

## **MELI (Ex Libris Users Group – Israel)**

### **Annual Report 2026**

#### **Introduction:**

Founded in 2005, MELI is the Israeli Group for Ex Libris users, dedicated to fostering knowledge, sharing, and collaboration among Ex Libris academic libraries, with a focus on innovation, accessibility, and integration with Ex Libris products.

The Group includes 46 institution members:

- 11 university libraries
- 29 college libraries
- 5 special libraries (including the National Library of Israel and the Israel Museum)
- 1 public library
- New members:
  - The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (JAMD)
  - Kaye Academic College of Education
  - Efrata College
  - Ashkelon Academic College

#### **Steering Committee Members:**

- Naomi Abraham (Bar-Ilan University) - Chair
- Boaz Dotan (University of Haifa) - Treasurer
- Irit Kloner-Margalit (Tel Aviv University) - Website, Listservs Administrator
- Amy Dinnerstein (College of Management Academic Studies) - Website
- Yifat Albahari (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) - Recording Secretary
- Alona Kabesa (Tel-Hai Academic College)
- Yifat Belous (Weizmann Institute of Science)

## **MELI Product Working Groups:**

MELI currently maintains three active working groups dedicated to addressing matters related to primary Ex Libris products:

**Alma Product Working Group** – Focuses on optimizing Alma functionality and metadata management across institutions.

Chair: Amit Niv (University of Haifa)

**Primo Product Working Group** – Dedicated to enhancing search and retrieval in Primo VE, especially for Hebrew and Arabic content.

Chair: Nir Zinger (University of Haifa)

**Electronic Resources Product Working Group** – Works to improve access, integration, and metadata quality of Israeli electronic resources in Alma and Primo.

Chair: Sarit Sambol-Szasz (Bar-Ilan University)

## **Israeli Representation in IGeLU and International Groups:**

- **Analytics CoP** - Maya Amichal, Group Coordinator (Weizmann Institute of Science), Ariel Lock (National Library of Israel)
- **IGeLU Conference Planning Committee** - Maya Amichal (Weizmann Institute of Science)
- **RapidILL PWG** - Dr. Lynne Porat, Group Coordinator (University of Haifa)
- **Primo PWG** - Nir Zinger, Enhancements Coordinator (University of Haifa)
- **Primo BO to VE Feature Alignment Project** - Nir Zinger (University of Haifa)
- **Next Discovery Experience User Experience Focus Group** - Nir Zinger (University of Haifa) **Mixpanel Focus Group** - Nir Zinger (University of Haifa)
- **Alma UX Focus Group** - Ruhama Amouyal-Liberman, Olga Gilshtein (Bar-Ilan University), Dr. Aviva Levin-Belousov (University of Haifa), Dafna Mizrahi-Melcer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Esther Guggenheim, Dr. Ahava Cohen (National Library of Israel), Naomi Galor (Reichman University), Daphna Frimerman-Kolka, Sivan Kedar, Rona Terenblit (Tel Aviv University)
- **Alma Authority Focus Group** - Dr. Ahava Cohen (National Library of Israel), Sharon Shapira-Glaubach (University of Haifa)

## **MELI SC Main Activities 2026:**

### **MELI@10 Webinars between January and November 2026:**

- Realto - today and the way to tomorrow
- Connected to the world - different ways to integrate with Alma
- Insights from the Field: Lectures from the recent IGeLU conference
- Understanding the DEDUP and FRBR processes for Primo VE
- Mastering the Transition to Primo NDE
- Specto
- OnCourse
- Nexus Extend and Connect
- Mixpanel for the NDE UI (will be given in November)

Over 1,000 participants in all. Presentations and recordings for all webinars are available on the MELI website / YouTube channel.

### **Online Workshops:**

- SUSHI and COUNTER in Alma
- Providers Platform
- Workshop for the Israeli Information Providers

### **MELI Annual Conference 2025:**

- The 19th MELI Annual Conference was held in January 2026 at the University of Haifa. We welcomed over 200 participants and achieved high overall satisfaction.
- Preparations are underway for the 2026 MELI Annual Conference, scheduled for December 2026.

### **Annual Meeting with Ex Libris Management:**

The Steering Committee and Chairs of the Alma, Primo, and ER PWGs met with Ex Libris management in July 2026 to discuss specific issues affecting the Israeli community.

## **IGeLU 2026 Travel Grant Recipients:**

**This year MELI emphasized "giving back to the community" and thus increased the amount of the Travel Grant to the IGeLU conference, giving priority to first-time participants:**

- Dr. Aviva Levin Belousov (University of Haifa) - All answers are there! Creating Interactive Fulfillment Dashboard in Power BI based on Alma Analytics Data, assisted by Claude AI
- Amit Niv and Michal Lahav (University of Haifa) - How to Train Your AI Cataloger - Local Theses Cataloging Automation and Subject Heading
- Osnat Levy (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) - Hidden Pearls: Technological Insights from a Large-Scale Library Integration

## **Working groups activities and open updates:**

### **Alma Product Working Group:**

Most issues have been resolved. We have one outstanding case (#08339173) of extreme slowness and varied performance issues in Alma on Sundays. The Issue is being investigated.

### **Electronic Resources Working Group:**

This year, the working group concentrated on enriching the CDI with unique Israeli content collections. Several new collections were successfully integrated, while others are currently under evaluation and implementation.

#### **Collections integrated during the year:**

- Shalem Fund
- Chief Scientist Office Database, Ministry of Education
- Jerusalem Center for Foreign Affairs and Security
- Project Ben-Yehuda

#### **Collections under development:**

- Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research
- Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy Research
- Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

### **Primo Product Working Group:**

- The group has decided to discontinue work on retrieval-related issues unless they are critical. This includes auxiliary retrieval mechanisms such as acronym files, search expansion, and similar components. Instead, efforts will focus on AI-based tools, including the **Research Assistant** and **Natural Language Search**, and later on **Nexus**.
- The MELI community is awaiting the addition of a Table of Contents (TOC) field to the enhancement currently being developed by the Melingo retrieval mechanism, which is expected to improve information retrieval from both local records and the CDI.

- Throughout the year, extensive testing of the **NDE UI** was conducted, resulting in 30+ SF cases related to Hebrew-language functionality and the Israeli community. The vast majority of these issues have been resolved, and most major research institutions have already migrated to the **NDE UI**. The remaining institutions are expected to complete their migration by January 2027, with a small number transitioning later. The aim is to complete the migration of all institutions by early 2027, and we are optimistic about achieving this target.

### **Naomi Abraham - Chair**

Submitted to the IGeLU National User Group meeting (INUG)  
on behalf of the MELI Steering Committee

September 2026