Aleph implementation project at the libraries of the University of Zagreb
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Abstract
The first phase of the Ex Libris Aleph integrated library system implementation in libraries at the University of Zagreb was described. 21 libraries together with the National and University Library participated in the process. The group was joined by the 12 libraries affiliated to the independent public research institutes located in Zagreb. The Aleph replaced a few different library softwares, and bibliographic data were converted and integrated. The upgrading of the routine library work (circulation, acquisition, cataloging) and the users on-site access to a union catalog were the most important outcomes. The results of the first phase are a good base for planning of a unique university library system that would meet the needs of the higher education and research.

Keywords: Integrated library software, Aleph, University of zagreb.

Introduction:
Though repeatedly proposed and planned, a model of the University of Zagreb library system, part of it being an integrated library management software, has not been realized. Changes in library environment, global (changes in scientific communication, user habits, library management etc.) and local (economic recession, inadequate information infrastructure, inadequate interlibrary cooperation, etc.), have even more emphasized the need for integration of the university libraries and their resources as well as designing new services.

Objective:
To describe the first phase of Aleph implementation in libraries at the University of Zagreb.

Setting:
At the University of Zagreb there are more than 30 libraries, affiliated to its constituent units. The library service has not been integrated and the libraries have not been participating in any co-operative programme. The first step was made in September 2010, when 21 libraries together with the National and University Library, started the production work in Ex Libris Aleph integrated library system (ILS). The group was joined by the 12 libraries affiliated to the independent public research institutes located in Zagreb.

Main outcome:
The Aleph system replaced a few different library softwares (Crolist DOS, ISIS DOS, Medved, Metel, FerLib), and bibliographic data were converted and integrated.

Results:
The major steps in implementation process were:

- Aleph system setup for 30 different libraries
- exporting records in different bibliographic formats
- conversion of bibliographic records into MARC 21 format

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1 The first page must contain the title of the paper and the authors’ names, affiliations, mailing addresses, and email addresses should be left justified. An informative abstract of minimum 100, maximum 250 words should be included on the first page.
Results show that many of participating libraries upgraded their routine library work (circulation, acquisition, cataloging) and that the users finally have the on-site access to a union catalog.

**Conclusion:**

The first phase of the University of Zagreb libraries integration is a good base for planning and realisation of a unique library system that would meet the needs of the university education and scientific research.

**References and Citations**


**Curriculum Vitae**

Tamara Krajna is a librarian at Central Library, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture. She is also a PhD student. Her interests are bibliometrics, scientific communication.

Jelka Petrak, PhD,MLS, is a head librarian at Central Medical Library, University of Zagreb School of Medicine, where she also holds the position of professor. She has published a number of papers in international and local journals. She was invited speaker at several international and local conferences. Her special interests: information literacy, user education, bibliometrics.