



Union Catalog

Cover Story

By this summer, forty four *SUNYConnect* libraries will be running the ALEPH LMS. This will include three out of the four SUNY university centers.

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With this critical mass of library catalogs, a *SUNYConnect* union catalog can be a tremendous information resource. OLIS, Ex Libris and *SUNYConnect* are back on track to reaching this milestone. Project Manager Eva Krall (Ex Libris) is assisting in getting the technical pieces and procedures in place for ongoing updating and enrichment (with additional *SUNYConnect* catalogs) of the union catalog.

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The plan is to give the *SUNYConnect* library community access to the union catalog this summer with a more complete "roll out" scheduled for the start of the fall semester.

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Some of the efforts underway to achieve this goal include checking ALEPH configuration tables to verify their correctness in matching union catalog standards; distributing and analyzing a survey of *SUNYConnect* library cataloging practices; extracting existing *SUNYConnect* catalogs; and loading of that data into the union catalog.

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We'll also be seeing progress on *SUNYConnect*-wide authority control. This involves loading the Library of Congress and National Library of Medicine authority files as part of the union catalog.

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Unfortunately, the same amount of progress cannot be reported regarding the *SUNYConnect*-wide universal borrowing component. OLIS' report to the Council of SUNY Library Directors sums it up: "Universal Borrowing - OLIS met with Eva Krall on April 15-16, 2004. The discussion on universal borrowing functionality was based on workflow and ALEPH system configuration requirements. Based on this detailed review it became apparent that the functionality as proposed by Ex Libris in their bid response to the SUNY RFP was not available without extensive development. The OLIS is preparing a document for Ex Libris that outlines priorities and weights for the functionality of circulation capabilities among campuses." This document will be used by Ex Libris and SUNY to help focus on the software developments required for Ex Libris to meet their contractual obligations.

Significant effort, ongoing testing and, yes, probably some set backs are still in the future before the union catalog is a reality. But, these efforts will produce this important part of the *SUNYConnect* initiative.

Krall will be making a presentation at [SUNYLA 2004](#) on the *SUNYConnect* union catalog. See you in Cortland.



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