

NEWSLETTER

Special Issue

Published by the ITALE Association and freely distributed to Aleph users

A NEW STATUTE FOR ITALE!

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Special issue

Published for the 13th



Meeting in Paris

Sept 30-Oct 2, 2002



www.itale.it

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On September 5 2002, with a shining sun, the University of Genoa hosted the 2002 meeting of ITALE (Italian ALEPH Users Group). A large number of institutions (15) has attended the meeting which took place in the Architecture Faculty branch.

The main task of the meeting was to revise the ITALE structure; in the opening speech, Prof. Franco Montanari (the retiring chair) outlined that ITALE has to pursue new functions and needs a different organization. With regard to this, the proposals and the comments, previously sent through the mailing list by the members, have contributed to arrange a new text and to explain some questions. So, the assembly could easily pass the changes Prof. Montanari expounded in the first session included in the agenda.

According to the new Statute, on the model of the other National



Groups constitution, the ITALE organs are:

- the Assembly of Members;
- the Steering Committee (consisting of five members including the immediate past chair). The Steering Committee members are elected for a two (2)-year term; they couldn't be confirmed more than three consecutive times (3);
- the Chair

The new Statute is already effective; after the amendments have been ratified, the assembly of members has immediately elected the chair and the members of the Steering Committee.

The new chair of ITALE is Alessandra Bezzi (University of Insubria).

Liliana Bernardis (University of Udine), Sandra Di Majo (Scuola Normale in Pisa), Fiorella Liotto (Stazione Zoologica "A.Dohrn" in Napoli) and Graziano Ruffini (University of Genoa, ex officio) make the Steering Committee team.



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Following the commitment of the International Tender for the construction of a new National Bibliographic Index, SBN2, Akros and Finsiel (the two Software-house that won the competition) need to issue the API for interconnection of different SW to SBN,

ITALE-SBN

by the end of August.

The Technical Committee of SBN decided to invite them for a presentation at the ICCU, by the middle of September, addressed not only to the Software houses working and represented in Italy, but also to a selected number of Institutions working with different software not SBN. This direct involvement of Institutions could be very important in order to verify the consistence with the user's needs of the possible connection between SBN and other softwares. It is a good occasion for highlighting all the implications connected to the organization of the workflow and the integration of cataloging in SBN with all the other functionalities included in the software that we are using (like acquisition, circulation, serial management, etc.) and mainly because of the integration among bibliographic records and all the other electronic resources.

The achievement of a complete integration of all

the catalogues through SBN will be a very important result and a good service for our users all over the Country and abroad. What would be at the same time very important, is to preserve the quality of the services that our users – mainly in an academic environment – are used to have. For these reasons only the representative of Institutions can play a right positive control, taking care of the project and making proposal for a correct implementation and development of new functionality. Bearing in mind the difficulty of updating all the new functionalities with the natural development of the SW and the delivering of new patches and releases.

In Italy at the moment we don't have many strong organizations of Library Software Users: this is a problem in general, but also one more challenge for ITALE.

DERIVED CATALOGUING AS COOPERATION TOOL



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Derived or copy cataloguing refers to the process of cataloguing items by using existing bibliographic records, obtained from various sources, and altering those records to conform to local cataloguing standards.

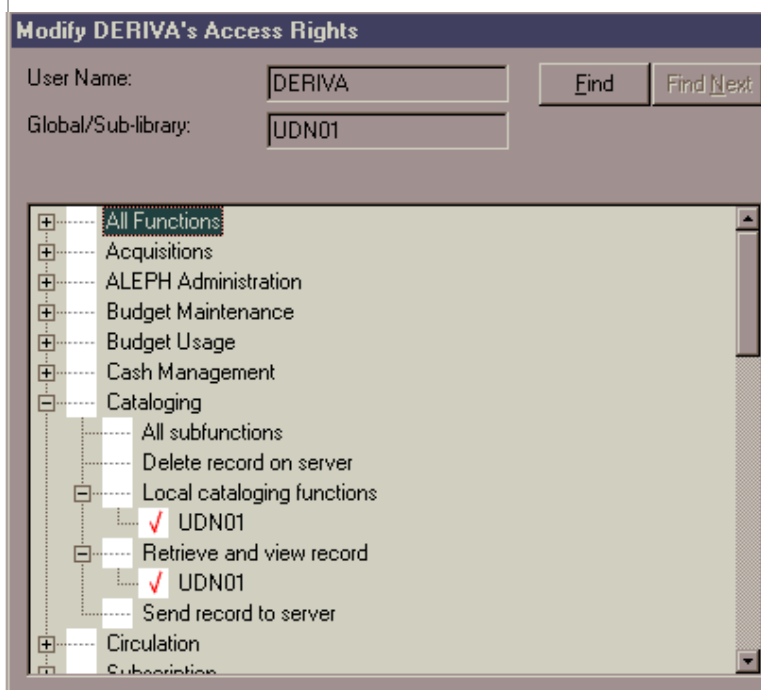
Some Italian Universities, that have been working with ALEPH 14.1 version, have been adopting for months a procedure for derived cataloguing that makes possible :

1. to copy records from remote ALEPH databases
2. to offer one's own database for derived cataloguing without having Z39.50 server

At present, the Universities taking part in this project are: Bergamo, Genoa, Siena and Udine. Previously, these installations carried out a derived cataloguing service by using the ALEPH300 tools (especially the TABALEPH duplication and conversion) .

In ALEPH500 the system set-up requires these steps:

- searching for records in other databases will be held in the GUI OPAC
- the IP addresses of remote databases (from which the librarian can copy records) are defined in the ALEPHCOM \TAB\LIBRARY.INI file; the System Librarian has also to list the bases in the CATALOG\TAB \PER_LIBRARIY.INI file
- in order to choose the databases for searching and copying records, the librarian (or the System Librarian) must write these codes in OPTIONS-DATABASE menu of the OPAC module
- a common user is configured in the ADMIN module by the System Librarian with privileges for *Cataloguing*, sub-functions *Local cataloguing functions* and *Retrieve and view record*



In the GUI OPAC the librarian chooses the remote ALEPH database for searching; the option "Temporary password override" enables him to enter the common user, so that he could browse or find query in an external database, display a record in a full format and push it in the ALEPH catalogue. The "Duplicate record" function enables him to copy the currently displayed record in the Local library and to edit it before saving. Usually the local fields and the linking fields need deleting.

In our opinion this procedure, that means a mark of cooperation for Italian Group, will offer several advantages. The procedure doesn't require Z39.50 server; the incoming records are "clean": in fact all records have UNIMARC format with a uniform tracing based on the analysis Italian users have carried out before converting the ALEPH300 databases to ALEPH500 system. Finally, if we always derive records from the same libraries, we'll define more easily some fix-routines in order to make changes to copied records.

ITALE AND REPORTING NEEDS

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We have the feeling the real problem of being in an “half and half” behaviour between A300 and A500 users and with a great number of institutions involved in the migration process, we had in the recent past, is almost behind our shoulders. Today the majority of Italian aleph500 user group is running Aleph version 14.1 sharing the same patch. So we have newly dedicated some resources to exchanging and sharing common needs and experiences.

*From
Aleph300
To
Aleph500*

One of the “hot” topics is reporting needs and tools offered by A500.

A common and shared “feeling” among academic and public libraries that summarize the topic is:

- ✓ there are a lack of reports in aleph
- ✓ among the WWW services functions we would like to find Circulation statistics and Item statistics
- ✓ there are no matter to use standard utility at sublibrary level (some WWW Services functions only run at Global level) where sublibrary for us are often independent units
- ✓ there are a too much “poor” level of customization on choosing retrieval parameters
- ✓ data structure makes certain types of reporting difficult or impossible (e.g., storage of MARC data in BLOB format, primary-foreign key structure requiring extensive use of substring functions for table joins)

*Aleph500:
Hot Topics*

Two great projects made in Italy!

Trying to overcome these problems our institutions have devoted time and resources to develop ad hoc reporting using 3rd party tools, implementing set of SQL query, unix shell scripts and standard analysis tools for apache logs.

In particular two institutions, the University of Siena and University of Udine have developed some on site applications for reporting activity.

AlephPlug
University of Siena

AlephScripts
University of Udine

*AlephPlug
and
AlephScript*

“AlephPlug”, the project made by the University of Siena, is a support modular program for the libraries’s staff, functional to statistical needs, to the retrieval and the processing of administrative and bibliographic data.

“AlephScripts” is a set of UNIX shell scripts, developed by the University of Udine, that access directly the ORACLE database and extract administrative data .

ALEPHSCRIPTS. MADE IN UDINE

A set of UNIX shell scripts access directly the ORACLE database and extract administrative data

Using an Excel-compatible data format, our code creates:



Marco Bortolami

1. Inventory report (the user may select Date or Sub-library parameters)
2. Budget summary (the user makes use of Budget group parameter)
3. Orders and invoices list (the user makes use of Budget code)
4. Orders and invoices list (the user makes use of Borrower name)
5. Bibliography print (the user may select Sub-library, Collection and Location, Material type, Item open date parameters)
6. Item list (the user may select Item open date and Cataloger name parameters)

In addition to this set of UNIX shell scripts we are planning to develop other and more efficient methods to extract data from the ORACLE database using web oriented scripting languages as PHP and PERL or directly handling ODBC drivers in conjunction with 3rd party software like Microsoft Access.

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ALEPHPLUG. MADE IN SIENA

A program for the retrieval of administrative data



AlephPlug 1.06		BRANCHI		Setti aggiornati al: 20020405	
Library: SRS01		Autore e Titolo: [X]		Creaditimi: 12	
				Modifiche: 100	
				Record modificati: 18	
numo	data	ora	profilo	utente	titolo
00072407	20020521	1242	Modificato	Baladier, Georges	Anthropologie politique Georges Baladier
00072408	20020521	1237	Modificato	Tsakopoulos, Constantin	La "notion de droits acquis en droit
00072434	20020520	1185	Modificato	Augurtous, Aurelius -vasto-	De dialectica Augurtous translated with
00072434	20020520	1185	Modificato	Augurtous, Aurelius -vasto-	De dialectica Augurtous translated with
00072434	20020520	1185	Modificato	Augurtous, Aurelius -vasto-	De dialectica Augurtous translated with
00072434	20020520	1185	Modificato	Augurtous, Aurelius -vasto-	De dialectica Augurtous translated with
00072408	20020521	1183	Modificato	Garrigue-Lagrange, Jean-Marie	Recherches sur les rapports des associations
00072408	20020521	1185	Modificato	Cohen, Jean-Philippe	L'office du juge et la preuve dans le
00072408	20020521	1115	Modificato	Négre, Jean-Paul	L'intervention des personnes morales de
00072400	20020521	0930	Modificato	Madrit, Yves	Aux Broutères du contrat et de l'acte
00072407	20020521	1113	Modificato	Esmerat, Jean-Claude	Les "voies" belge et italienne d'usage de
00072408	20020521	1107	Modificato	Loché, Daniel	Le "rôle politique du juge administratif
00072405	20020521	1109	Modificato	Gaudemet, Yves	Les "méthodes du juge administratif par Yves
00072405	20020520	1324	Modificato	Calassi, Roberto	Turcochi e suoi statuti a cura di Laura
00072400	20020521	1334	Modificato	Tüch, Stefan	System der Zentralbanken Stefan Tüch
00072400	20020521	1334	Modificato	Tüch, Stefan	System der Zentralbanken Stefan Tüch
00072400	20020521	1347	Modificato	Heidrich, Jörn	Verkauferschutz in der Kreditwirtschaft
00072400	20020520	1339	Modificato	Schupenbauer, Arthur	Pagine scelte (scritti sull' assure e sulla morte)
00072400	20020521	1330	Modificato	Cerra, Danilo	l' servizio socio-assistenziale dei Comuni guida
00072405	20020521	1057	Modificato	Berti, Anna Emilia	Patologia dello sviluppo Anna Emilia Berti,

The project made by University of Siena called "AlephPlug" is a support modular program for the libraries's staff, functional to statistical needs, to the retrieval and the processing of administrative and bibliographic data.

This application (now under testing) potentially can perform all kind of query, statistical calculation, prints (to printer or to pdf file), exportation in tab format (directly on the client PC).

It is based on a compiled Filemaker Pro solution that can perform sql queries to the Oracle engine and manipulate data.

This FMPro application uses some Plugins to manage txt files, complex sql and dml queries.

The compiled solution is installed on a Metaframe server where the user can login with a simple client and access all the modules of the application. The security of the Jdbc connection is at a very high level because the data-transfers are only through the Metaframe server and the Oracle engine and not directly between each client and the Oracle server. All settings are centrally managed by a single module that deal with the configuration parameters of Oracle and all others variables of Aleph installation (names of Globals, users, sublibraries, etc.).

At this time they have developed:

- the "CAT_GET" module for the retrieval and the statistical analysis of the CAT field, based on the z106
- the "LOANS_STAT" module for the analysis of the z36 and z36h z tables joined to the z303-4-5
- the "Holdings" module for the report on z30 entries for each sublibrary (they are planning to develop a more powerful tool to let users of each sublibrary do massive corrections on z30 lines)
- the "Card printing" module used to print catalographic cards
- the "960 to holding" module that write the administrative information (z00, adm z103, bib z103, z30) of a related bibliographic record with the information stored in a proprietary field (960).
- the "Inventory Report" that make reports with many information from administrative data.

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