

# LIBRIS Reports

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July, 1992.

**ALEPH System Seminar**  
27 May-2 June 1992  
Tel Aviv

## A Letter from Hungary:

Ex Libris Ltd, continuing its successful tradition, organized a System Seminar in Tel Aviv, 27 May to 2 June 1992.

The seminar demonstrated the rapid development and great value of the ALEPH system and offered valuable information on a number of important matters:

- first, the participants had the opportunity to learn a number of technical details on matters such as node management, the handling of global tables etc.
- they got also valuable information on new developments in the field of working with links (thesaurus applications), introducing SDI services, managing images and establishing union catalogs.
- they were informed of the most important elements of the future development program.

A great advantage of the event was, that it brought together users from a number of countries, working in different environments, serving different types of clients. Contacts could be thus

developed for the future exchange of experience, and real, practical co-operation between libraries having either similar or complementary responsibilities in their countries.

Some participants contributed actively also as lecturers, communicating the results of their own development efforts.

The seminar was very well organized, everything ran smoothly. Accommodation was comfortable and we enjoyed the beauty of the sea; the reception at the home of Azriel Morag was highly appreciated by all. The lectures were concise, interesting, well illustrated, and in spite of the difficulty of the subject, quite easy to follow.

We should not forget the cultural aspect of this gathering either; the excursion to Jerusalem will remain in our memory for a long time.

The organizers and lecturers of the seminar merit certainly our thanks and congratulations for their excellent work. We are looking forward to participating in the next similar seminar.

Mr. Pal Vasarhely  
Library Director,  
Technical University  
of Budapest.

## Who's Who at the ALEPH System Seminar....

Readers of this newsletter who were not at the ALEPH System Seminar might be interested in a list of participants. Following is a list of institutions, and the names of the participants from that institution. The list is arranged by country. The names of the lecturers appear at the end of the list.

### D E N M A R K

THE DANISH NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE  
Ms. Ingbritt Butina

DANISH BUSINESS SCHOOL LIBRARY IN AARHUS,  
Mr. Per Steen Hansen

THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL LIBRARY OF DENMARK  
Ms. Inger Høy,  
Ms. Ann Pedersen,  
Mr. Søren Find

DATAKONCEPT AS,  
Mr. Finn Stausgaard,  
Mr. Lars Barasinski

### H U N G A R Y

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST  
Mr. Pal Vasarhely,  
Ms. Róza Frank,  
Mr. Laszlo Berencei,  
Mr. Zsolt Sandor

IBR GENERAL LTD. CO.,  
Mr. Agoston Nemeth

CENTRAL LIBRARY OF THE SEMMELWEIS UNIVERSI-

TY OF MEDICINE  
Ms. Ildikó Rédei  
Ms. Judit Szabo-Szavay

I T A L Y

ATLANTIS S.R.L.  
Ing. Luciano Galeotti,  
Mr. Daniele Nottegar

UNIVERSITY GENOVA -  
C.I.S.I  
Dott.ssa Alessandra  
Bezzi  
Mr. Paolo Marino

SCUOLA NORMALA SUPER-  
IORE  
Dott.ssa Sandra Di  
Majo

PONTIFICIA SALESIANA  
UNIVERSITA'  
Biblioteca Centrale,  
Rev.Do Guiseppe Tabar-  
relli

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITA'  
GREGORIANA  
Mr. Marjan Rebernik  
Mr. Dennis Simms

L U X E M B O U R G

EX LIBRIS S. A.  
Ms. Catherine Holzem

S P A I N

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE  
INVESTIGACIONES CIENT-  
IFICAS  
Ms. Carmen Pérez,  
Ms. Agnès Ponsati,  
Mr. Aurelio Herrero

INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS  
ILERDENC,  
Ms. Emilia Capell Gar-  
riga

LABORATORIOS DR. EST-  
EVE S.A.  
Ms. Isabel Blanch  
Mr. Manuel Cadeal

SWITZERLAND

SANDOZ PHARMA AG  
Mr. Martin Herren

CERN (AS-SI)  
Mr. Mogens Sandfaer  
Ms. Maja Gracco

U. S. A.

ANNENBERG RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE  
Ms. Aviva Astrinsky

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Central Library  
Mr. Amnon Zipin

INDEX OF CHRISTIAN  
ART,  
Princeton University  
Ms. Lois Drewer

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
Ms. Naomi Steinberger

I S R A E L

TECHNION,  
Central Library  
Mr. David Ben-Haim

HAIFA UNIVERSITY  
Ms. Aviva Shichor

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
Library of Life Sci-  
ences  
Ms. Dorit Mandel

HEBREW UNIVERSITY  
Ms. Janet Lefkowitz

Lecturers at the ALEPH  
System Seminar were:

From ALEPH YISSUM:  
Mr. Natan Lev,  
Ms. Judy Levi,  
Ms. Tami Kreindler,  
Mr. Juppi Hartzmann,  
Mr. Aharon Rivlin  
From CERN:  
Mr. Mogens Sandfaer.

Mr. Ehud Arad of Ex  
Libris spoke about the  
future developments of  
ALEPH.

The SBS Servizio  
Bibliotecario Senese

From 1972, and step  
by step, the Univer-  
sity of Siena decid-  
ed the automation of  
its libraries. At the  
beginning it was  
through a punching  
system. Then the CUCES  
(Data Elaboratio Cen-  
ter of University)  
developed for its own  
use a library automa-  
tion system (named  
Sibiblio), with cata-  
loguing and a limited  
set of search func-  
tions.

In order to improve  
cataloguing and to  
implement office auto-  
mation and OPAC func-  
tions, our University  
resolved, in 1991, to  
check the opportunity  
to change or to imple-  
ment its own software.

After having verified  
several automation  
systems, during one  
year, it was decided  
to test ALEPH, and a  
commission of 12 li-  
braries, representing  
all the Libraries, was  
nominated.

On the 13th April 1992  
the University decided  
to choose ALEPH and to  
change the connecting  
network.

The SBS (Servizio  
Bibliotecario Senese)

is a Consortium of several Libraries with different legal systems. It is constituted by the University of Siena, the Public Library of Siena: "Biblioteca degli Intronati", the Italian Language and Culture University for Foreigners, the Library of a Musical Institution: "Accademia musicale Chigiana" and the Library of Basilica dell'Osservanza. Other important Libraries are interested in taking part in the Consortium and so this will increase still further.

The University of Siena consists of eight Central Libraries for the Faculties of Pharmacy, Law, Arts and Humanities, Education, Medicine, Economics and Banking, Mathematics, Physical and Natural Science, and the School of Social Work. (The Faculty of Engineering will start in a short time).

Our group of Libraries owns about 1,000,000 volumes and 18,000 journals. In the old online catalogue are included 170,000 monographic records and 13,000 journal records that will be converted to ALEPH.

The Libraries are located in two towns: Arezzo and Siena; and they include 27 Centers (15 other centers

will be connected subsequently).

At the present time, Digital Equipment is setting up 126 terminals in all the academic Libraries and in the other associated libraries.

The connecting network should be ready at the beginning of October and we will start with traditional functions for our users: cataloguing and search. Later on we will implement the other functions.

For the future we are interested to exchange our bibliographic information with other Institutions using ALEPH.

Guido Badalamenti  
Library Automation  
Manager  
Servizio Bibliotecario  
Senese

### Developing a System

Having a lot to tell about the development of a software system in general, and about ALEPH in particular, I will start here a series of articles about the history of the development of ALEPH, the thoughts behind the plan of developments, the pressures from various directions, and about the process of development. As we have gone through several

major development projects in the last four years, I will describe these examples for the better understanding of the process.

Several of the comments and stories were told in various meetings, such as our ALEPH Users' Meetings, and I will appreciate the patience of my older friends, for whom I can hardly find a new story.

The History  
ALEPH was developed twice. The first time was in the late seventies. Computers were very large, quite different from one another and very rigid, while development tools were extremely scarce.

ALEPH was developed for The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, by an in-house team, under the internal Management and System group. The system was specified by librarians who were assimilated in the development team and who served as both planners and checkers by simulating users.

The product was an integrated library system, which was widely accepted in the university and was even general enough to be leased by users abroad.

The Pressure  
The use whets the ap-

petite, we say, and once the system was operational a multitude of users flocked in with suggestions of new ideas of developments and enhancements, which "if only done would be ....". In development of Software, the developer is always located at the end of the corridor of all the great new ideas.

The pressure mounted and other universities in Israel expressed their interest in a similar system. As always, it took some time but finally the body of Planning and Financing (cleverly structured under one management) of Higher Education, devised a development process and allocated incentive funds for other universities to join the program. The idea was, and so achieved, to have "A National and University Integrated and Transparent Library Automation Network".

The Plan Israelis are better known for their ability to improvise rather than for their painstaking planning. The idea, thus, was to develop a system, which would not have to be planned in advance. Sounds either terribly stupid or unbelievably clever. In time the latter was proven.

The writing on the wall said: "We will devise a system which will deny the need of librarians - meaning you, to meet programmers - meaning us; or, in other words, we will devise a system which is flexible enough and "language-wise, high-levelled enough", enabling users to define their needs and requests without the immediate help and supervision of computer experts.

The Execution  
The solution was "The Table", usually referred to as TABALEPH, but which is actually a set of tables, used to define the entire system, from the sorting order of various alphabets, to the specification of terminals, to the conversation languages, to the writing direction (left to right or right to left) in each field, to the record structure, to the index files, to the hierarchy of libraries within an institute to... etc., etc., etc.

An Example  
To end the first chapter in this series of articles, I will try to exemplify the above by describing a session in Turkey at the beginning of July.

During the discussions regarding the implementation of our system in Turkey, several issues were meticu-

lously checked in order to avoid the repetition of an earlier failure with another system:

- Sorting of the Turkish Alphabet
- Using commands in Turkish such as Boolean operators
- Translation of screens, error messages, etc.

The answer was given by laying out the following tables:

#### ALPHA.DAT

This table has a column of the 256 ASCII values and columns, one each, for the various scripts used by ALEPH. These include Latin scripts, (German, Spanish, "Scandinavian", Italian, Hungarian etc., and will now include Turkish,) Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Cyrillic. For each ASCII position there is a definition of its sort order. In German, for example, The DOUBLE S is defined as SS and thus will always be sorted correctly. After receiving the desired sort order of the Turkish alphabet, the definition of this sort order in the ALPHA.DAT table took about 3 minutes.

#### TRANSLATE TABLE

The prospective user expressed concern that his users may include non-English speaking persons who may have a problem to specify "AND", "OR", "NOT" as well as other com-

mands. The translate table lists all the "internal commands" and any number of equivalents in any number of languages. These include now English, German, Spanish, Danish, Italian, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Russian, French, and Hungarian. Adding Turkish will take a few minutes.

#### SCREENS AND HEADINGS

These tables include all the Screens, Help screens, System messages etc. There are 875 such screens and about the same number of messages. The translation is done using an editor. It takes about 40 working days to complete a full set of screens and messages for a "new" language.

The next article in this series will relate to our views as to the role of the users in the development of ALEPH.

Azriel S. Morag,  
Managing Director,  
Ex Libris Ltd.

#### **ALEPH Installation Profile**

##### **CSIC'S Network of Libraries**

Address: Unidad de Coordinación de Bibliotecas  
C/Jorge Manrique, 27  
28006 Madrid, SPAIN  
Tel: +34-91-5854443

Fax: +34-91-5644202  
E-Mail:  
Bib\_pribic@bib.csic.es

Type of library system: 64 specialized libraries working in a unique network with 3 nodes: Madrid, Sevilla, Barcelona.  
Subject areas: Biology and Biomedicine, Material Sciences, Food Technology, Agricultural Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Humanities, Information and Documentation.

System librarians:  
Carmen Pérez,  
Teresa Malo de Molina  
System managers:  
Miguel Jiménez,  
Pilar Martínez,  
Ana Alberola,  
Agnès Ponsati

Date of ALEPH installation: July 1986  
Type of computer:  
VAX 6300 (Madrid)  
Vax 8500 (Sevilla)  
MVAX 3300 (Barcelona)  
No. of terminals: 90  
No. of titles: 240,588  
No. of journals: 34186  
No. of patrons:  
real: about 2,000  
potential: about 7,500

Description of the installation:  
The CSIC's installation contains a union catalogue of the 64 libraries. The network is organized in 3 nodes: MAD, SEV, BAR. The control node is MAD and contains the information produced by the other two (SEV and BAR). The control

node in our installation is connected to IBERPAC and INTERNET giving access to the catalogue to any CSIC researcher or other user, in Spain or abroad.

#### **Interlibrary Loans Module**

For the last year staff on the National Technology Library of Denmark have been working on the development of an ILL module in ALEPH. This is in short terms our suggestions for the ILL module. The ILL module manages loans of different material and photocopies requested from other libraries.

To create an order in the module the user has to enter:  
- Bibliographic information (bibliographic records can be copied from external databases).  
- Patron information (using the borrowers file).  
- Supplier information (a new file with addresses and information about the libraries).

In the OPAC module it is possible to search according to:  
ISBN ISSN numbers, Supplier code, Expected day of arrival, Patron ID, Author, Title, Journal Title, etc.

During the ILL process the order can have different statuses: e.g. new, claimed, not available etc.

When the ordered material is received the circulation is managed by the circulation module.

The ILL module calculates any cost (in foreign currency) connected to the delivery in the local currency.

Annette Winkel-Schwarz  
Library Director,  
National Technology  
Library of Denmark.

### News in Brief

**Ex Libris Ltd.** has moved to new offices. Our new telephone number is: +972-3-490-430  
Our new fax number is: +972-3-647-1241

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mr. Yuval Weiss has joined the **Ex Libris** team as Sales manager. Yuval comes to us after 8 fruitful years at Digital Equipment (Israel) where he managed the Education and Science Department.

He has an academic background in Life Sciences in computers. He will be a valuable addition to the **Ex Libris** staff.

**ALEPH** Users should not forget the "Third **ALEPH** Users' Meeting" to be held in Pisa. The dates have now been finalized.

The meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday, 29th and 30th October, 1992.

Users are invited to present reports of the present status of development of **ALEPH** at their institution.

For more details please contact:  
Dott.ssa Sandra Di Majo  
Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa,  
Piazza dei Cavalieri 7  
56126 PISA, Italy

In our last news letter there was an item about articles on **ALEPH** in various journals.

A new article is due to come out in September in "Library Review" a publication of the National Library of Hungary. The article:

"La aplicación del sistema **ALEPH** en las bibliotecas del CSIC", is written by Agnès Ponsati and Yolanda Ríos.

Those interested in this article can look for it in the "Library Review", or can apply to **EX Libris** for a copy.

### New Developments in **ALEPH**

The **ALEPH** development team has been working on a number of interesting development items.

A new utility has been developed in the **SERIALS** module. This utility allows for a rapid check-in of issues.

The librarian can access this journal check-in screen by system number, or by ISSN number. From this utility there is also a possibility of **SCANNING** any of the application's **ACCESS** files. (There is no need to exit to the **OPAC**, **SCAN**, for example, the title file, and then reaccess the **SERIALS** module!)

In addition, the user can key in an abbreviation of the heading (e.g. title) when entering the search text. For example, entering **JOU ANC ARC** is sufficient in order to access the check-in screen of "Journal of Ancient Middle Eastern Archaeology".

From this check-in screen it is possible to register the arrival of issues and to access any sub-function of the **SERIALS** module.

Watch this column for more development information!