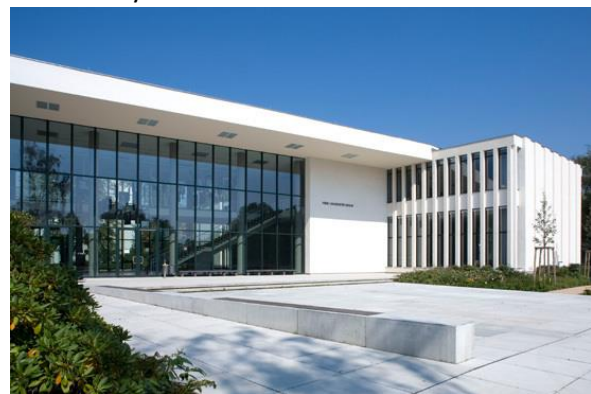


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REPORT
from the
2013 IGeLU (International Group of Ex Libris Users) Conference
Berlin, 8-10 September, 2013

With the financial grant of BI-International (Bibliothek & Information International www.bi-international.de) I could participate in the annual IGeLU conference. This conference is held in different countries organized by institutions that used one or more of the Ex Libris products. In 2013 the conference was held in Berlin hosted by the Free University Berlin.

All activities except the Sunday social event took place at Freie Universität Berlin, the Plenary sessions were in Auditorium Maximum in the Henry-Ford-Building, the Breakout Sessions were in various halls in the Henry-Ford-Building.



Participating in the annual conferences is very useful because user experiences and Ex Libris demonstrations can be heard.

My institution, the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, uses some Ex Libris products which are the following: Aleph, SFX and MetaLib. The library is not member of IGeLU and because of this the registration fee was high for me, so this trip was made possible by the grant of BI-International that covered conference registration fee and accommodation.

I participated in the pre-conference INUG (IGeLU International User Groups) meeting on 7 September as member of the management of MACS, the Hungarian Users Group. In the meeting the members of IGeLU Steering Committee and the Product and Special Interest Working Groups were present, later joined by Ex Libris management, as well. We discussed about new developments, the testing procedures of existing products, the new support site Salesforce and the migration from PivoTal to Salesforce.



IGeLU SC and National/Regional User Group Representatives meeting

IGeLU Conference 8-10 September at Freie Universität Berlin

The IGeLU Conference began with an opening session and a keynote speech in the Auditorium Maximum. Speeches were given by the representative of the Freie Universität Berlin, then **Jiri Kende** Chair, IGeLU Steering Committee followed by Ex Libris management, **Matti Shem** Tov President and CEO and **Koby Rosenthal** Corporate VP & General Manager Europe. After the welcome remarks there was a very interesting keynote speech *The History of the World Library, 2040-2090* delivered by **Michael Cotta-Schønberg** (Director of the University Library in Copenhagen and Dep. Director of the Danish National Library). It was about the World Library shown as if today was the past from the year 2090 instead of showing the evolution from now.

A lot of sessions dealt with the new product, Alma and the discovery services using Primo. It was very useful to hear the feedback of early adopters and to learn what sort of problems they met during the migration. It is necessary to plan data migration to Alma with a training session. It helped the staff to think about the workflow of Alma as it supports the entire suite of library operations like selection, acquisition, metadata management, digitization and fulfillment. Alma integrates different products and functions, Alma is offered as a cloud service. At the time before Alma, separate products such as Aleph, SFX, DigiTool and/or non-Ex Libris systems were used, which are still in use where Alma is not yet introduced. I think in some years, we will be able to report the first Alma user in Hungary. There is an extra budget to change Aleph to Alma and it takes time to prepare the Hungarian version. The translation is supported by the Hungarian Support Office.

There were parallel sessions so sometimes it was difficult for me to choose which session to participate in. I was interested in Aleph the integrated library system, the SFX OpenURL link resolver and the MetaLib, which is the gateway to electronic resources.

As migrating to Alma would mean extra costs for us, for the time being we focus on upgrading the next version of Aleph. The enhancements of the next version of Aleph were reported by the Ex Libris specialists and members of Aleph PWG (Product Working Group). I was very glad to hear about some very useful elements such as overdue messages when a loaned item is returned, the possibility of keeping the original order of subfields when the librarian corrects the heading and others that help librarians working with Aleph.

Networked GUI scenarios by **Theo Engelman** (Senior ICT consultant, Utrecht University Library and IGeLU SC) was about GUI running in a browser window. I decided to collect more information about operating with networked GUI instead of installing the client on the actual desktop and test it in our library. It is interesting for us because last year we changed workstations to virtual desktops using NComputing L300 Ethernet Virtual Desktop for library patrons in the Reading Room. This virtual desktop is noiseless and costs less than typical desktop PC so it is worth testing how the librarians work using virtual desktops.

SFX is the OpenURL link resolver that is used to access full text content through the SFX menu where users get services provided by the library. We have statistical tools for e-resource usage, we can upload COUNTER files via SUSHI or do it manually and we can do analyses by using UStat the Ex Libris COUNTER report analysis service. But sometimes we need other information to manage that can not be produced by using built-in services. The presentation *Your MySQL Database: The Undiscovered Country* by **Mathias Kratzer** (Head of Library Network Services, Bavarian Library Network) dealing with the „forbidden” SFX territory, provided an insight into how to use MySQL, run scripts. Using MySQL we can count the active or the really active object portfolios and answer such questions as how many e-book targets we have.

A very useful and impressive presentation was *Conceptual proposal for an alternative interface to the SFX AZ Books* by **Michelangelo Mazzardo Marques Viana** (Library Systems Coordinator,

Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul – PUCRS) that reviewed an alternative interface for the e-book AZ list.

In MetaLib/MetaLib+ sessions product update from Ex Libris and reports of the group's activities could be heard. A survey was initiated, the seven questions were about the future of MetaLib. *MetaLib: Dead or alive?* by **Andrew Brown** (Swansea University). The results of the survey were based on one hundred responses. Over half of MetaLib customers were still using Metalib 'Classic' and 48,9% of MetaLib customers had no plans to change. It seems that MetaLib lives on in new interfaces.

MetaLib is more than metasearch. It is a portal software but in the background there are valuable functionalities. The presentation *MetaLib: Hidden treasures & endangered species* by **Mario Kowalak** (Digital services, University Library, Freie Universität Berlin) was about the new approach. It is better to think of MetaLib as a virtual reading room. All relevant e-resources, free sources and subscribed e-resources of the library can be collected. MetaLib is a tool for users to discover the resources. The link resolver is integrated so user can access the full text content. To make the MetaLib-sources more visible, a script based HTML-pages is prepared out of MetaLib-IRDs, which is then indexed by Google and other search engines.

The Ex Libris General Question & Answers session attracted a large number of people as usual. In the Program brochure we got the form for questions and the deadline for submitting questions was Monday. The Alma questions and the general questions were presented with Ex Libris Board of Management. As this session was on the last day of the Conference the questions corresponded to the presentation, too. Several questions were about the new product Alma, the implementation procedure of Alma, the uResolver, the cloud technology used by Ex Libris and the Ex Libris Customer Center.

Before the closing session there was a very interesting keynote speech, titled *The imperfect past, the insufficient present, and the absolutely perfect future* by **Dr. Thorsten Koch** (Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum Berlin). We got a historical review off the transformation from batch processing to cloud computing of today. Books are searchable, we can read books in Kindle and make notes/remarks without messing up the book. Now, as it is called information age, we are visible. Smartphone knows where we are, who we are communicating with. Google glass sees what we see, web calendar knows what we intend, Kindle sees what we read, Google knows what we are searching for, Facebook knows whom we are friends with, etc. Most of the information is already in the cloud and all the information connected to us is searchable.

The Social Event on 8th September was at the Jewish Museum. The building complex completely overwhelmed me. With guided tours we visited the old baroque building and the postmodern Libeskind building, we walked through the spaces, visited the Garden of Exile.



After the tour, reception took place in the Glass Courtyard where we could meet friends and talk about several things we were interested in.

The Conference was very useful for me, it is always a kind of a brainstorm for me. I get several ideas how to make our system better for librarians and for library patrons. It is the place where we can exchange information and learn about best practices. As a follow up, I will create a presentation for the Hungarian User Group to inform the libraries about the new functions of Aleph's new version and about the enhancements of SFX and MetaLib, and of course about the new product Alma to plan the migration to it as this is our future.

References:

<http://igelu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Berlin-Programme-2013.pdf>

Presentations: <http://igelu.org/conferences/2013-berlin/archive-of-presentations>