



## Additional SUNY Connect Updates

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### Union Catalog

A prototype of the *SUNY Connect* union catalog is available (<http://aleph1.sunyconnect.suny.edu:4555/F> and click on "guest"). This includes the catalogs of Binghamton, Cortland, Upstate Medical, Cayuga, Stony Brook Health Sciences, Oneonta and Sullivan.

"The union catalog is very interesting! It really shows how our library collections will work together!" (Andy Perry - Binghamton). The Data Management Working Group has sent in initial evaluations and issues to Ex Libris. The goal is to resolve various technical and procedural issues by summer 2004. This would include loading all catalogs of all *SUNY Connect* LMS sites.

The OLIS, S.A.C. and the SUNYLA Executive Board have all expressed concerns to [Ex Libris](#) regarding the pace of *SUNY Connect* consortial developments.

### Group4

Five more *SUNY Connect* libraries have joined the ranks of ALEPH users. The OLIS extends its thanks and congratulations to staff members at Alfred State, Alfred University, Ceramics, [Corning](#) and Jamestown for their efforts reaching "STP."



Buffalo State, Erie and Finger Lakes are due to "switch to production" using the *SUNY Connect* LMS in November. "It has been such a help having OLIS working with us in regards to training and implementation support. I can't quite imagine doing this implementation solo. We have been much more



comfortable with the implementation process than we had once thought. Our experience seems better than that of some of the earlier groups. It hasn't been too bad" (Michelle Eichelberger - FLCC). The other Group4 campuses (Genesee, Geneseo, and Monroe) are on track to join their Group4 colleagues during December. Ex Libris Implementation Librarians Mary Croxen, Chris Holly, Sheri Saltzman and other Ex Libris staffers play critical roles in keeping this large project on

schedule.

Twenty eight SUNY institutions are currently using the *SUNY Connect* LMS

### Group6

Albany (Group6) has begun the *SUNY Connect* LMS implementation process. This includes working with Ex Libris and OLIS about hardware and data conversion issues. Albany is planning to implement ALEPH500 version 16 by next summer. Software training, conducted by Ex Libris began in September.

### Group7

Group7 implementing the *SUNY Connect* LMS is comprised of Downstate Medical Center, Farmingdale, Fashion Institute, Maritime, Nassau, Old Westbury, Optometry, Suffolk and Westchester. Brooklyn is migrating from a DRA Classic system, Westchester

from PALS and the others are currently using the Multilis system.

Initial planning meetings commencing the implementation process will be scheduled during December and January. It is expected that these campuses will STP in the summer of 2004. The OLIS will strive to schedule as many of the meetings and training sessions in the NYC-Long Island area as possible. SUNY Purchase gave Group7 colleagues a demo of the ALEPH software earlier this month.

### **Customized Reports**

The *SUNYConnect* LMS comes with a number of standard reports. It is fair to say, however, that these do not always meet the needs of a diverse array of libraries. As a result, the OLIS and SUNYAUG have completed the first phase of a project designed to create more of the reports needed by the *SUNYConnect* institutions. This first phase resulted in 12 customized reports being made available. "Our circulation clerk has praised the new reports", was overheard at the SUNYAUG meeting.

Phase two of this project is underway. [SUNYAUG has requested input](#) from the *SUNYConnect* community regarding what additional reports should be created. Next, work will begin on creating those customized reports. When completed and tested, these will be made available to *SUNYConnect* LMS users.

This project provides a good example of the benefits of a user group community utilizing the expertise available to improve the *SUNYConnect* LMS for everyone.

### **Patch 7**

*SUNYConnect* LMS campuses utilizing a "shared server" are running ALEPH500 version 14.2 patch 4. The plan is to upgrade these systems to version 14.2 patch 7. The process of upgrading ALEPH is one that has generated some critiques from around the world. These primarily focus on the cumbersome and ineffective nature of the upgrade process.

SUNY has initiated approaches to this process with the hope of streamlining it for any one particular campus. In that regard, Natalie Sturr (working for OLIS) is developing documentation, web-based resources and procedures to guide the campus through upgrading their ALEPH system. This is following a successful model used to upgrade *SUNYConnect* libraries to the patch 4 software.

Scheduled upgrades should be completed by the end of January 2004.

### **Who are you going to call?**

Requests for report writing access and other "server-intensive" activities on the shared *SUNYConnect* servers need to be sent to [olis\\_service@ls.suny.edu](mailto:olis_service@ls.suny.edu)

### **New Tool for Editing ALEPH Tables**

The ALEPH software depends upon a number of configuration tables to establish the basic workings of the software, its "look and feel", etc. It is these tables that permit the ALEPH software to be flexible and to be customizable to a campus' particular needs.

The process of editing these configuration files (typically using a UNIX-based editor) can be daunting, especially to campuses just beginning the software implementation. The OLIS has developed a tool to ease the editing process. This is a web-based editor that allows much more flexible,



"intuitive" editing techniques than what is available via most UNIX-based editors.

Contact OLIS if you would like more information about this editing tool or if you have comments and/or suggestions for improving the resource.

### SFX

Additional SFX training and consultation has been provided. Through the auspices of OLIS, Abigail Bordeaux (Binghamton) and Mark Sullivan (Geneseo) provided this training. The OLIS has created an [SFX portal](#) as another resource for SFX implementers.

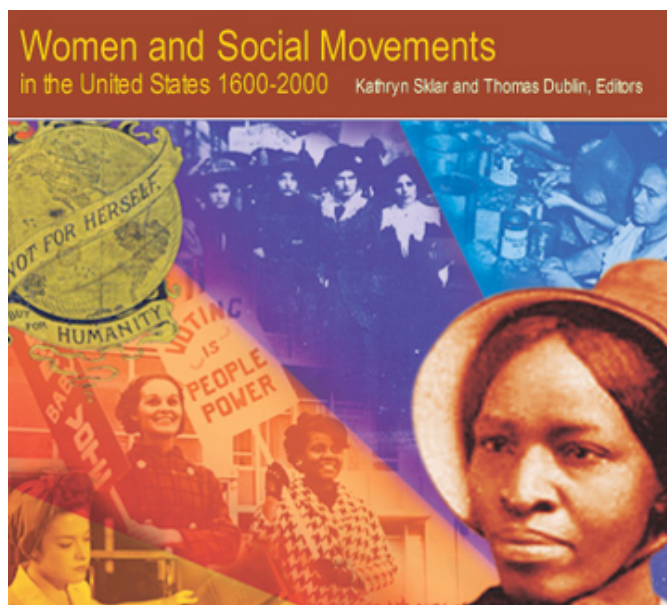
### JSTOR

JSTOR - The Scholarly Journal Archive collections are now available to those fifteen SUNY campuses that opted to participate in this program. SUNY System Administration's contribution for the one time JSTOR "Archive Capital Fee" is \$650,550.



### Free Database Trial Available

SUNYConnect has established free trial usage of the new Women and Social Movements database through Jan. 14, 2004. The database can be accessed at <http://www.alexanderstreet6.com/wasm>



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