

ELUNA Steering Committee
Candidates for 2017 Election

1. Kyle Banerjee
Oregon Health & Science University
2. Kevin Collins
City University of New York
3. Greg Davis
Iowa State University
4. Jimmy Ghaphery
Virginia Commonwealth University
5. Ken Herold
Adelphi University
6. Alexander (Sacha) Jerabek
Université du Québec à Montréal
7. Nathan Mealey
Portland State University
8. Alex Merrill
Washington State University
9. Emily Singley
Boston College

Candidate statements follow, in the above order

Name: Kyle Banerjee
Position Title: Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian
Institution: Oregon Health & Science University
Email address: banerjek@ohsu.edu
Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Alma, Primo

As someone with a consistent record of service extending over 20 years, I am eager to increase my level involvement with the Ex Libris user community.

My experience working for a spectrum of library types with academic, government, and specialized missions such as health sciences has given me a broad understanding of the needs of diverse libraries and users. Having worked in shared environments for two decades, I have a good sense of the systems, data, and workflow opportunities in leveraging common resources while maintaining local control. My involvement and collaboration with different types of libraries on diverse projects at both the consortial and institutional levels helps me understand others' pain points and develop solutions.

I have strong organizational and coordination skills. In the past, I served as Chair for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of ASIS&T, on teams that organized regional and national conferences, and as a project manager for systems migrations (including a migration to Alma) at both the library and consortial level. Over the years, I have led and served as a participant in groups ranging from library committees to collaborative projects involving librarians and vendor representatives from multiple countries.

I have versatile technical and operational knowledge that allows me to contribute in all major areas of library operations including cataloging, acquisitions, interlibrary loan, circulation, digital collections, resource management, and archives. Because I also have professional experience with systems, network, and database administration as well as application development, I have an acute sense of the challenges and opportunities involved with developing tools to support staff workflows and user needs. I have consulted with other vendors for API development, system interfaces, data structures, and other projects. I also owned a company that developed software that allows the open source Evergreen ILS to interface directly with other systems using NCIP (NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol).

I enjoy working with and learning from others as well as using what I've learned over the years to make life better for staff and users. I already have good working relationships with a number of Ex Libris staff and an extensive professional network that I turn to for guidance for troubleshooting problems and finding solutions. My hope is that by participating on the ELUNA Steering Committee, I will be able to contribute more to the community and learn how to be more effective at my own institution. Thank you for considering my application.

Name: Kevin J Collins

Position Title: Aleph Systems Librarian

Institution: City University of New York

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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Aleph, Primo, SFX, Serials 360 Services

I am putting forward my name to run for the Eluna Steering Committee. I have served in several Eluna user group related roles and believe the Steering Committee is to take my efforts to the next level. It seems the natural progression in my work.

For the past five years I have been the primary Aleph System Librarian for City University of New York. Prior to that I had a similar role for several years at SUNY Stony Brook, Health Science's Center.

As part of my helping CUNY move toward the future, I have been working to improve the "user group community experience" in our region, and increase connections between CUNY and the larger Eluna organization. In the past our campus library staff (outside of central office) have not been involved. However, this involvement will be key to our CUNY staff understanding how these complex library systems (like Primo and Alma) work, and to better succeed in their use of these systems. (One of our CUNY power users from a local campus recently posted on the Primo lists helping someone else. This would not have happened a few ago.)

I have presented at Eluna several times over the years and have repeatedly gathered together groups of library professionals to make collaborative presentations. For a time I lead and revived the Aleph EDI special interest group.

I became involved in various roles on the Aleph Product Working Group. I have focused on the enhancements area because I try to remain focused on contributing in some way to a better future, and helping others to get their enhancement ideas considered.

This work includes the submission of enhancement suggestions to Ex Libris. I have been involved in the full life cycle of this process, which from includes gathering information from Eluna members, submitting these ideas into the voting process, and providing clarifications where needed.

Since 2011, I have been chair of the Ex Libris Northeast User's Group. Several times I have been re-elected to this position by my peers, and satisfaction reported (anonymously) by attendees remains high. Under my leadership we have seen attendance / participation increase by 35%. The budget for the ENUG has strengthened and remains balanced, while at the same time we keep the costs relatively low. For the past two years we have increased attendance to 100+.

Part of this work includes the active recruitment and encouragement of presenters. One of the vendors told me that the reason they really like coming to ENUG is because of the high quality of presenters. While I take no credit for their world class brilliance, someone has to do the day to day work of organizing and preparing the stage for our stars to shine.

We changed the approach of ENUG to expand beyond traditional lecture style presentations. We are developing more hands on experiences for our attendees. We have had hack sessions of various types.

Part of what has made ENUG regional gathering successful has been our efforts as a group to actively engage with vendors to improve the conference experience for attendees. (This applies to Ex Libris as well as other vendors that support the use of Ex Libris products.)

This has been especially useful when we are able to identify common goals and find a way to turn that into something actionable. We have begun to hold additional topic specific ENUG gatherings (free by webex) to expand the sharing of ideas leading to improve library related services.

This past year I was able to negotiate increased participation by Ex Libris for one of our hands on oriented sessions. Ex Libris provided an Alma experts to lead a more hands on session with attendees – what is there to not love about that kind of learning experience?

The feedback that we had gotten was that both Ex Libris and attendees had a positive experience. Certainly we will be looking to build on this approach.

All of this serves the betterment of the Ex Libris User community at large. It also lets me know that I am ready for something beyond leading a regional group. Thanks for taking the time to consider me for that kind of role.

Name: Greg Davis

Position Title: Assistant Director of Library Assessment and Planning

Institution: Iowa State University

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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Current - Alma, Alma Analytics, Primo, Primo Analytics, Primo Central; Previous – Aleph, SFX, Verde, UStat, MetaLib

I joined the Iowa State University (ISU) Library in 2010 as the Assistant Director of Information Technology. Prior to joining ISU I served for 14 years as the Executive Director of Technology for the Des Moines Public Schools (the largest school district in Iowa). I was happy for the opportunity to return to the ISU campus, as I received all my post-secondary degrees from ISU (BS Mathematics, MS Instructional Technology, PhD Education Leadership and Policy Studies).

If you're not familiar with Iowa State University, it is a land grant institution and was recently ranked 74th according to the ARL Investment Index. It's located in Ames, Iowa.

In my first position at ISU I reported to the Library Dean, and had responsibility for all library technology related services and operations. One of the first projects I accomplished at ISU was the migration of our library management system from SirsiDynix Horizon to ExLibris Aleph. At the completion of the Aleph project in 2011, the ISU library used a full complement of ExLibris products, including Aleph, Primo, Primo Central, SFX, Metalib, Verde, and UStat.

In 2015, spurred by a directive from the Iowa Board of Regents to increase inter-institution collaboration, ISU joined with the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa in a plan to adopt and migrate to Alma. I served as the main project manager for the project at ISU, and we successfully completed our migration project as scheduled in July of 2016.

At the end of 2016 I accepted a new position in the ISU Library: Assistant Director of Library Assessment and Planning. In this position I continue to report to the Library Dean. I will be building and expanding our library's assessment portfolio, and I expect Alma and Primo Analytics to be an important tool in support of this work.

In reviewing the requirements for the Steering Committee, I see that I meet all of the required and preferred conditions. For example, I have over 20 years of executive cabinet level governance experience, I have developed a strong working relationship with many ExLibris/Proquest staff members, I have attended ExLibris executive briefings, and in my job I am expected to always be thinking strategically about the ISU library and measuring the level of services we provide.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Name: Jimmy Ghaphery

Position Title: Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Communications and Publishing

Institution: Virginia Commonwealth University

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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Alma, Primo, bX

I am humbled and excited to seek election to the ELUNA Steering Committee. I have worked in academic libraries for more than 20 years with experience as a public services staff member, instructional librarian, systems head, and most recently as an administrator. I have worked with numerous Ex Libris products including Aleph, ARC, Metalib, SFX, Verde, Primo, and Alma. Within the VCU Libraries I have served in a leadership and functional capacity with all of these products, and have interacted often with Ex Libris. In the fall of 2012, VCU Libraries was the third library in North America to implement Alma. As an early adopter, we worked closely with various levels of Ex Libris, from developers to executives. During this time, I believe I cemented a relationship with Ex Libris of respect and high expectations. Since implementation, I have often fielded inquiries from other libraries across the world who are interested in our Alma adoption experiences. In all of those conversations, I, and our library system, have maintained professional distance from any type of sales effort, and strived to “tell it like it is”, the good and the bad, success and opportunities for improvement.

Since 2006, I have presented at five ELUNA conferences, and regularly served as a moderator. I have been an active participant on user group listservs, and have encouraged contributions from VCU Libraries, including service and code. I served on the local arrangements committee and AV coordinator for the 2009 ELUNA meeting. I have governance experience both within the university and the profession. At VCU I have served on university wide governance bodies and task forces including the faculty senate. At the state level I have worked with the Virtual Library of Virginia consortium (VIVA) including service on committees and direct program support.

From the first NAAUG meeting I was able to attend in Boston in 2004, through the current growth of the ELUNA and IGeLU, it has been obvious to me that the profession’s voice needs to be heard throughout all phases of product development. The established history of user involvement in our communities and products provides us with a strong precedent that must be continued, now, more than ever. Broad areas of interest to me for product emphasis are better support for both patron privacy and open scholarship.

I do not think it is any accident that the market share of the Ex Libris Proquest portfolio has grown alongside the active and vocal user community. As a member of the ELUNA Steering Committee, I would strive to represent the community in order to improve the systems that we depend on to advance our missions.

Name: Ken Herold

Position Title: Associate Dean of Libraries, Digital Initiatives and Automated Services

Institution: Adelphi University

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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Summon, 360 Link

My experience with Ex Libris products extends back to 2002, when I coordinated a migration to Voyager and became a technical representative and institutional voter and frequent attendee and presenter at EndUser, VUGM, ELUNA, and regional meetings through 2015. I guided an early release participation and later shared code on the new EL Commons platform, for which I was an evangelist and I believe I had its first customer account. I attended the first two Voyager Developer Meets Developer workshops in Chicago and became one of the many contributors to RefWorks coding inside the Tomcat interface. I advocated for and implemented an API lookup from the RapidILL developers with a focus on customizing the MyAccounts page in Voyager, where I also pulled in live data from our consortial resource sharing. I think most if not all of the current Steering Committee know me personally or professionally. A software engineer attending one of my presentations said "you go for the jugular" and I agree with that assessment! I want to bring this approach to ProQuest products as presently we have Summon and 360 Link and I see great possibilities for improvement on your behalf should you elect me.

Name: Alexander (Sacha) Jerabek

Position Title: Librarian, Développement technologique en soutien à l'enseignement, la recherche et l'apprentissage

Institution: Université du Québec à Montréal

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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Aleph, ARC, MetaLib, SFX, bX, Primo, Primo Central Index

In my current position at UQAM libraries I am responsible for the maintenance and development of Primo, as well as for admin duties for MetaLib, SFX, and Aleph. During the course of my work, first at McGill in 1999-2006 and at UQAM since 2008, I have become familiar with the Ex Libris implementation, support, and development teams in various product lines.

My involvement with Ex Libris user groups goes back to the first Annual North American Aleph Users' Group (NAAUG) meeting at the University of Notre Dame in 2000 where I acted as the round table discussion moderator for "Instruction and design issues in the Web OPAC". Since then I have been actively involved in the ELUNA community. I have presented many times at the annual ELUNA meeting, often with a focus on standards, accessibility, or innovative uses of Ex Libris products.

All told I have put in over ten years of service on ELUNA committees in various roles, from leader-at-large, to enhancement coordinator, track coordinator, and planning committee member. I have been chair of three different product working groups including: the Aleph OPAC committee (2002), the MetaLib working group (2014), and the co-chair/chair of the Primo working group (2014-2017).

Early iterations of the Aleph OPAC committee necessitated a sustained dialogue with Ex Libris to determine best practices for submitting enhancement requests, and once established, these formed the templates for future cycles.

The Primo working group engages in extensive discussions with Ex Libris during its product enhancement cycles to incorporate user requests into its software upgrades. We have also fostered partnerships with Ex Libris in the development of the new Primo AngularJS-based interface introduced last year. These exchanges with Ex Libris required diligence, tact, and tenacity as we worked together and tried to accommodate goals and interests that were not always aligned.

The past few years have seen a surge in activity for the Primo working group. Initiatives such as the Primo Summit in St. Louis (2014), the SaaS discussions in Jerusalem (2015), and the ongoing development and negotiations regarding the Primo interface (2016-2017) have brought ELUNA and IGeLU members together in close collaboration with Ex Libris. These joint activities have resulted in a mutually beneficial and collegial environment.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue to build on this work within the ELUNA steering committee. I believe I have the appropriate background and experience to be a positive and useful

member of the steering committee, to help advise Ex Libris on strategic directions that are in our best interests, and to be an advocate for the needs of our community.

Name: Nathan Mealey
Position Title: Manager of Library Technologies
Institution: Portland State University
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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Alma, Primo

Portland State University Library transitioned to Alma and Primo in 2013, and as both the implementation lead for our library and the technical lead in the years since then, I've developed a deep and thorough knowledge of the Alma/Primo platform. During this time, I've worked closely with staff from throughout the library and our consortium to maximize our use of the system, and to take advantage of the new features and enhancements that are consistently being added. I've also had the opportunity to play a leadership role in our consortia, the Orbis Cascade Alliance, having served multiple terms as the chair of the Systems Team, one of several functional teams that steer the Alliance's overall use of the Alma/Primo system.

During this time, I've been a vocal advocate for forward-thinking, shared software solutions to expand the functionality of Alma and Primo, both within our consortium and within the Eluna community more broadly. As chair of the Orbis Cascade Alliance's Systems Team, I've led the continuous development of the Primo Toolkit, a suite of Primo customizations made available for the entire Eluna community. And as the new Primo User Interface has taken shape, I've led efforts to work with Ex Libris to incorporate the ability for libraries to develop and share customizations more seamlessly directly within the new UI. In this role, I've been fortunate to interact with librarians from throughout the Eluna community, and to develop relationships with Ex Libris product managers and leadership.

Being a part of the Eluna Steering Committee would be an exciting opportunity to play an enhanced leadership role in the Eluna community. I would bring a great depth of knowledge about the platform itself, alongside an energetic commitment to maximize the inherent potential in this platform, and a real enthusiasm towards working with colleagues from throughout the community, both librarians and vendors alike. I particularly believe that building strong relationships between libraries and vendors is a key element in ensuring that the systems our services are built on reflect libraries' goals and priorities, and would very much look forward to playing a role in building these relationships as part of the Steering Committee.

Name: Alex Merrill

Position Title: Head of Systems and Technical Operations

Institution: Washington State University

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Ex Libris Products that your site licenses: Leganto, Primo, Alma and bx Recommender (previous: Metalib and SFX)

I would like to add my name as a candidate for one of the soon to be available ELUNA Steering Committee positions.

I am currently the Head of Systems and Technical Operations at the Washington State University (WSU) Libraries. In my current position I lead a dedicated group of librarians, developers and systems administrators to manage, support, and extend a mix of vendor supported and open source software platforms to further the mission of the WSU Libraries.

My own, hands on, experience with Ex Libris products began around 2006 when I first came to the WSU Libraries and took on managing both SFX and Metalib. During our move to the Alma and Primo environment in 2013 I was local implementation lead for a non-trivial migration. This migration included working with stakeholders from four geographically dispersed campus locations and moving in parallel with other cohort members from the Orbis Cascade Alliance (OCA) to implement Alma and Primo with a shared Network Zone. This experience was eye opening for me as it not only provided me a crash course in how all aspects of our deployed Ex Libris products work together but it also left me with a deeper understanding of how the many disparate departments in a large academic library function. Over my time with the WSU Libraries my responsibilities evolved and my relationship with the Ex Libris products my institution utilizes changed accordingly. Our most recent Ex Libris deployment, Leganto (powered by SIPX), was led by a colleague in the Systems department and my role has turned strategic as opposed to tactical.

I do not have much formal experience with ELUNA or Product Working Groups outside of attending a fair number of ELUNA Annual Meetings and Technical Seminars (Do you remember Spearfish?). What I do have is ten years of experience with committees at the Library, University and Consortium level. Here in the WSU Libraries I have successfully led a number of search committees, cross-departmental teams and Library wide initiatives. At the University level I have, in the past, participated in and chaired a campus wide committee on transportation issues and am currently a long serving member of the WSU Showcase committee (a juried research exposition targeted at the WSU community). With the OCA and the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) I have participated on a number of working groups, committees and functional teams including: OCA Summit Planning and Operations Team, OCA Systems Team, OCA Primo Joint Assessment Working Group, OCA Digital Services Team, GWLA Digital

Collections Committee, and the National Digital Newspaper Digitization Program Steering Committee (Washington State).

It is this background of cross institutional service and collaboration combined with knowledge of a wide range of library technologies, workflows and departments that would help me, in my role as ELUNA Steering Committee Member, to continue to constructively push not only our vendors but ourselves as Library professionals to look past work arounds and short term fixes to actively seek out new workflows and opportunities to demonstrate the value of libraries to a wider community.

Name: Emily Singley

Position Title: Head Librarian, Systems & Applications

Institution: Boston College

Email address: singleye@bc.edu

Products licensed: Alma, Primo, Digitool

Record of Service

I have been an active contributor to the Ex Libris user community since 2013. I served as a member, and then coordinator, for the ELUNA USTAT/Verde PWG from 2013 to 2015, presented at ELUNA in both 2014 and 2015, and currently participate in Ex Libris' Linked Data Collaboration Program. I also currently serve as a member of the NISO Tracking Link Origins working group, a group of librarians, vendors (including Ex Libris), and publishers who are collaboratively developing a recommended practice for tracking licensed e-resource content. In my own library at Boston College, I serve on several formal committees, including our senior management team and the Web Strategy Committee. I am well versed in the procedure and norms of committee work, have strong organizational and project management skills, and enjoy collaborative decision making.

Product Experience

I recently became Head of Systems at Boston College, an institution with deep Ex Libris roots. Our shop currently licenses Alma, Primo, and Digitool, and previously licensed Aleph, SFX, and MetaLib. We have a long history of close collaboration with Ex Libris, including, in 2012, becoming a development partner and the first adopter of Alma. We continue to engage closely with the Ex Libris user community, with a member of my team (Margaret Briand Wolfe) currently serving as co-coordinator of the Analytics Special Interest Working Group. While I am new to Boston College (as of 2015), in my previous role at Harvard I gained experience with Aleph, Primo, SFX, and Verde. I've also had the opportunity to work with ProQuest products: at both Southern New Hampshire University and Curry College, I managed Summon, 360Link, and 360 Resource Manager (formerly Serials Solutions). While working at these smaller institutions, I learned that success requires library systems that can be implemented and supported even with limited staff resources and budgets. My breadth of experience across products and institutions would be a strength on the Steering Committee, especially as we welcome and support users from the ProQuest community.

Why me

I believe that my varied background -- working in both large and small libraries, and with both Ex Libris and ProQuest products -- would be of value to the Committee, and I also think that my forward-looking, visionary perspective, enthusiasm for user-driven change, and dogged, persistent work ethic would serve the Ex Libris/ProQuest user community well. Also, before I became a librarian I was a

professional musician, so if the Committee were to need someone to play the clarinet, I've got that covered too...

Thank you kindly for your consideration!