

Information Strategy Development in the UK and Ireland: a role for Aleph

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UK+Ireland
Strategy
Group

slide 1

Structure of my talk

- Who are we?
- Our institutional context
- A Top 10 Wish List in the light of what we have heard so far
- Conclusion: Aleph development in a national UK and Irish context

Who are we?

- A Strategy Group of UK and Irish Chief Librarians
 - whose institutions use Aleph as their library management system
 - meeting two or three times a year
 - members from Ex Libris in the UK join us at these meetings

Customers - Customer Sites - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help



Location: http://www.aleph.co.il/customers.asp?country=UK&LibraryType=&LibName=&go=stam&rid=®ionname=All+countries

[Site Map](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Customer Site	City	Country	Type of Library	Date
Anglia Polytechnic University	Chelmsford	UK	Academic	19/12/2002
AstraZeneca UK Ltd.	Macclesfield, Cheshire	UK	Corporate	5/3/2001
Canterbury Christchurch University College	Canterbury, Kent	UK	Academic	1/5/2000
Goldsmiths College	London	UK	Academic	3/7/2000
King's College London	London	UK	Academic	1/3/1998
Lancaster University	Lancaster	UK	Academic	10/9/2001
Loughborough University	Loughborough	UK	Academic	1/1/2001
Royal Holloway University	Surrey	UK	Academic	13/1/2000
University College of London	London	UK	Academic	9/3/1999
University of Bristol	Bristol	UK	Academic	1/10/1998
University of East Anglia	Norfolk	UK	Academic	17/12/2001
University of Newcastle	Newcastle	UK	Academic	14/2/2002
University of Nottingham	Nottingham	UK	Academic	1/7/1999
University of York	York	UK	Academic	12/12/2001
Westminster University	London	UK	Academic	1/9/1998

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Start Microsoft PowerPoint - [Re...] Customers - Customer...



ALEPH Customers

- Products II
- Customer Services III
- Customers IV**
- News and Events V
- Employment VI

Homepage
Librarians' Corner

Search

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Type of Library:

Name of Library:

Customer Site	City	Country	Type of Library	Date
National University Ireland, Galway	Galway	Ireland	Academic	27/8/2000
National University of Ireland, Maynooth	Maynooth	Ireland	Academic	1/5/1999
Royal College of Surgeons Ireland	Dublin	Ireland	Academic	1/7/1999

Or

- Universities/academic
 - Anglia Polytechnic University, Bristol University, British Library, Canterbury Christchurch University College, Coventry University, University of East Anglia, Goldsmiths College (University of London),

And

- King's College London (University of London), Lancaster University, Loughborough University, Napier University, Newcastle University, Nottingham University, Royal Holloway (University of London),

And

- UCL (University College London), University of York, University of Westminster;
- National University of Ireland: Galway, Maynooth; Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin

What is our role?

- Our role
 - *is not* to comment on or direct operational developments in the Ex Libris product range
 - **it is** to develop partnership with Ex Libris

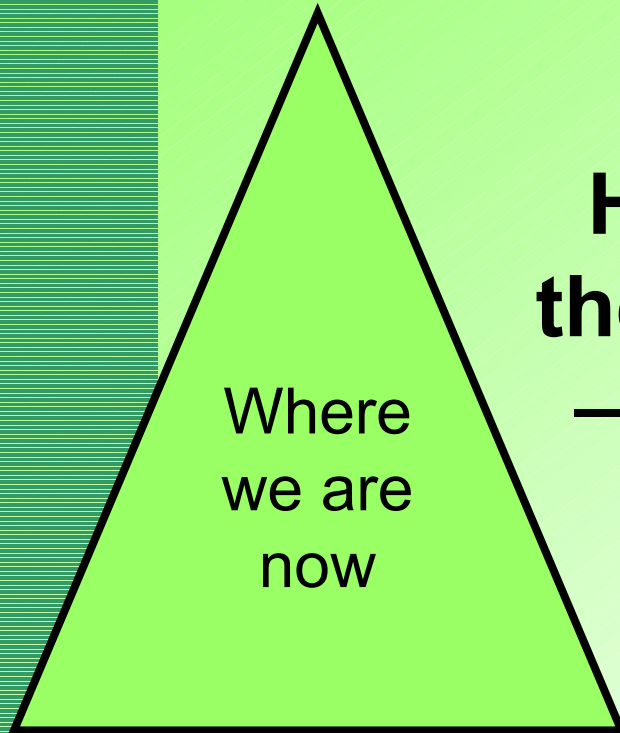
Partnership

- for exchange of information
- to oversee the changing world of Information provision
- to oversee the emerging information strategies of our own educational institutions

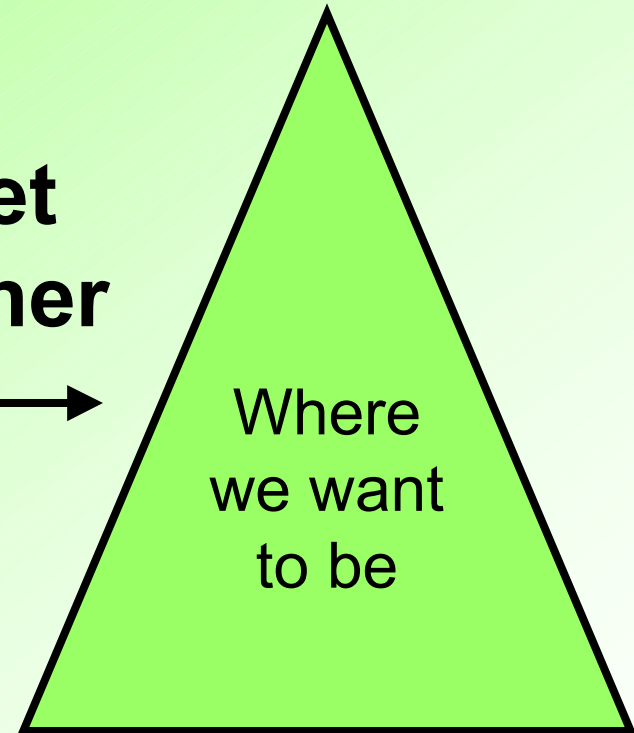
Partnership

- to fuse these developments together in an educational and technological setting
- to see if existing Ex Libris products can meet the need
- to identify future development paths for the Ex Libris suite

Or



**How we get
there together**



Corporate Plan (Institutional Strategy)

Corporate Systems Strategy

**Academic strategies:
Teaching and Learning
Research**

**Information/Library
Strategies**

IT Strategy

**Administrative strategies:
Finance, Development, HR, Estates, Registry**

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Vision: Integrated Information Environment

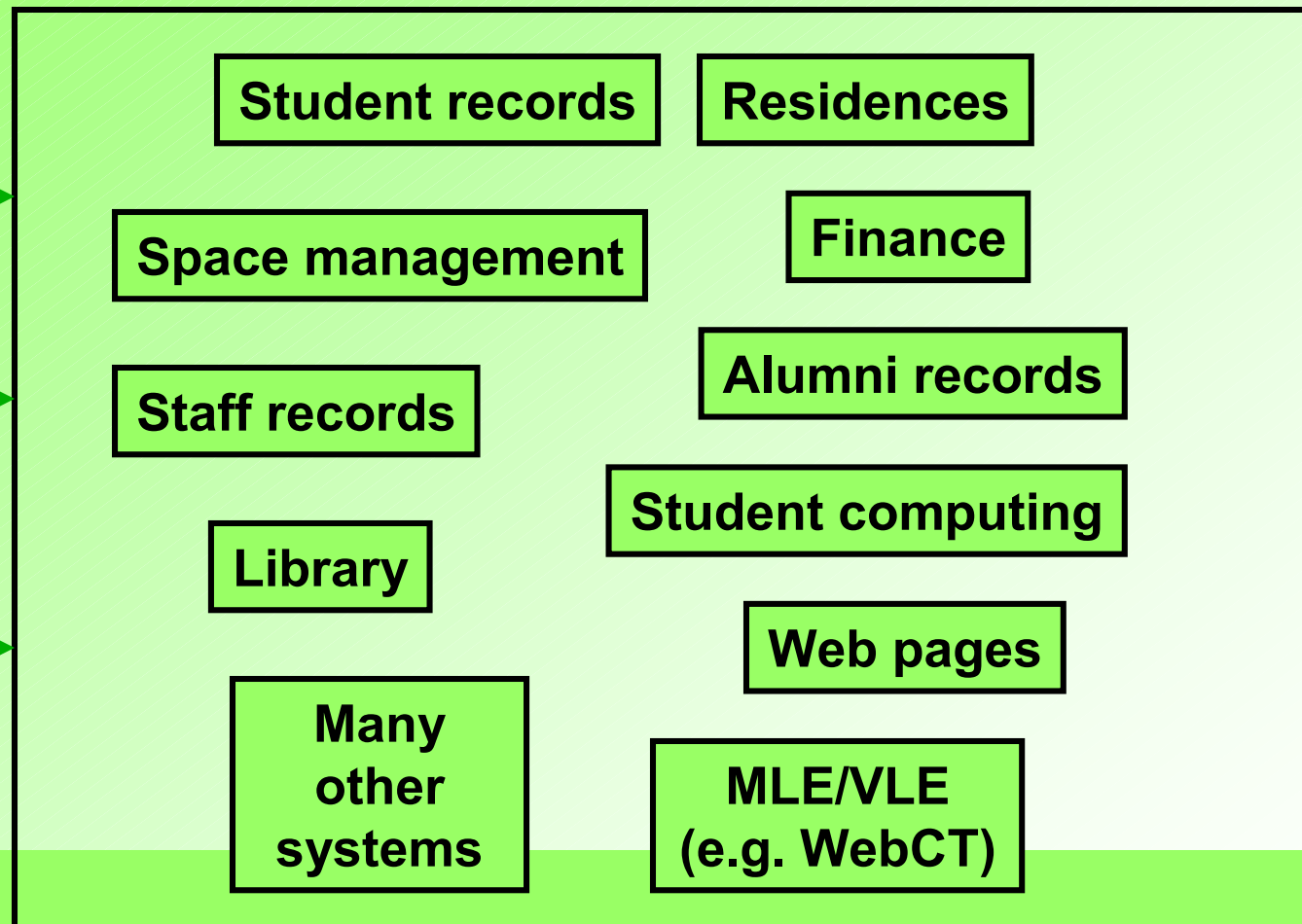
Student Portal



Staff Portal

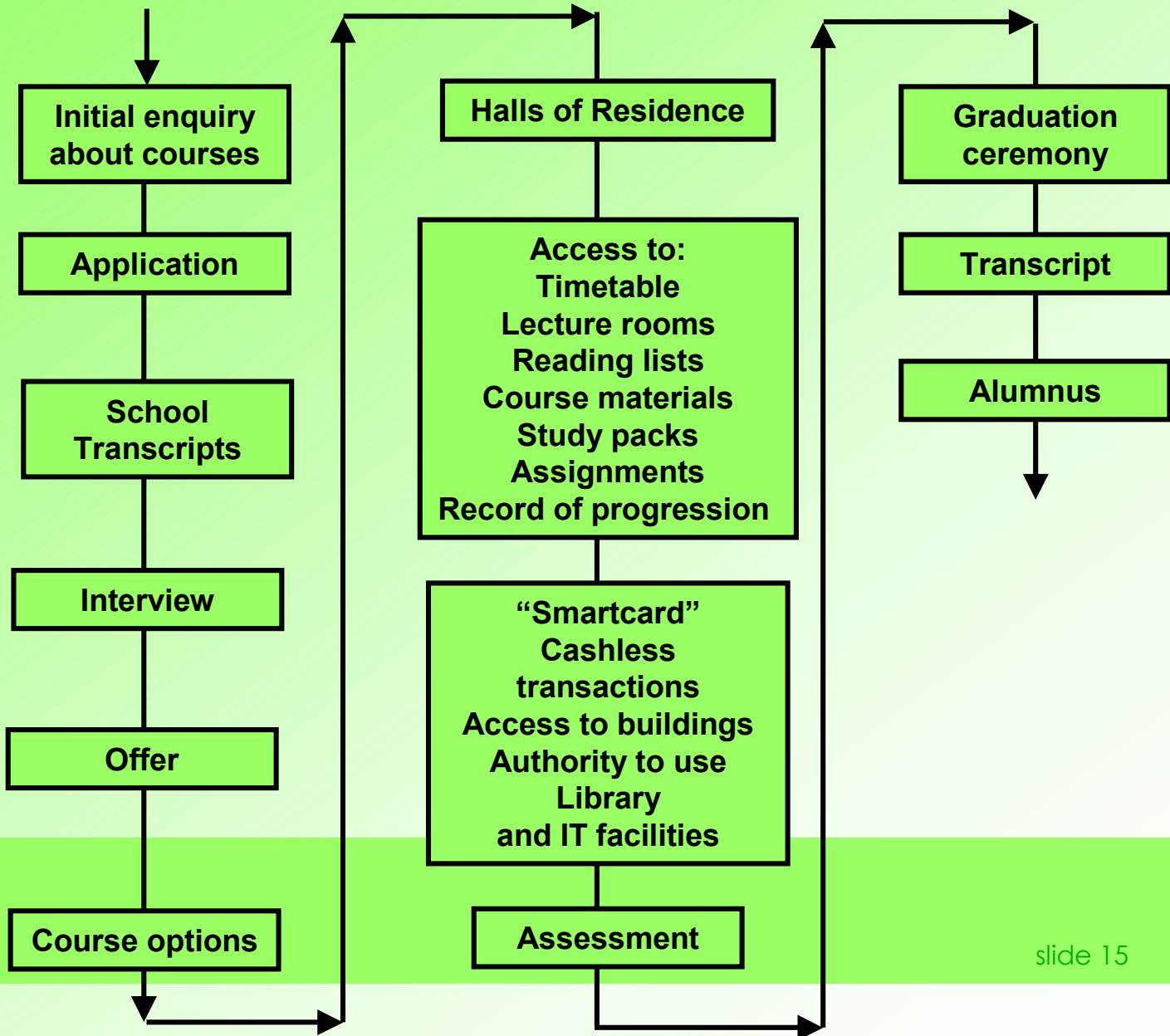


Web Interface



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Vision: The Student Experience



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What more do we need?

- Identified through
 - meetings of the UK and Ireland Strategy Group
 - conversations with individual Librarians, especially British Library, Nottingham
 - e-mail request for contributions

A Top 10 Wish List

- A Top 10 can consist of:
 - Back to the Basics
 - Corporate context
 - E-Journals
 - E-Books
 - Open Archiving

A Top 10 Wish List

- OAI compliance
- Catalogue
- Management Information
- VLEs/MLEs
- International debates

1: Back to the Basics

- Not essentially strategic, but...
 - everyone I spoke to about Vienna said, 'say this':-
 - Ex Libris must look at their basic level of service provision

1: Back to the Basics

- there needs to be improvement in:
 - communication between the company and the customer
 - documentation
 - support for customers in software upgrades

2: Corporate Context

- Ex Libris products are not stand-alone. They need to:
 - help a university deliver its Mission and Vision
 - be inter-operable with other institutional tools, e.g. Finance System

2: Corporate Context

- be user-centred, not library-centric
- help the library address institutional imperatives such as the student experience
- the UK and Ireland Strategy Group provides input on this

2: Corporate Context

but

- it is not yet clear how these strategy discussions get translated into development work by the company
- do we now need to rethink the whole development process?

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- The UK and Ireland Strategy Group has
 - discussed the role of the Aleph periodicals control module as universities are moving to an e-only environment

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- many universities want to use the library management system to manage their e-journals purchasing, to control access+authentication, & to monitor use of e-journals by end-users

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- UK and Ireland Strategy Group worked with UKI Aleph Users Group & Ex Libris to facilitate discussion about a role for Aleph

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- E-Books have been discussed by the Strategy Group
 - Hazel Woodward, University Librarian at Cranfield, has been very helpful as Chair of the JISC E-Books Working Group

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- provision of full-text suitable for UK Higher Education is extremely poor
- does Ex Libris see a role for itself as a content supplier?
- Aleph will certainly need to cope with purchase, access to,

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- authentication, and distribution of e-texts
- potentially of great importance for supporting taught courses
- users want 24x7 access, on-campus, off-campus

3/4: E-Journals/E-Books

- Ex Libris and JISC are in further discussion on this issue
- we await the outcome!

5: Open Archiving

- Open Archiving is of great interest in the UK
 - JISC/CURL-funded national project called SHERPA
 - Securing a Hybrid Environment for Research Preservation and Access

5: Open Archiving

- 13 inter-operable Open Archive repositories
- containing pre-prints/post-prints of research output, material for teaching and learning, grey literature, Ph.D. theses

5: Open Archiving

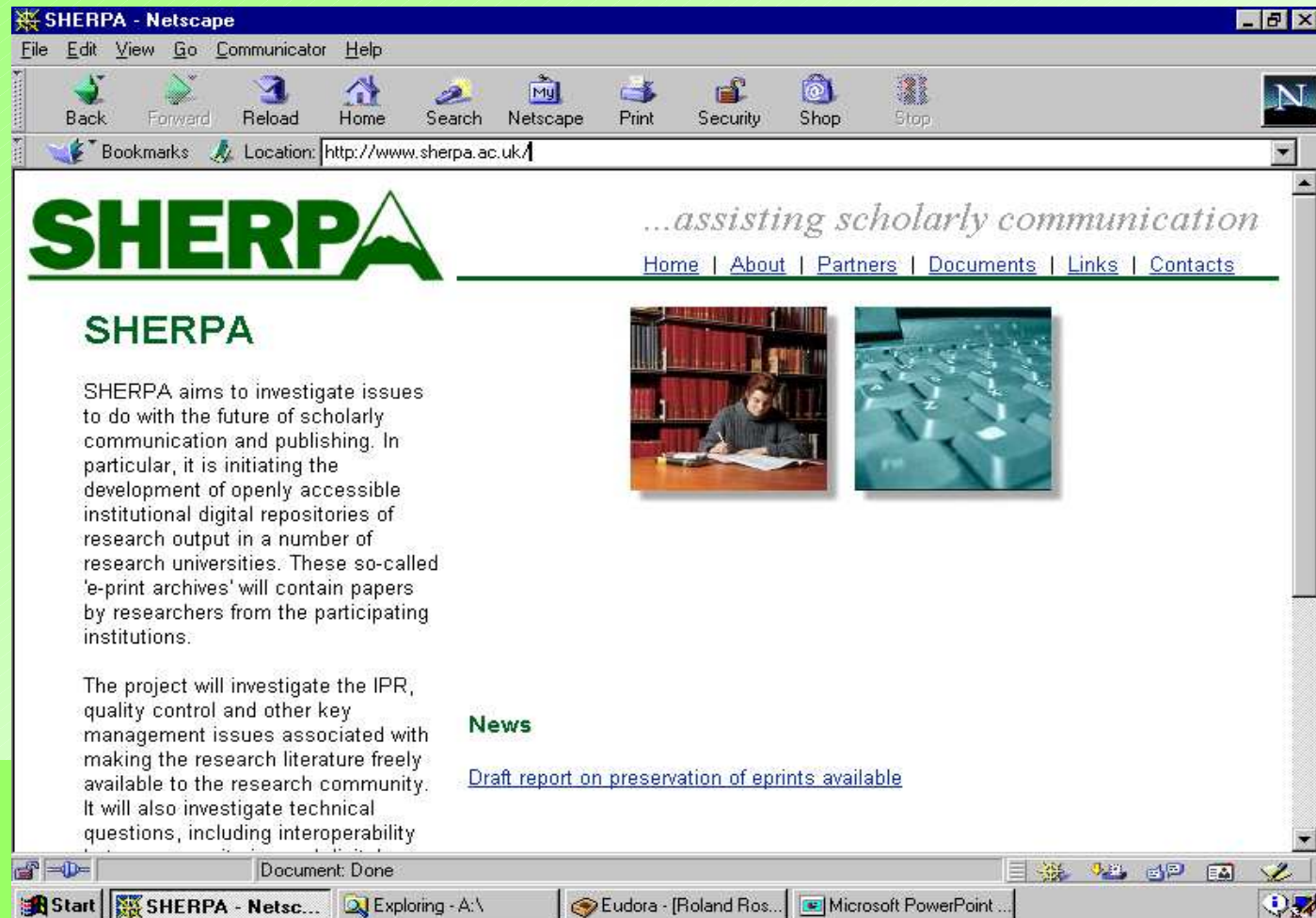
- metadata will be harvested by OAI service-providers
- full-text will be available to anyone with an Internet connection
- Russell Group Research Vice-Chancellors engaged

5: Open Archiving

- project is re-inventing the role of a university in managing its information assets
- intellectual property rights management is a key part of this project
- see <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk>

5: Open Archiving

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The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window titled "SHERPA - Netscape". The address bar displays "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/". The website content includes the SHERPA logo, a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Partners, Documents, Links, and Contacts, and a main text area describing the project's goals. Two images are shown: a person writing at a desk and a close-up of a computer keyboard. A "News" section contains a link to a draft report on eprint preservation. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications.

SHERPA *...assisting scholarly communication*

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Partners](#) | [Documents](#) | [Links](#) | [Contacts](#)

SHERPA

SHERPA aims to investigate issues to do with the future of scholarly communication and publishing. In particular, it is initiating the development of openly accessible institutional digital repositories of research output in a number of research universities. These so-called 'e-print archives' will contain papers by researchers from the participating institutions.

The project will investigate the IPR, quality control and other key management issues associated with making the research literature freely available to the research community. It will also investigate technical questions, including interoperability

News

[Draft report on preservation of eprints available](#)

5: Open Archiving

- Ex Libris products are not part of this ground-breaking UK development
- OAI software used is: eprints.org and D-Space
- Ex Libris needs to be e-prints and D-Space compliant

6: OAI compliance

- Further fruits of OAI compliance
 - libraries would like to use OAI to exchange their bibliographic records
 - metadata could be exposed on the web

6: OAI compliance

- metadata can then be loaded into larger union catalogues
- is this a more robust model than using Z39.50?
- do we need to test this in a working environment?
- can Ex Libris help?

7: Catalogue

- OPAC
 - no longer the central gateway to an institution's information assets
 - 70% of US undergraduates use the Internet before using their Library

7: Catalogue

- users want the library interface to look like Google
- RLG's 'RedLightGreen' project is addressing this issue
- <http://www.rlg.org/redlightgreen/index.html>

7: Catalogue

– Aim of 'RedLightGreen' is

to offer rich, reliable library information that is unique in the Web environment and to deliver that information in ways that meet the expectations of Web-savvy users



your search terms here

All Materials
 Books Only
 English Language Only

Publication Date Range
to

New search
 Search within results

Go!

Your Path: [New York...](#) > [Peter Q...](#) > Search Results

User Poll
Vote!

All matches	Author matches	Subject matches	Title matches
(68)	(0)	(23)	(45)

Audio (3) | Books (60) | Video (5)

Sort by Most W

Viewing: 1-10 of 68 results | results per page << first | < previous | next

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Held by 78 contributing institutions
- No Irish need apply, by Marcia Rock**
1 edition published in 1993 in 1 language.
Primary Subject: New York Riots--Irish--1863.
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7: Catalogue

- pilot deployment scheduled for autumn 2003
- underlying data is 126 million bibliographic records representing 42 million titles
- how will the results be fed into Aleph development?

8: Management Information

- A strategic need
 - UK libraries provide returns to SCONUL for benchmarking
 - statistics used to argue a library's case institutionally and nationally
 - used to monitor performance

8: Management Information

- Aleph not perceived as being good in providing management information anywhere in the UK and Ireland
- need for improvement and dialogue here

8: Management Information

- interesting to hear Dalia Mendelsson's description of the Data Warehouse
- but this is the first time we have heard of the development
- can Ex Libris work *with* libraries on this?

9: VLE/MLE

- Virtual/Managed Learning Environments
 - Most UK and Irish universities developing these
 - support the student experience
 - need to study and model better linkages between MetaLib as

9: VLE/MLE

- portal software and e-learning packages: WebCT / Blackboard
- improvement in Aleph reading list module would be required
 - noted as being available in Aleph v. 17, but why do libraries have to wait so long?

9: VLE/MLE

- also the general ability to take information from Aleph (e.g. Loans) into other applications
- Could MetaLib be developed to be able to harvest OAI-compliant records from elsewhere and incorporate them into a search service

9: VLE/MLE

- Considerable partnership work is needed in all these areas

10: International debates

- Are there other international fora that can be used to generate ongoing strategic discussion to help Ex Libris development paths?

Conclusion

- Higher Education in the UK is extremely high-profile
 - Government White Paper on Higher Education at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/highereducation/hestrategy/>

Conclusion

- Research libraries (including many Ex Libris libraries) surveyed in a national Report by the Research Support Libraries Group at <http://www.rslg.org>

Conclusion

- Debate on 'top-up' fees, the amount universities can charge students directly, is intense
- Higher Education is a highly politicized and competitive market

Conclusion

in this context, libraries must

- support the institutional mission
- deliver
- support their customers
- be cost-effective

Conclusion

- the Ex Libris suite of tools is vital in enabling libraries to tackle these agendas
- Ex Libris has fine products
- for my own institution, the purchase of Ex Libris tools has been well-received

Conclusion

- customers need a continuous software development path
- we believe that the creation of the UK and Ireland Strategy Group helps to fulfil that need
- we look forward to continuing the partnership with Ex Libris

And

– Thanks for listening