

SUNYAUGsome!

The First SUNY ALEPH Users' Group Meeting

Cover Story

The growing SUNY ALEPH user community was in evidence at the first SUNYAUG meeting. As a sponsor of the [SUNY ALEPH Users' Group](#) conference, the OLIS was pleased to participate in the program at Upstate Medical University.

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The Office of Library and Information Services wishes to extend congratulations to the organizers and presenters of the first SUNY Aleph Users' Group conference held September 19, 2003 in Syracuse. Particular thanks go to Joe Petrick, SUNYAUG Vice Chair/Meeting Planner and Systems Librarian at Alfred State, who not only crafted a new conference from scratch, but did it at the same time he and Alfred State were working through the Aleph500 migration process. In addition, Pat Onsi and Upstate Medical staff should take a bow for their fine work in coordinating the local arrangements. The conference attendance was significant despite the threat of Hurricane Isabel. The bonhomie of the day was evident in the collegial atmosphere. Participants were rewarded with informative and practical sessions. It was encouraging to witness the increasingly sophisticated knowledge of the Aleph system across SUNY libraries and participants willingness to share insights as well as swap Aleph stories. The OLIS strongly encourages SUNYAUG and the SUNY Aleph community to build on the synergy demonstrated at the September 19 conference to initiate forums for sharing real world Aleph experience with colleagues. We will try to provide any feasible support that could help open new opportunities for sharing Aleph knowledge within our library community.

Maureen Zajkowski

SUNYConnect LMS Project Manager

Office of Library and Information Services

Among the registrants were representatives from over three dozen *SUNYConnect* institutions. Special recognition goes to Jeanne Galbraith (Stony Brook Health Science Center). Jeanne was a presenter or co-presenter for three [conference sessions](#). Included in her comments were some recipes for success in regard to implementing the *SUNYConnect* LMS: "As you know, in ALEPH there's always three ways to do everything. This makes the software flexible, but also confusing at the start. Don't panic. You can do this. Just focus on one approach and gain familiarity with that approach, and go for it!" At Stony Brook HSC, "this was a library-wide priority to get everyone up and running using ALEPH."

Michelle Eichelberger (Finger Lakes) broke the ice at the start of the conference's final program -- an open forum for *SUNYConnect* LMS questions and answers. This forum provided direct evidence of the extensive ALEPH expertise around SUNY. One can look forward spirited and informative open forum sessions at future SUNYAUG meetings.

[Contact SUNYAUG](#) about hosting one of those meetings at your campus, and take a look at the 2003 conference presentation materials at the group's web site.

Linda Frank, an early ALEPH implementer at Tompkins Cortland, characterized the attitude for a successful install of the *SUNYConnect* LMS by observing that "enthusiasm is contagious." Thanks to the SUNYAUG members, organizers and presenters for sharing some of that positive attitude.



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