

Ex Libris Customer SFX/Metalib (2000-5) Questionnaire – Lukas Koster

1...What is your name and the name of the institution(s) where you worked with SFX, Metalib, or other Ex Libris products?

Lukas Koster. I worked at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek/National Library of The Netherlands 2003-2005. I was hired to implement Metalib and SFX. (After that I went to work for the Library of the University of Amsterdam, working with Metalib and SFX; we now have Aleph, SFX and Primo).

2...When did your site install Ex Libris software and when did you start working with it?

The National Library started with Metalib and SFX early 2003.

3...What was your job title, or, more generally, what did you do? Were there particular projects you were involved in?

I was temporary project staff especially hired to implement Metalib and SFX. Also this was my very first introduction to the library world, MARC etc.

Thinking especially of the 2000-2005 time period....

4...Who were Ex Libris' main competitors?

As far as Metalib/SFX, no real competitors, as far as I remember.

5...Why were SFX and Metalib as successful as they were? Why did customers go with them rather than similar products?

I don't know. In The Netherlands it was a national university library+national library consortium decision to buy licenses for Metalib/SFX.

6...Comments on the role of SMUG users group?

I got involved in SMUG in 2004. As of 2005, when IGeLU was formed, I was the first coordinator of the Metalib/SFX Product Working Group (also I was the one who split up the group into separate PWG's for Metalib and SFX). I was also on the Editorial Board of the SMUG4EU Newsletter (see <http://igelu.org/about/communication/newsletters> - at the bottom). SMUG was very important for establishing good collaboration between Ex Libris and the customers. And also good for me personally. I got to know many people.

7...Were there particularly interesting/valuable Ex Libris staff that you remember?

I had a very pleasant working relationship with Nina Keren-David.

8...Are there particular interesting, fun, or odd things that you remember?

I had a great time at the Kos System Seminar 2005, especially night times in the bar, the football match Ex Libris vs. Customers (my first one) and the jeep safari. I still have a number of friends dating back to

these early days. Also the very first time I met Herbert Van de Sompel, who was a keynote speaker. We still meet regularly for beers and discussions.