

LIBRIS Reports

Vol. II no. 1

January, 1992.

ALEPH and The Central Library for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Handicapped

This specialized public library, situated in Netania, caters to all blind, visually impaired and handicapped throughout Israel. Using standard ALEPH together with special developments created by the ALEPH development team, the library is able to provide a unique and worthwhile service to a deserving section of the public.

The library undertakes to provide any student with any text book that he might need, from the first grade to completion of University studies, in either Braille format or as an audio recording.

For this purpose they maintain a recording studio with professional readers to create audio recordings of books. The library also has the equipment and facilities for printing books in Braille.

There are about 5,000 recorded fiction titles, of which 2,500 are also in Braille. Recorded and Braille textbooks number about 1,500 each, with multiple copies of every title available.

The loan period for

text books is one year.

The majority of the books are in Hebrew, but there are also audio recordings in Arabic, Yiddish, Russian, French and English.

Patrons almost never visit the library. Loans are effected through the post. The circulation functions are registered in ALEPH with the addition of special development features.

When joining the library, each patron is asked to submit a list of 50 items of interest. These are registered in ALEPH as hold requests.

When a book that was out on loan is sent back to the library, its return is registered in ALEPH. This signals the printing of a patron's information slip on an attached slave printer. Some of the details printed are: Name, reader's barcode, and the list of books requested by the patron that are registered in the system as being available at the time (i.e. not out on loan, in binding etc.)

The loan transaction of new items is performed using the patron's barcode, printed out on the user's information slip mentioned above.

A batch procedure run on loan transactions carried out within a defined time frame, prints out labels with the patrons' name and address. This label is used on the parcel of books or tapes sent to the reader.

We compliment the library staff on their enterprise and dedication.

A first experience with ALEPH at the Scuola Normale Superiore Library in Pisa

The library of the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa is an academic library whose main aim is to support the educational and research activities of its parent institution.

A great effort is expended in the updating of scientific documentation. About 850 million lire (approx. \$750,000) is spent annually on the acquisition of library materials. Books and journals are also obtained as gifts, or on an exchange basis. The holdings now stand at 500,000 volumes covering the following subject fields: Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Classical Philology, Ancient History, Archaeology, Literature, Linguistics, Art History, Modern History and Contemporary History, and

- Page 1 -

EX LIBRIS Reports

Vol. II no. 1

January, 1992.

Philosophy. Current journals are 3,000.

The organization of stock is on an open shelf basis; all the library material, with the exception of rare and ancient books, is freely accessible.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the library we decided, some years ago, to introduce automation. After an investigation of several automation systems circulating in Italy and abroad, we chose ALEPH and leased it at the end of 1989.

For the first year's work we concentrated on cataloging, acquisitions and serials in order to simplify and speed the activity of these three very busy departments. All these procedures run well now. This does not mean that improvements are not necessary and requested. For instance we asked for an "inventory" report to be automatically produced by the system (mandatory according to the Italian law);* more flexibility in some of the administrative functions; a better functionality of the binding module and so on.

The second ALEPH users meeting in Copenhagen represented a good opportunity to point out our requirements,

confronting them with those of other libraries and with the projected development of the system's producers.

Our online catalog includes now about 100,000 records. Conversion of old catalogs is still in execution and we hope to complete it within the end of the current year.

Because, as said above, one relevant reason for automation was a better access to the collection, the impact of the online catalog on end users is of great concern to us. We are thinking of carrying on a more in-depth analysis on the use of the online catalog by the end users.

We look with great interest to all the developments of ALEPH in the next versions. To these developments every library using ALEPH can give a contribution based on its own experience.

Sandra di Majo
Head of Library,
Scuola Normale Pisa

*Editor's note:
Inventory report is supplied
with Version 2.4

Formation of International Consortium of ALEPH Users

One of the results of the Second ALEPH Users group in Copenhagen, was the formation of an International Consortium of ALEPH Users (ICAU).

This is a non profit group. The aims of the consortium, as stated in the charter are:

- to promote innovative bibliographic services and information exchange between institutions using ALEPH
- to coordinate all aspects of development policies
- to disseminate new information technologies in the library systems of members of ICAU
- to enhance the information services of its members by sharing information and resources
- to assure procedures for searching and retrieving records from other members' databases
- to improve access to primary information resources
- to compile and disseminate information on experiences relating to the use of ALEPH in the member institutions
- to collect, recommend and prioritize all requests for new developments of ALEPH

EX LIBRIS Reports

Vol. II no. 1

January, 1992.

• to be a platform for submitting proposals.

Membership in ICAU is open to any institution or organization that has leased the ALEPH software.

The other organs of ICAU, apart from the above mentioned Board of Members, are the Steering Committee, the President, (both elected by the Board of Members) and the Secretariat.

As the Board of Members has not yet elected a Steering Committee and President, an Interim Steering Committee, which was formed in Copenhagen at the Users meeting hopes to meet early this year, and - amongst other things, plans a meeting with *Ex Libris*. A compiled list of requests and ideas for development of the ALEPH system will be circulated and later used as a basis for discussions.

XXXVII National Congress of the "Associazione Italiana Biblioteche"

From 27th to 29th November, 1991 the XXXVII National Congress of the "Italian Library Association" was held in Pisa (Italy). The theme of the

Congress was "Information at your Fingertips". In parallel with the congress, an exhibition was organized, oriented to the two main aspects in library organization:

- Expolibro: dedicated to books, publishers and vendors
- La Biblioteca del Futuro (the Library of the Future): where the most advanced solutions for managing a library, in all operative aspects, including library automation, were presented.

In the section dedicated to "Library Management Systems" many of the most well known international systems were represented (ALEPH, SBN, GEAC, TECLIB, TINLIB etc.)

At Atlantis' stand (Italian ALEPH distributor company) two ALEPH solutions were shown: one based on the DIGITAL VMS platform (version 2.3), and the second based on the new IBM RISC 6000 UNIX platform (version 3.1)

During the three exhibition days, Mrs. Barbara Rad-El, from *Ex Libris*, Tel Aviv, and Miss Barbara Bergami from Atlantis, Verona, spent about 60 hours demonstrating the two systems. There were numerous opportunities to meet with librari-

ans from many different institutions.

The interest in ALEPH was really appreciable, and of course we hope that this interest, demonstrated by so many librarians, will mean an increase in the number of ALEPH users in 1992.

Luciano Galeotti
Technical Manager
Atlantis S.r.l.

New Installations

The Danish Library of Science and Medicine is the oldest Scandinavian University Library. It was founded in 1482.

The library contains outstanding collections. For example the collection of works on Natural History with hand coloured plates which is of world wide reputation.

A monograph series in English on the History of Science and Medicine: *Acta Historica Scientiarum Naturalium et Medicinalium*, has been published since 1942.

In 1989 a new wing was added to the old building. It greatly improves the facilities for the patrons and staff members. Storage capacity was increased by 10 km. To cover users' need the li-

EX LIBRIS Reports

Vol. II no. 1

January, 1992.

brary subscribes to about 8000 journals. In 1986 the library got its own database: COSMOS (Copenhagen Scientific And Medical Online System.)

Being a National Library involves serving not only the University of Copenhagen, hospitals, industry and other research organizations, but the whole Danish community. Participation in international collaborations among libraries is also one of our commitments.

In order to meet the library's requirements for computer assistance, the full array of ALEPH modules was implemented in 1991. The Circulation module, for instance, handles about 300,000 loans per year, numerous reservations and messages to patrons.

Poul A. Christiansen
Advisory Librarian
Danish National
Library of Science
and Medicine

Another new ALEPH installation is the Central Library of Sandoz Pharma AG.

This is a subsidiary of the conglomerate Sandoz Ltd. Other divisions are Sandoz Nutrition Ltd., Sandoz Chemicals Ltd., MBT Holding Ltd., Sandoz

Agro Ltd., and Sandoz Seeds Ltd. As the Central Library is based in Basel, it also serves all the other Sandoz subsidiaries based in Basel. The library has been using a program developed for them by DEC (Switzerland), but has now decided to switch over to ALEPH.

The library subscribes to approx. 5,000 periodicals. More than 50% of the subscriptions are for multiple copies, which can be any number between 20-100. The majority of these copies are then sent to researchers all over the world. As about 500 issues a day are therefore being checked-in, ALEPH is developing special programs that will allow for multiple serial registrations, check-ins, binding, acquisitions, etc.

The ALEPH University Network in Israel

ALEPH is installed in all seven institutions (totalling 40 libraries) of higher learning in Israel. Each library has one or more independent OPAC and all are connected in a library network also called ALEPH.

Users can switch from one OPAC to another once they are in the

ALEPH network. The switch is handled transparently.

The ALEPH network also supports a central computer which contains the Union List of Serials in Israel (ULS), the Union List of Monographs in ALEPH (ULM), and the Index to Hebrew Periodicals (IHP). Cataloging records of the contributing libraries are sent to the central computer where the Union Lists are compiled. ULM, ULS and IHP are all accessible via INTERNET, as well as any other OPAC within the network.

ALEPH in Israel can be accessed via TELNET. To gain access to any of the network OPACS, telnet to anyone of the following University Library Computers:

ALEPH computer:
RAM2.HUJI.AC.IL
128.139.4.207

Bar Ilan University:
ALEPH.BIU.AC.IL
132.70.9.36

Ben Gurion University:
BGULIB.BGU.AC.IL

Haifa University:
LIB.HAIFA.AC.IL
132.74.1.100

Hebrew University:
ALEPH.HUJI.AC.IL
128.139.4.207

EX LIBRIS Reports

Vol. II no. 1

January, 1992.

Technion:
LIB.TECHNION.AC.IL
132.88.1.20

Tel Aviv University:
TAUVAX.TAU.AC.IL
132.66.32.6

Weizmann Institute of
Science:
WISLIB.WEIZMANN.AC.IL
132.76.64.14

After entering the username **ALEPH**, a terminal selection will display. Generally speaking opt for terminal types 2, 5 or 11.

ALEPH supports soft fonts (Hebrew, Arabic, Greek and Cyrillic). If you wish to search the catalog for non-Latin records, the terminal type chosen should be 17, 18, or 19. A great deal of material has been cataloged in Hebrew, with a lesser amount in Arabic. Cyrillic cataloging has only just begun.

Once **ALEPH** has been accessed, a Main Menu screen will display from which you can begin to search the online catalog. Instructions are available in Hebrew and English. To change from one language to another type a question mark "?".

Use the LB command to switch from one library OPAC to another, all the while main-

taining your original **ALEPH** session. At times a library might be inaccessible. This is generally at night, when maintenance jobs that lock certain files are running. If this happens switch to another library in the network.
To exit **ALEPH** type STOP.

For more information:
Tel: +972-2-882134,
Fax: +972-2-322435,
E-mail:
JANET@VMS.HUJI.AC.IL

Janet Lefkovitz,
System Librarian
Hebrew University

Bibliographic Projects at the University of Haifa Library

The University of Haifa Library uses **ALEPH** not only to maintain the library's own catalog (approx. 500,000 bibliographic records) but also to support several bibliographical projects.

For this purpose the library has defined a second global library **HAB** (**HA**ifa **B**ibliographies) which contains the following local libraries:

HAB.KIB: Data base of the University's Institute for Study and Research of the Kibbutz and the Coopera-

tive Idea. Lists about 5000 research items - accessible by author and subject.

HAB.JAC: Data base of the University's Jewish-Arab Center. Lists some 6000 items relating to Arabs in Israel. Access by author and subject.

HAB.PSY: Union Catalog of psychological tests found in several of the universities, as well as in the Henrietta Szold Institute. Indexed by author, title, institution, subject, and target populations.

HAB.UJH: Authority records for uniform headings in Judaica as approved by the Inter-university Committee on Cataloging. Hebrew and English forms of all Jewish "anonymous classics" headings (Biblical, Talmudic and Rabbinic literature) with cross references.

In addition the University of Haifa Library maintains the IHP (Index to Hebrew Periodicals) global library which resides on the network computer in Jerusalem. This file of some 160,000 records with an extensive thesaurus is still maintained via the library's old local software system HOBITS and the data reformatted periodi-

EX LIBRIS Reports

Vol. II no. 1

January, 1992.

cally to ALEPH. In view of the recent enhancements to ALEPH's thesaurus maintenance and search capability, maintenance of the data base will probably move over to ALEPH in the future.

Elhanan Adler,
Assistant Director
of the Library
University of Haifa

Online ALEPH Manual

ALEPH is offering its users a new feature: An online ALEPH manual. This manual can be accessed from any global library.

To view a chapter enter the chapter number or letter. The chapter will be accessed in a "read-only" edit mode. When in this mode, all the normal search operators work - for example, "FIND", page up, page-down, but the file cannot be edited - i.e. no changes may be made in the text.

ALEPH also offers the user the possibility of printing a chapter. The user is prompted to enter the MANUAL CHAPTER, H=HELP, or Q=QUIT.

Tami Kreindler
ALEPH Yissum
Development Librarian

ALEPH Installation Profile

Library of the Jewish
Theological Seminary
of America

Address: 3080 Broadway,
New York, NY 10027, USA
Tel: +1-212-678-8982
Fax: +1-212-678-8998
Subject areas: Judaica,
Bible, Jewish History,
Jewish literature, Rabbinics,
Jewish music, Jewish art,
Jewish philosophy
Contact person: Naomi M. Steinberger
Date of ALEPH installation:
January, 1990
Type of computer: VAX 6310
No. of terminals: 45

The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America is the foremost Judaica library in North America. Holdings include over 270,000 volumes, including 11,000 manuscripts, 15,000 rare books, 1,100 broadsides, 5,000 sound recordings, 6,000 prints, 750 journals, etc.

As members of the US national databases, OCLC and RLIN there was a need to download shared cataloging records into the ALEPH system.

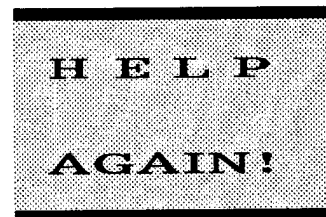
After interface programs were developed, more than 30,000 documents were downloaded into ALEPH. To date

(December 1991) there are about 80,000 records in the database. They are a combination of downloaded records, original cataloging and retrospective conversion. All 11,000 manuscripts are already in the database.

The library uses all the functions of ALEPH. Circulation was introduced in September, 1990. Serials check in since January, 1991 and the Acquisitions function since July, 1991.

Naomi Steinberger
System Librarian
Jewish Theological
Seminary

Your letters



We thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. We will be happy to print letters or articles of interest sent in by you in our next issue. Letters or articles may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.