summon; a few institutions use also Bx, CampusM, DigiTool, Esploro, RapidILL, Rosetta. Some members have chosen EDS as Discovery tool, merging it with Alma. One institution is testing Rialto Collection development.

As its Statute<sup>4</sup> states, ITALE is eager to gather feedback on needs, suggestions, issues, and requests about Ex Libris products, and we aim to share them with other national user groups.

For these reasons, ITALE manages a shared Support Center account to open cases of general interest of Italian community and encourages and sponsors its members' attendance at the IGeLU meetings.

We share documentation and information regarding Ex Libris products on our website; we also maintain a mailing list that is only available to ITALE members for the purpose of sharing information, clarifications, and queries.

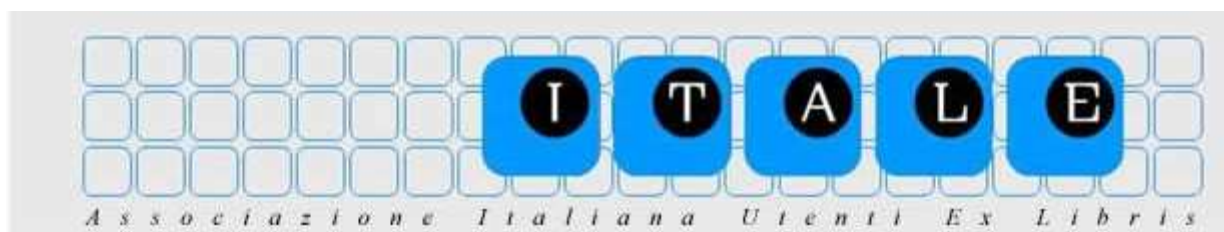
Most members of ITALE uses the UNIMARC standard as a cataloguing format. Therefore, the association is actively working to guarantee the compliance of Ex Libris software with this

<sup>1</sup> Cosa è l'Associazione ITALE, <https://itale.igelu.org/cose-itale/>.

<sup>2</sup> The IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 2022, <https://www.ifla.org/public-library-manifesto/>.

<sup>3</sup> From 2026 the fee will be raised at 300,00 €.

<sup>4</sup> Statuto di ITALE, <https://itale.igelu.org/statuto/>.



standard and advocates for the extension of enhancements, created for MARC21, to UNIMARC specifications.

### ITALE working groups

Currently we have seven active Working Groups focused on the following topics:

1. Alma: chair Maria Teresa De Gregori (University of Roma Tor Vergata) [de.gregori@biblio.uniroma2.it](mailto:de.gregori@biblio.uniroma2.it);
2. Alma-Digital: chair Leonardo Bassanini (University of Milano) [leonardo.bassanini@unimi.it](mailto:leonardo.bassanini@unimi.it);
3. Alma electronic resources: chair Valeria Valenti (University of Bergamo) [valeria.valenti@unibg.it](mailto:valeria.valenti@unibg.it);
4. Bibliographic standards and Italian National Union Catalogue (SBN) integration with Aleph/Alma: chair Raffaella Sprugnoli (University of Pisa) [raffaella.sprugnoli@unipi.it](mailto:raffaella.sprugnoli@unipi.it);
5. Discovery tools: chair Silvia Trevenzoli (University of Verona) [silvia.trevenzoli@univr.it](mailto:silvia.trevenzoli@univr.it);
6. Leganto: chair Matteo Dal Zovo (University of Verona) [matteo.dalzovo@univr.it](mailto:matteo.dalzovo@univr.it);
7. Resource sharing (includes Aleph & Alma integration with ILL SBN, the ILL Services offered by Italian National Union Catalogue [SBN], and Aleph & Alma integration with NILDE [Network Inter-Library Document Exchange] for DD Services): temporary chair Arianna Trecarichi (Scuola Normale Superiore) [arianna.trecarichi@sns.it](mailto:arianna.trecarichi@sns.it), chair Vera Galliani (IULM Milano) [vera.galliani@iulm.it](mailto:vera.galliani@iulm.it).

The working groups help ITALE community with specific issues and develop projects to enhance functionalities of Ex Libris products and coordinate the selection of requests for CERV process votes.

### Association Events 2024-2025

Every year ITALE organizes two events, one in Spring and one in the Fall, each consisting of:

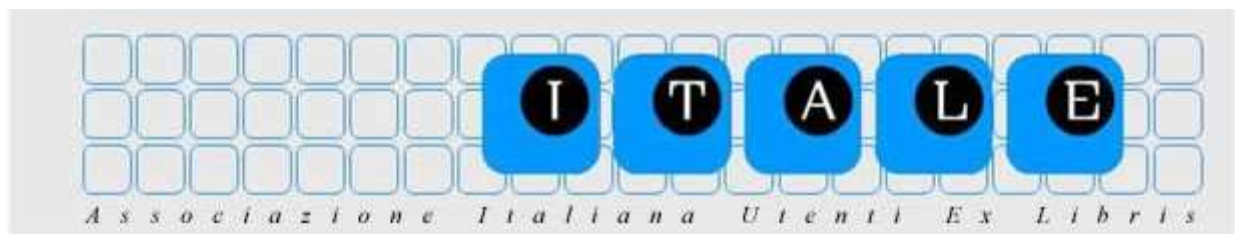
- a workshop reserved for the ITALE working groups, for sharing experiences and setting collaborations;
- the assembly of all members;
- a seminar / workshop open to the librarian community at large.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 we met in Pisa, as guests of the *Scuola Normale Superiore*. The Steering Committee organized the seminar "*Oltre i limiti e le differenze: dati, tesori nascosti e sirene: Novità dell'IGeLU conference di Copenhagen*" (i.e. *Beyond Limits and Differences: Data, Hidden Treasures and Mermaids: News from Copenhagen IGeLU Conference*) to share the news from Copenhagen.

We met again in Catania, on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Instead of hosting a seminar, we opted to invite Yoel Kortick, from Clarivate, for "*An in depth and live demo of new and existing features in Alma and Primo VE*".

### Association projects and activities 2024-2025

In December 2024, the General Assembly approved an agreement to promote the sharing of bibliographic resources between the ITALE institutions for free. Since then, thirteen institutions signed and implemented the agreement, and more will sign in the near future.



Since the Fall 2024, ITALE and Ex Libris set up an agreement for the revision of Italian translations to be posted in Alma, Leganto and Primo VE. Quarterly, Ex Libris provides lists of new labels with a suggested Italian translation to be revised. The working groups have about two months to accept or revise each list for the next release. In addition to this activity, members of Itale working groups, each for their area of expertise, are also collaborating in the creation of a shared Italian glossary. This resource is intended to serve as a reference base for future translations, helping ensure consistency, clarity, and alignment with the terminology used across the platforms

Alma ITALE working group is currently cooperating with Ex Libris to facilitate the upload in Alma of electronic invoices (in xml format) coming from the Italian centralized invoicing system (SDI).

ITALE is working to initialize a conversation with Ex Libris and ICCU (the Italian central authority for bibliographic control) to promote the extension to the UNIMARC environment of the LOD architecture in order to enrich the Italian authority file, which is managed by ICCU and shared in Alma.

In 2025 seven Italian institutions joint the managed release of NDE UX and are now testing the new Primo interface: Sistema Bibliotecario Trentino, LIUC, Università dell'Insubria, Università di Milano, Università di Genova, Libera Università di Bolzano and Pontificia Università Gregoriana.

The University of Milano is also involved in the testing of the new Rialto Collection Development feature, which will be released for the interested users in the Fall 2025.

ITALE members participate to several IGeLu/Ex Libris initiatives:

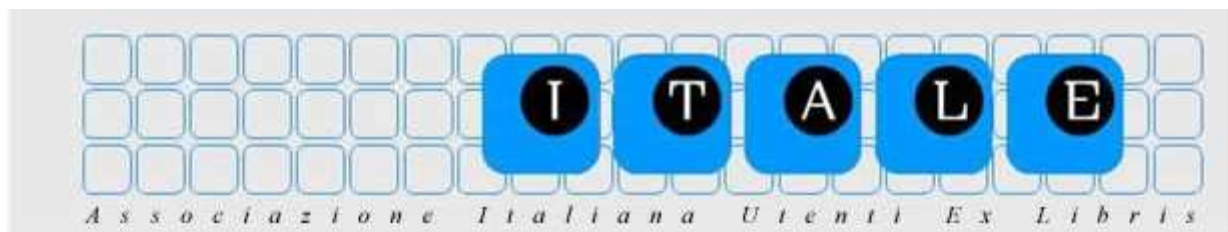
- Paolo Buoso (Free University of Bolzano): IGeLu steering committee and Leganto product working group;
- Laura Ballestra and Chiara Pincirolì (LIUC): Esploro product working group;
- Carla Savarè (University of Milan): Community Zone management group (CZMG);
- Nazzareno Bedini (University of Pisa): Alma UX focus group.

### **Steering Committee 2024-26**

Chair: Silvia Ceccarelli (University of Insubria, Varese and Como)  
[silvia.ceccarelli@uninsubria.it](mailto:silvia.ceccarelli@uninsubria.it)

Member: Nazzareno Bedini (University of Pisa)  
[nazzareno.bedini@unipi.it](mailto:nazzareno.bedini@unipi.it)

Member: Carola Della Porta (University of Milano)  
[carola.dellaporta@unimi.it](mailto:carola.dellaporta@unimi.it)



Member: Anna Maria Pastorini (University of Genoa)  
[anna.maria.pastorini@unige.it](mailto:anna.maria.pastorini@unige.it)

Member: Silvia Trevenzoli (University of Verona)  
[silvia.trevenzoli@univr.it](mailto:silvia.trevenzoli@univr.it)

Secretariat: Marta Putti (University of Siena)  
[puttim@unisi.it](mailto:puttim@unisi.it)  
[associazione@itale.org](mailto:associazione@itale.org)

Working group Coordinator: Anna Maria Pastorini (University of Genoa)  
[anna.maria.pastorini@unige.it](mailto:anna.maria.pastorini@unige.it)

### **Information and documentation**

Further information, technical documents, and news can be found on the website  
<http://itale.igelu.org>

*Silvia Trevenzoli*