



ACEF (Association of French-Speaking Ex-libris Customers) annual report 2026 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.

As of October 1, 2026, the association had 79 members. Three new institutions joined us, while one library left the association due to a change in its library management system.. 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).

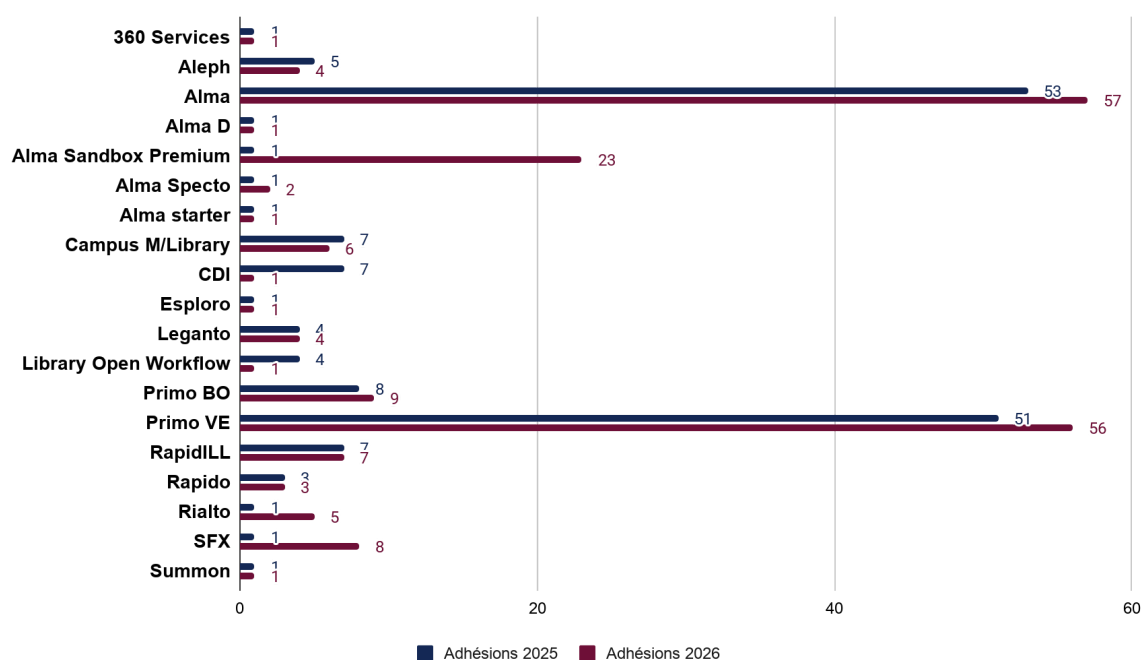
Several membership options are available, with annual fees ranging from €50 to €140.

Pays		Nombre d'adhésions	Nombre d'institutions
	Belgique	4	4
	France	56	67
	Grèce	1	1
	Italie	1	1
	Luxembourg	2	2
	Suisse	4	4
Total général		68	79

ACEF membership by country of origin

Alma and Primo are the most widely used softwares among the members of the association with at least 57 and 65 customers (both Primo BO and Primo VE). Aleph and SFX are still used by few institutions (about 10 members for SFX, 5 Aleph). The others (Summon, 360 Link, Digttool, Rosetta, etc.) have become marginalized.

Logiciels : progression 2025 - 2026



Organization

The association is directed by an executive committee composed of 7 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 (6 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 2025-26 training sessions (58 hours for 23 trainees) covered :

- Alma administration (8 sessions totaling 23 hours of training)
- Primo VE administration (5 sessions totaling 12 hours of training)

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).

Technical webinars

Three webinars were hosted this year. These sessions provide an opportunity for our members to share developments built using Alma APIs.

This year's topics included:

- Updating holdings statement data from external sources;
- Tools for optimizing circulation management (bulk renewals, staggered due dates, and an offline loan injection tool for Alma);
- A presentation of Cloud Apps developed by our members

Interface Translation Working Group

A group of 6 colleagues centralizes translation requests, analyzes them, and forwards them to Ex Libris on behalf of the French-speaking community. This year, they submitted 363 adaptation requests. Their mission also includes reviewing the translations proposed for new interfaces using the files provided by Ex Libris. This year, they reviewed 4,461 labels and suggested 261 modifications.

General Meeting

Our annual meeting was held in Poitiers (in southwestern France), on June 15 & 16. We were hosted by Institut University of Poitiers. 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 ; Library workflows ; Specto ; Rialto ; Knowledge Center Portal.

On the second day, ABES (our national bibliographic agency) gave a presentation on the impact of system changes on data exchange flows between our systems and the national database.

Ex Libris then provided a detailed, step-by-step walkthrough of the transition to Primo NDE.

The afternoon featured two parallel sessions:

- A roundtable discussion on the feedback and reception surrounding *Research Assistant*;
- A hands-on workshop on bibliographic data cleanup (using *CAFÉ*, a tool developed by the University of Montpellier, or *OpenRefine*).

System Overhaul at Abes

This year was marked by the call for tenders for the system overhaul of our national bibliographic agency. The contract aimed to replace the bibliographic data management system that powers Sudoc, our national union catalog et B@con ou notional KB. A member of our association participated in the procurement process representing ACEF, alongside two representatives from other user groups (EBSCO and Koha).

This system transition is a strategic initiative for French academic libraries, which catalog their collections directly in the national database before records are exported to their local systems.

Clarivate won the contract, and Abes is currently implementing Alma and Primo VE to run Sudoc.

The rollout of Rapido to replace the current solution is also a major challenge, and Clarivate's contribution will be essential

Abes is therefore joining our association. Despite the institution's scope (representing 160 library networks) and its key role in the higher education and research documentary landscape, it will be treated as a standard member of our association.

However, the national agency will take the lead on all matters related to UNIMARC integration in Alma.

Implementation of Linked Open Data (LOD) for UNIMARC

ACEF worked with Ex Libris and ITALE to provide the detailed specifications required to implement Linked Open Data capabilities for UNIMARC

Transition to Primo NDE

Most of our members made the transition to Primo NDE for the start of the 2026 academic year. Those who had enrolled in the cohort program are largely unanimous in saying that the program was not very helpful.

We are still waiting for Primo documentation in French. Training issues related to Mixpanel are also very important.

Implementation of a centralized membership for iGeLU

Last year, ACEF partnered with iGeLU to establish a centralized membership scheme, aiming to spare individual institutions the hassle of joining iGeLU separately. To date, 24 institutions have taken advantage of this option.

Outlooks for the coming year

A number of projects will be carried out this year:

- Migration of the ACEF Website to the iGeLU Platform
- Support for Abes to assist with its system overhaul.
- Support for institutions in implementing the new data exchange workflows with Sudoc and configuring Rapido.

On behalf of the ACEF user group

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<http://a-c-e-f.org>