Ex Libris Users of North America

ELUNA Membership

Membership in ELUNA has increased from 227 at the end of 2007 to 322 in 2008. We have a quite diverse membership. Of the 322 members, 292 are academic libraries, 21 are public libraries and 9 are corporate libraries. We have members from 40 states in the United States, plus members from Canada, Brazil, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Membership in ELUNA is quite a bargain at $175.00 per membership per year. The membership year runs January 1 to December 31. Renewal invoices for the following year are mailed in November with renewals due in March.   Membership in ELUNA provides staff at member institutions reduced registration for the annual meeting. Proceedings of the annual meetings are made available to members and conference attendees. More importantly, membership in ELUNA connects institutions to a network of other Ex Libris product users. ELUNA works toward improvement of Ex Libris products by providing feedback to suggested enhancements; identifying major enhancements and working with Ex Libris on future development and strategic goals. Members share best practices with peer institutions, and work together to support each other. Members can join Product Groups, Special Interest Groups and Regional Groups. ELUNA supports a wiki, general, product and interest specific e-mail lists and a web site.

An institution may become a member of ELUNA by completing a membership application and submitting the fee. The application form is available on the web at: http://elu-na.net/web/members-0

E-BOOK Focus Group

In 2007, a joint E-Book Focus Group was convened with members from ELUNA, IGeLU (our international sister organization) and Ex Libris. The group was established to explore needs and develop priorities concerning the discovery, management and delivery of e-books. The Focus Group issued its final report in April 2008. The report was sent to Ex Libris who issued a response in June, 2008. The full report from the Focus Group and the response from Ex Libris are available to member organizations on the website at: http://el-una.org/web/restricted-pages-toc

Steering Committee at ELUNA 2008

Product Development Collaboration Agreement (PDA)

Christina Meyer (2007/08 ELUNA Chair), Jiri Kende (2007/08 IGeLU Chair), and Nancy Duskin (Ex Libris) worked together this past spring to hammer out the details of a new PDA. With input from the Steering Committees and the Product (Working) Groups, they put together a document outlining the basic processes for development/collaboration on four different levels: 1) general product enhancement; 2) KnowledgeBase enhancement; 3) large scale development; 4) strategic discussions. The nitty gritty details of the general product enhancement (#1) process will be worked out by the individual Product (Working) Groups. You can find the full agreement at: http://el-una.org/org/docs/2008_pdc_agreement_final.pdf

More about us at http://el-una.org

ELUNA 2008 Conference

Held in Long Beach, California at the end of July, this was the third ELUNA conference and the first since the merger with EndUser. With all the added Ex Libris customers, the grew by over one third from the 2007 conference, with the final number at 662. Users of all products joined many Ex Libris staff in both attending and presenting the over 90 sessions during the three wonderful days in Long Beach, where the weather was fantastic. One session was so invigorating the whole building started shaking (or maybe that was the earthquake?). The conference was hosted by California State University, Office of the Chancellor, and they did an amazing job of bringing everything together.

The conference reception, sponsored by Ex Libris, was held at the Aquarium of the Pacific, where attendees had access to most of the exhibits, along with food, beverages, and dancing.
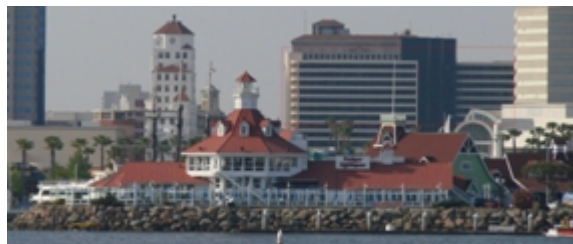

Renaissance Long Beach

EL Commons

Ex Libris, ELUNA, and IGeLU have launched a collaborate web site called the EL Commons. EL Commons has a customer wiki, which serves as an information sharing platform for the user community. It also has a Developer Zone which hosts two types of content: comprehensive documentation about Ex Libris developed X-services, deep links and web services and code contributed from the user community. To access EL Commons, go to: www.exlibrisgroup.org and log in with your institution's Documentation Center userid and password.

Developers Meeting

The first meeting of developers from both customer libraries and Ex Libris was held November 12 – 13, in Tel Aviv, Israel. 13 representatives from 10 institutions from North America and Europe participated. There were presentations by the customer developers, discussions on the open-platform strategy, and about EL Commons.

Parker's Lighthouse Restaurant, Long Beach

Upcoming Events:

January 2009

Leadership Meeting in Denver

To improve communication between the ELUNA, IGeLU, Product Groups and Ex Libris, a series of meetings will held in Denver during the three days just prior to ALA Midwinter in January.

Collaborative Testing for Aleph Version 20.

January 11 – 15, Jerusalem, Israel. Two ELUNA members and two IGeLU members will perform functional testing in collaboration with Ex Libris Development staff.

March 2009

Ex Libris System Seminar

March 9 – 12, Tel Aviv, Israel. The Seminar agenda includes 58 in-depth sessions covering a wide spectrum of technical aspects of each Ex Libris product as well as a number of cross-product presentations.

Voyager Developers Meeting

March 25 – 26, Chicago, IL. People who develop home grown 'add-on' functions will meet with Ex Libris staff.

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ELUNA 2009

The 2009 ELUNA Conference will be in Richmond, Virginia on May 6th through May 8th, and will be hosted by the Library of Virginia (with assistance from other ELUNA sites in the area). The Conference will be preceded by Ex Libris training events. Both of these will take place at the Marriott Downtown Richmond where the conference rate for rooms will be $149.

Conference planning started at ELUNA 2008 and is making good progress. The call for presentations has already gone out. Please, everybody, make plans to attend.

Richmond, Virginia

Product Group Reports:

Aleph:

Over the course of the past year, the ALEPH PG has worked with ExLibris and ELUNA on the enhancement process for version 20. All agreed upon enhancements have been finalized and are being processed/added by ExLibris.

In conjunction with ExLibris, we coordinated with the IGeLU PWG to plan for two ELUNA members and two IGeLU members to assist in version 19 Colaborative Testing in December 2007.

Upcoming: working on the enhancement process for the next version, as well as version 20 quality assurance testing.

Voyager:

The Voyager Product Group, which has been in existence for just over a year, assisted Ex Libris in identifying Global Data Change as a high priority for development. The PG also supplied two of the four volunteers to collaboratively test Voyager 7 before it was released for field testing. The program co-chairs, Sherrie Kristin and Melissa Wisner, are representing the Voyager users on the ELUNA conference planning committee. The Enhancement Chair, Julia McGinnis, is working closely with Ex Libris staff and with our counterpart committee, IGeLU's Voyager Product Working Group, to develop further the new enhancement process for Voyager. The whole committee is actively trying to develop the Group's role as a voice for Voyager users. For example, this year the PG is using a survey for Voyager users to specify what programs they will find most useful at next year's ELUNA.

MetaLib:

During 2007/2008 the ELUNA MetaLib Product Group worked closely with IGeLU and Karen Groves to create and evaluate the MetaLib enhancement process.

Communication about and during the enhancement process was conducted on the metalib-discuss listserv. The final report is available on the ELUNA wiki.

At the ELUNA Annual Meeting the following program sessions were offered under the sponsorship of the MetaLib Product Group, Ex Libris, or both:

- Product Group general meeting
- MetaLib Lighting Round
- MetaLib Demonstration
- Live Web Usability Lab
- Several MetaLib Posters at the Poster Sessions
- Subject Librarians and MetaLib
- Trends and usage patterns of MetaLib
- MetaLib update by Karen Groves
- Building an RSS Table of Contents Alert Service

The MetaLib X-Server Interest Group also met and serves to extend the utility and

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customization capabilities of the MetaLib product.

Special thanks to the outgoing PG officers, especially the outgoing chair Ronda Rowe.

The LA experience

SFX:

The SFX group met in Long Beach and appointed Maribeth Manoff as this year's chairperson. They have been working with their IGeLU counterparts providing input to Ex Libris on the next version of SFX.

DigiTool:

The major accomplishment for the DigiTool PG over the last year was conducting the first ever round of customer enhancement voting. Votes from twenty-four institutions were collected. Results from the voting were submitted to Ex Libris for inclusion in DigiTool version 3.2, which is scheduled for release in late November 2008. The Product Group also coordinated and oversaw the program for ELUNA 2008 in Long Beach. Six different presentations were given, which was double from ELUNA 2007. Currently, the group is working on improving DigiTool documentation and adding content to the wiki.

Verde:

Laura Morse was chosen as the new Chairperson for Verde at the 2009 conference. The group has been working closely with Ex Libris to get the enhancement process

underway for the next version. Last year the group was able to convey to Ex Libris their serious concerns about some issues with Verde, and Ex Libris changed their roadmap for the product and are addressing these issues.

New Product Group Formed – Primo:

ELUNA 2008 in Long Beach, California saw the formation of a new product group – the Primo Product Group. The Primo PG is led by: Joseph "Jody" Combs, Chair (Vanderbilt University). For more information go to: http://el-una.org/web/primo-group

Wil Frost welcoming conference attendees

Join ELUNA now!

Become a new member of ELUNA or renew your existing membership so you can take advantage of everything that ELUNA has to offer.

Janet Lute
Chair, ELUNA Steering Committee

December 2008

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