



Ex Libris Pioneers Library Software

From Library Systems to Information Services



Key Highlights

Company

Ex Libris Group
www.exlibrisgroup.com

ISV Overview

Worldwide supplier of software solutions and related services for libraries and information centers.

Key Industry Needs

Practical solutions for libraries and information centers.

Solution

Close working relationships with current and potential customers turn new ideas into cutting-edge technologies.

Key Business Benefits

Standards-based Ex Libris systems adopted today continue to serve as a solid functional investment for the future.

Key Business Results

Ex Libris provides the tools to access, integrate, and personalize the heterogeneous information environment.

Sun and Ex Libris

Nearly 90% of Ex Libris academic and research libraries run on Sun.

Products

ALEPH 500
Voyager
SFX
Verde
DigiTool
Metalib
Primo



Ex Libris is a leading worldwide developer and provider of high-performance applications for libraries, information centers, and researchers. ALEPH 500 and Voyager, the Ex Libris Group's flagship integrated library solutions, are in use at over 3000 worldwide sites. Other products from the Ex Libris suite, deployed at more than 1300 sites, focus on the digital library and offer state-of-the-art, user-centric solutions for managing electronic resources and digital assets. Ex Libris is committed to empowering its international user community by offering top-tier component-based solutions, tackling emerging information industry requirements, and continuing its highly rewarding partnership development programs.

Solution Overview

The ALEPH 500 integrated library system is a market leader for academic libraries and research centers. Based on industry standards, ALEPH 500 provides multilingual and multi-script support in 20 interface languages. Its integrated modules provide comprehensive functionality for running a large-scale library. The state-of-the-art technology and intuitive user interface offered by the Voyager integrated library management make it another natural choice for academic and research institutions.

As electronic resources play an increasingly large role in providing information services, libraries must complement traditional library management software with products that help their users navigate rich electronic and digital collections while providing library staff with the tools needed to manage information resources of all kinds. Using the SFX context-sensitive linking technology, patrons link to full text articles found in electronic journal and book collections as well as dynamically created, library-defined services.

Library staff control the complex life cycle of electronic book and journal subscriptions by using Verde, the Ex Libris standards-based management tool for electronic resources. Building on the power of the SFX link server to provide extensive access to hundreds of thousands of electronic products, Verde supports

the service requirements of e-resources by complementing, not replacing, the systems currently deployed by libraries.

DigiTool is an enterprise solution that enables institutions to create, manage, preserve, and share locally administered digital collections. Based on a combination of modules that provide a comprehensive solution, DigiTool's flexible and open architecture is designed to address both current and future requirements for preservation of academic research and cultural heritage.

The MetaLib gateway 'metasearch' provides users with a coherent and friendly environment for metasearching — simultaneously searching heterogeneous remote resources from a single search interface. MetaLib streamlines the discovery process by presenting users with content from multiple information providers in one clear, familiar user interface.

Primo — the new advanced discovery and delivery environment — completes the Ex Libris product suite. Sensitive to industry trends and market demands, Ex Libris has created a user-centric tool incorporating a wide range of social computing features. By means of Primo, the entire range of information and web resources provided by the library are brought directly to the researcher via one easy to use interface.

Benefits

Ex Libris maintains an open dialog with its customers, which extends beyond the usual customer-supplier relationship. Each of the Ex Libris products was developed in cooperation with one or more top-tier institutions which have provided the company with input regarding market needs. Following the launch of any given product, Ex Libris continues to communicate with users regarding evolving library requirements for the product.

- ALEPH 500 was developed at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem .
- A partnership with the University of Ghent led to the development of the OpenURL standard and the Ex Libris SFX link server.
- Collaboration with the Cooperative Library Network Berlin-Brandenburg (KOBV), resulted in the development of the MetaLib gateway metasearch solution.
- Cooperation with the University of Maryland in the United States and Curtin University in Australia resulted in the DigiTool digital asset management solution.
- Verde was developed in coordination with Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- Primo development partners include Vanderbilt University and the University of Minnesota in the United States; hbz (the University Library Center of North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany); and a Danish consortium of research libraries under the aegis of Danmarks Elektroniske Fag- og Forskningsbibliotek.

The sophistication of the Ex Libris product suite attests to the effectiveness of this approach.

Ex Libris and Sun Power South Dakota Library Network

South Dakota Library Network uses the Ex Libris product suite on Sun to provide cutting-edge access to library and information resources to its network of more than 65 public, school, university, research, and special libraries. Their technology environment includes the ALEPH integrated library system, the Metalib federated search tool, and the SFX link resolver. This powerful combination enables SDLN library users to seamlessly search, access, and retrieve information resources across the entire statewide system.

SDLN has recently upgraded its hardware platform, adding a Sun Fire™ T2000 server for the online public access catalog software and management of user traffic, and dedicating a Sun Fire V1280 server to the Oracle database. Offloading the OPAC to the T2000 has improved response time, returning results 4 to 5 seconds faster. SDLN also uses Sun StorageTek disk arrays and tape libraries.

Sun was originally selected for the hardware platform because of Ex Libris's recommendation, and SDLN's experience has been good. "I don't have a single complaint," said Sean Crooks, SDLN's Technology Integration Specialist. "Sun's performance and service has been excellent." SDLN used Sun's configuration services to get their newly architected environment up and running, and proactively maintains high availability with Sun Spectrum™ Gold support on their servers.

Ex Libris on Sun

Sun and Ex Libris provide a joint solution that allows academic and research libraries to utilize the network-computing model and extend access to information resources worldwide. Nearly 90 percent of Ex Libris' academic and research library customers run on Sun.

Sun is a recognized leader of open standards and architectures including servers, workstations, appliances, integration services, web services, storage, and software. Sun is also a leader in open computing and the sharing of best practices within the education and library communities, collaborating with library institutions worldwide in the areas of thin client technology, preservation and archiving, digital repositories, and library automation."

The breadth of Sun's product lineup today is stronger than at any time in the company's history. The ease of administration, speed, reliability, and scalability of Sun servers increases user productivity and cost savings. With over 600 new innovations and the best UNIX® to Linux interoperability, Solaris™ 10 sets a new

benchmark for operating system performance, vendor neutrality, and security. With 37% of the world's data stored on Sun, users of DigiTool find Sun to be the optimal storage platform for digital repositories.

Sun and Libraries

Sun is one of the lead IT partners to libraries worldwide. Sun enables library and digital repository customers to build secure, scalable, open environments for knowledge development, discovery, management, and sharing.

Sun has over a decade of experience collaborating with library solution vendors, national and state libraries, government agencies, academic institutions, and public libraries and consortia. In partnership with our customers, Sun has developed technology architectures for longterm preservation and archiving, eResearch collaboration, thin client deployment, and ubiquitous access to both library materials and web content.

To find out more about Sun's technology and solutions for Education and Research, visit www.sun.com/edu

