משתמשי אקס ליבריס - ישראל
Ex Libris Users Group - Israel

MELI - Annual Report to INUG 2012

Members

54 member institutions:

- 8 universities / 19 libraries
- 27 colleges
- 7 special libraries (including the National Library of Israel and the Interuniversity Center for Digital Information Services)
- 1 public library

In 2012, a new member, the Central Library for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Handicapped, joined our ranks.

Steering Committee

Esther Guggenheim, National Library of Israel - Chair
Irena Brozgold Latuta, Open University - Development Requests
Marina Kalach, University of Haifa - Internet Site
Michal Ilani, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Maya Amichal, Weizman Institute of Sciences - Treasurer
Ruth Asiskovitz, Sapir College
Tamar Blumendal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Harman Science Library

Organizational Matters

MELI was founded in 2005, but currently has no legal status. This means we cannot open a bank account or issue our own invoices.
The Israeli Information Technology Association which managed the book keeping for MELI, went out of business as of the end of 2011. The efforts of the previous steering committee to find another external organization for this purposed proved to be futile and MELI's money was transferred to the National Library as a temporary solution.
The steering committee sought the approval of the general assembly of members to found a registered association. A lawyer was hired to revise the statutes, but when approaching the managements of the member institutions to find at least two founding members existing disputes between the universities and colleges foiled this initiative.
As a result of this situation MELI was not able to collect dues from the members, nor the support from Ex Libris.
Currently the National Library has approved to take over the management of the MELI finances for at least one more year. The steering committee has to meet with the management and the auditor of the library to set the procedures. Dues for 2012 and 2013 will be collected together. The members are continuously informed on these matters via the mailing list. The annual assembly of members has been postponed until a final solution which can be presented to the members is found.
We are pleased that the normal activities of MELI took place albeit the extra work and the unclear financial situation.

Meeting with Ex Libris

The steering committee met with Ex Libris management representatives in February to discuss specific Israeli issues:

- For Aleph both sides are more or less satisfied with the current state of cooperation.

- There are some issues with unicode and right to left printing which have not yet been solved although there is a new version of htmlprint with full support.
- An open issue is the support for the new BIAF label printing via Aleph because Israeli customers were previously IDnext customers and they still want to charge separate annual service fees.
- Ex Libris offered yearly meetings of the product managers with MELI representatives from libraries that have additional products to discuss problems with Hebrew or other local issues
- The inclusion of Hebrew, Israeli and Judaica sources in the SFX knowledge base and in Primo Central was discussed and Ex Libris asked for assistance from MELI and local libraries
- MELI asked for more involvement with ALMA to make sure Hebrew and other local issues are covered

Training Days

MELI organizes 3-4 training days with a special focus a year each hosted by a different member institution. Last year this included a day on non Aleph Ex Libris products for the first time and this was continued.

The topics of the training days were:

- Primo (20/03) - Aimed at existing users, libraries during in the implementation phase and institutions evaluating Primo and other discovery tools.
- Serials (27/06) - Local implementations and developments at libraries, new features in Aleph ver. 21, EDI and U-Stat
- Circulation, course reading and ILL (25/07) - Local development for course reading at the Tel Hai College, SIP2, implementation of the reading room module at the National Library of Israel including local developments and new features in Aleph ver. 21.

Technical Seminar

MELI in cooperation with Ex Libris organizes a two-day technical seminar biannually. The seminar will take place November 18-19 at the Open University.

The steering committee has asked Ex Libris for extended presentations of Alma and for a list of possible additional topics. An online questionnaire on the additional topics will be sent to the members at the beginning of October.

We will try to include presentations for customers with hosted solutions, as well as for users who maintain their own systems.

Development requests for Aleph v. 22

MELI has 50 development points for special requests from Israeli users. The members were asked to submit their requests in August and the steering committee is currently revising them before submitting them to Ex Libris.

Primo Workgroup

At the Primo training day, the steering committee announced the establishment of a Primo workgroup. Seven people (from the Emek Yezreel College, IDC Herzliya, National Library, the University of Haifa, Tel Aviv University) volunteered for the workgroup. Liaison with steering committee is Ruth Asiskovitz.

The first meeting was in early August: A listserve mailing list for Primo users has been set up. The group will organize a vote among member libraries with Primo on addition of Hebrew, Israeli and Judaica sources to Primo Central.

A major topics is solution for synonyms and homonyms, which because of the nature of the Hebrew language, is more acute in Israel than among other users. Representatives from several libraries and from the Ex Libris management met with representatives of Melingo (http://www.melingo.com) to discuss the integration of their services.
The Primo workgroup will establish direct contacts with Ex Libris and update the steering committee.

Goals for 2013
One of the main goals for the next year is to settle organizational matters either by a permanent agreement with the National Library or by finding a way to register as official association.
We will verify with the members and Ex Libris, if an SFX workgroup should be established.
There some libraries (colleges and small special libraries) which are not yet MELI members. In an effort to include them in our community, we will invite them to send a representative to the seminar in November and/or one of the training days in 2013.

Envolvement in IGeLU
There are currently three Israeli representatives in IGeLU product working groups:

- Maya Amichal, Weizmann Institute of Technology - Aleph, Module coordinator WebOPAC
- Yossi Tissona, College of Management Academic Studies - Aleph, Module coordinator Systems
- Noemi Gradinger, University of Haifa - Primo

Maya Amichal also participated in the collaborative testing for Aleph, ver. 21, in Jerusalem.

Institutions which are IGeLU members participated in the IGeLU development requests and in the joint IGeLU / ELUNA vote on additions to the SFX knowledge base.

In an effort to promote participation at the IGeLU annual conference, MELI continues to cover the costs of the conference, flight and hotel for a staff member of one the member institutions who will present at the conference. This year's stipend goes to Tsachy Horowitz, National Library of Israel, who will present the implementation of the Aleph reading room module and local developments.