

SVUC meeting in Reykjavík, April 7th – 8th 2011 Notes from the Gegnir

Gegnir – The National Library System of Iceland

Gegnir, www.gegnir.is, the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries is a national library system. It serves as a union catalog as well as a library system for about 270 libraries. Among the member institutions are the National and University Library of Iceland, universities, most public libraries, and primary and secondary schools as well as research libraries.

The setup is one instance of Aleph500 version 18. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 270 libraries are grouped.

The size of the system by end of 2010 is:

Bibliographic records:	1.000.000
Items:	4.900.000
Circulation:	3.750.000
Borrowers:	190.000
Libraries:	270

In addition to Aleph500, the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries operates SFX Classic version 4. A recent addition to the consortia system solutions is Primo an integrated search system of Iceland.

Gegnir is managed by a public limited-liability company “Landskerfi bókasafna hf.” or Consortium of Icelandic Libraries, www.landskerfi.is. The company is jointly owned by the municipalities and the state. Participating libraries pay service fee depending on.

Gegnir and SVUC

Below is a table that shows the number of records retrieved from the SVUC Union Catalogs and the number of records in corresponding language. In the last days DanBib was made available for our catalogers. Libris and Linda were available for our catalogers all year 2009 but the connection to BIBSYS was activated in the fall 2009 which explains the low number of fetched records.

Gegnir, number of records retrieved from SVUC libraries 2010 and records cataloged in corresponding language

Union catalog	Number of records 2009	Number of records 2010
Libris	1.015	1396
<i>in Swedish</i>	<i>918</i>	<i>1517</i>
Linda	105	277
<i>In Finnish</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>118</i>
BIBSYS	144*	921
<i>In Norwegian</i>	<i>828</i>	<i>840</i>

Developments

For the past one and a half years the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries has concentrated its effort in seven diverse areas. They are: preparing and implementing Primo - Integrated Search System for Iceland, quality related issues, development of enhanced OPAC functionality, transition from SFX express to SFX Classic, implementation of the new Integrated Interlibrary Loan Module in Aleph, training library staff and finally upgrading Aleph to version 20.

1. Integrated Search Portal for Iceland (Primo) - www.beta.gegnir.is

End of year 2009 a contract for the purchase of the Primo was signed between the Consortium and Ex Libris. Hardware arrangements were made during first half of 2010. The hardware is hosted in Iceland. The implementation of the system was carried out from the middle of year 2010 until March 31st 2011, when a so-called beta version of an Integrated Search Portal for Iceland was launched. The Royal Library of Copenhagen acted as a consulting partner during the implementation and configuration phase. This is an unusual arrangement, as those services would usually be carried out by Ex Libris.

The search portal provides access to the diverse collections of Icelandic libraries and the resources of chosen specialty libraries. The system provides information on holdings and access to electronic content, whether in the case of text or graphical content. Currently, the portal offers content from Gegnir (library catalog), Tímarit.is (periodicals), Skemman (research publications) and Ljósmyndasafn Reykjavíkur (photography). Next step will be to integrate national journal licenses into the portal via the service Primo Central. Integration of additional content from diverse data providers will follow in near future. Future aim is offer access to libraries, museums and archives via Integrated Search Portal for Iceland.

The services currently offered via the Search Portal base upon standard Primo functionality. We see a need for future development for example for mashups with social networking services such as Facebook and Youtube. Access to the portal via mobile devices needs to be improved. Just to name a few! A release date for a formal release of the Integrated Search Portal has not yet been set.

2. Quality related issues

Managing the quality of the data and specially the bibliographic data is an ongoing project. This year's high light is two data amendments projects:

- A major mechanic clean up was performed on the bibliographic records. It involved cleaning up concurrent errors in the bibliographic data by deleting invalid fields and so on.

- Creating fix routines for imported records. A special fix for bibliographic records was created for each originated database or library, i.e. Linda, Libris, BIBSYS and DANBIB.
3. Development of OPAC functionality

The focus has been on issues relating searching and getting better search results in a single library versus searching the whole database. The problem relates to records without an item, i.e. especially electronic material. The project was divided in to three parts:

 - a. Including electronic material in search results limited to a special library
 - b. Setting up virtual basis for each library and/or groups of libraries
 - c. Making necessary changes to the web OPAC
 4. SFX upgrade

A transition from SFX express to SFX Classic version 3 took place in October 2009. The project was originated by the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries and the Iceland Consortia of Electronic Subscription (hvar.is), <http://hvar.is>. The Iceland Consortia for electronic subscriptions serves all of Iceland as the name implies. Unusually, it does not only serve academic and research institutions but each and every computer in the country that connects to the Internet through an Icelandic Internet Service Provider. End of 2010, SFX Classic was upgraded from version 3 to version 4. The upgrade was fairly smooth. The SFX Classic instance is currently serving hvar.is, 5 universities and the National Library of Iceland. The service is hosted by Ex Libris.
 5. Integrated ILL

The preparation for implementing the new Aleph Integrated ILL module (ISO ILL) started in the beginning of the year 2010 and the implementation stage finished in October. The new module is a great improvement for the overall system. The old ILL module had severe limitations, for example the number of libraries that could use the module was limited to one by an ADM (12) and inter library loans within the system were not possible at all. Now all libraries that wish to use the ILL module can and ILL transactions between libraries in Gegnir is easy and the workflows are highly automated.
 6. Upgrade Aleph to version 20

Currently the work to upgrade Aleph to version 20 is in progress. The new version adds new functionality to the library system but the underlying structure, the operating system and Oracle, is upgraded too. The upgrade will be finished in our test environment this spring. Timing is crucial then it comes to release a new version to the libraries so upgrade of production environment will be done after summer vacation in the middle of August.
 7. Seminars and courses

In a centralized system like Gegnir a lot of effort is put into training library staff. The training is divided into three categories: a) module based training, i.e. cataloging, circulation etc., b) general seminars or presentations that emphasize new developments in the systems as well as focusing on problematic topics, c) user driven seminars that are tailored for specific libraries types, like school- or special libraries. This passing winter 350 library staff members attended 24 seminars which included 12 different presentations.

Gegnir via Z39.50, technical information

GEGNIR is Iceland's union catalogue of over 200 libraries that participate in the Icelandic Library Consortium. GEGNIR is available for search/retrieval by means of the Z39.50 protocol. Both searching and retrieving catalog records using Z39.50 is free of charge. User-id and password are not required but access is based on IP address. Please contact hjalp@landskerfi.is if you would like to be granted access.

The information below should be sufficient to configure a client for searching the Gegnir Z39.50 target.

Technical information:

Protocol version: 3	3
IP address:	80.248.18.2
Port number:	9991
Database:	ICE01
Services:	INITIALIZE, SEARCH, SORT, PRESENT, SCAN, CLOSE, DELETE_RESULT_SET
Query type supported:	1 (RPN)
Attribute set:	BIB-1
Record syntax:	MARC21
Character set:	Latin1 (char. conv. UTF_TO_8859_1)
Record composition:	Full, Brief