



ITALIAN EX LIBRIS USERS ASSOCIATION – ITALE

Annual Report 2026

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.

From 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"*¹.

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"*².

Members 2026: 49 Institutions; 38 ITALE institutions are also members of IGeLU, 32 of which are in consortium mode.

Membership fee: 300,00 € (it covers group activities and projects) per year.

Membership fee: 550,00 € (for ITALE and IGeLU Consortium member) per year.

Products in use: Aleph, Alma, Alma-Digital, Leganto, Primo, Primo VE, Primo NDE, Rialto, SFX, Specto, Summon; a few institutions use also Bx, CampusM, DigiTool, Esploro, RapidILL, Rapido, Rosetta. Some members have chosen EDS as Discovery tool, merging it with Alma.

As its Statute³ 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 the 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 use the UNIMARC standard as a cataloguing format. Therefore, the association is actively working to guarantee the compliance of Ex Libris software with this standard and advocates for the extension of enhancements, created for MARC21, to UNIMARC specifications.

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

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

³ Statuto di ITALE, <https://itale.igelu.org/statuto/>.



ITALE working groups

Currently we have eight 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;
2. Alma-Digital: chair Leonardo Bassanini (University of Milano) leonardo.bassanini@unimi.it;
3. Alma electronic resources: chair Valeria Valenti (University of Bergamo) 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;
5. Discovery tools: chair Silvia Trevenzoli (University of Verona) silvia.trevenzoli@univr.it;
6. Leganto: chair Matteo Dal Zovo (University of Verona) 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, chair Vera Galliani (IULM Milano) vera.galliani@iulm.it.
8. Indicators and Metrics Project Group: chair Carola Della Porta (University of Milan) carola.dellaporta@unimi.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 2025-2026

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.

Following the decision taken in 2025 to hold the Autumn General Assembly remotely, ITALE continued to combine in-person and online participation formats in order to facilitate members' engagement and broaden community involvement.

The 2026 Spring Initiatives were hosted by the Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome on 8 and 9 June 2026. ITALE organized a seminar entitled "Digital Lending: From Theory to Practice – Legal Foundations and Application Perspectives." The seminar explored the legal framework, practical implications, and future opportunities of digital lending services in libraries. The event was held exclusively in person; however, it was also streamed live through the Pontifical Oriental Institute's YouTube channel, enabling broader participation from the Italian library community.

The Spring meeting confirmed the Association's commitment to promoting professional development, knowledge sharing, and discussion on topics of strategic relevance for libraries and



information services and reaffirmed the decision, adopted in 2025, to organize only one in-person event per year. This approach aims to balance opportunities for face-to-face engagement with the benefits of remote participation, ensuring wider accessibility for members across the country.

Association projects and activities 2025-2026

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

ITALE continued its collaboration with Ex Libris on several initiatives aimed at enhancing support for the UNIMARC format within the Alma and Primo environment. A significant area of activity concerns the implementation of Linked Open Data (LOD) for UNIMARC catalogues. This project has evolved into an international collaboration involving not only ITALE but also ACEF (Association des Clients d'Ex Libris en France), the French Ex Libris user group. Together, ITALE, ACEF and Ex Libris are working to extend Linked Open Data capabilities to library catalogues based on the UNIMARC standard, promoting greater visibility and interoperability of bibliographic data.

In parallel, the Bibliographic standards and Italian National Union Catalogue (SBN) integration with Aleph/Alma Working Group is collaborating with Ex Libris to enable the discovery and indexing of UNIMARC authority records within Primo VE. At present, this functionality is available only for MARC 21 authority records. The objective of the project is to provide libraries using UNIMARC with comparable access to authority data through the discovery interface, improving navigation, authority control, and user experience.

Several Italian institutions are actively working on the implementation of NDE (Next Discovery Experience). A number of these projects are expected to go live by the end of 2026. ITALE, and in particular the Discovery Working Group, has played an important role in supporting member institutions throughout the implementation process. The Association has facilitated the exchange of experiences, best practices, and technical information among participating libraries, helping to build a collaborative community around NDE adoption. To strengthen coordination, ITALE has also promoted a structured dialogue with Ex Libris, enabling Italian institutions to present common requests, share feedback, and discuss implementation challenges through a coordinated approach. This collaboration has been further supported through the use of a dedicated Basecamp workspace, which serves as a shared environment for documentation, discussion, and project updates.

The University of Milano is also involved in the testing of the new Rialto Collection Development feature.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The current three-year mandate of the President and the ITALE Committee will conclude on 31 December 2026. In accordance with the Association's bylaws, elections for the renewal of the governing bodies will be held in November 2026, ensuring continuity in the Association's activities and governance.

Information and documentation

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