In those days the encounter with ALEPH began on the banks of the Tiber...

ALEPH, born at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1978, began its life in Rome - on the right bank of the Tiber, in the shade of the majestic dome of St. Peter's in the Vatican - on 2nd November 1989 - in the Library of the Teutonic College and of the Roman Institute of the Gérres Society. On that day a chosen group of librarians - among whom were information experts - gathered in the College, to hear Barbara Rad-el of Tel Aviv reveal to all present the basic principles of the program **ALEPH** (its extreme flexibility and ease of use, multiscripts, etc.) which make it different from other products available on the market today.

The seminar at the Teutonic College, was followed by another, with further points of interest, lasting four days and held at the Pontifical Salesian University, also in Rome, from the 2nd to the 5th of January, 1990.

Almost at the same time a Commission, nominated on the 27th of October 1989 at the Assembly of GBE (Gruppo Biblioteche Ecclesiastiche) that is of the 22 Library Directors of the Pontifical Universities and Faculties at Rome, had begun working, with responsibility for choosing one and the same information program for all the Pontifical Academic Institutes in Rome.

This Commission, having evaluated, under different aspects, much documentation on the argument, chose and proposed **ALEPH**, at the following plenary meeting of GBE (18th January, 1990.)

From then on different common projects of those responsible for the Libraries of the pontifical Academic Institutes at Rome took life and others are in an advanced phase of gestation.

The most important of these was initiated on the 13th May 1991, when the organization URBE (Unione Romana Biblioteche Ecclesiastiche) was officially born and legally recognized with formal responsibility for the material realization of a Central Index and Connecting Network between the Libraries taking part in the Group (of which the first phase should be ready in the first half of 1992). Within GBE, **ALEPH** has already commenced in 8 Roman Institutions, in the Faculty of Theology at Palermo in Sicily

(which has direct contact with GBE and URBE) and in the Library of the Franciscan Fathers at Milan in Lombardy. In a short time, another 6 Roman Ecclesiastical Institutes will join them, and then others...

All this work with **ALEPH** on the banks of the Tiber, from November of 1989 until today can without doubt be considered from different points of view, but it is certainly of great value, especially when seen as a growing service offered by the Catholic Church and by its Roman Institutes of academic formation to all men and women of culture.

Prof. Ivan Reberik
Collegio Teutonico
Vatican City

ALEPH on AIX (IBM) and ULTRIX (DEC) platforms

In Denmark, pilot installations on ULTRIX and AIX are completed and libraries are running **ALEPH** version 3.1 on these platforms.

VISSENBJERG MUNICIPAL
This library was the first installation to start with **ALEPH** on RISC 6000 (AIX). In November, 1991, **ALEPH** was installed at the central library and in

7 sublibraries where 3 schools are included.

The registration of holdings has been very concentrated and has been done through a database representing about 80% of the library's bibliographic records. A new feature in **ALEPH** – quick registration of holdings was used for this purpose. The remaining 20% were cataloged and registered in the regular way. Circulation will start in mid July. The library has 40,000 bibliographic records and 8 terminals.

DANISH VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY
This is the first library to run on DEC 5100 (ULTRIX). The system is handling 60,000 titles and supports 40 terminals.

After installation in September, 1991, a successful conversion of their national database from ALBA took place and the records were transferred to **ALEPH**. All the **ALEPH** modules will be used. On 1st May the library will start circulation. The next step is to convert and install the Serials records from the old DCTS system into **ALEPH**. This implementation is scheduled for June, 1992.

Ove Hansen
Datakoncept AS

Improved feature in ALEPH - SDI

Selective Dissemination of Information, or SDI is a set of procedures through which a series of CCL commands can be stored as query profiles. Each profile is associated with an individual user.

A special global library USR is set up to handle the input and storage of the profiles. One record is created for each user using the fixed forms of the cataloging module.

At chosen intervals the stored profiles are scanned to locate those profiles that should be run.

If the result is positive, the records are sorted and formatted according to the parameters in the USR record.

If P-mail has been prescribed, the output file is sent to the chosen printer. If E-mail has been prescribed, the output file is sent to the user's mailbox.

If the SDI run produces no hits, the user is informed of this, and when the next run will be.

Judith Levi
ALEPH Yissum
Development Librarian

ALEPH System Seminar

An ALEPH System Seminar will take place in Tel Aviv from 27th May – 2nd June, 1992. We have had a gratifying response from our users, and are expecting quite a number of participants. This should ensure a lively and stimulating exchange of ideas during the seminar.

The subjects planned for the seminar cover most of the important technical and functional aspects of **ALEPH**. Subjects that will not be covered in the main sessions can be discussed during private sessions with interested participants.

As part of the seminar, participants will be taken by bus for a one day trip to Jerusalem. A visit to the Central Library of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Hebrew University is planned. The rest of the day will be spent on a tour of Jerusalem.

New Installations

There are a number of new **ALEPH** installations:

Denmark:

Gentofte Kommune Bibliotek, Copenhagen*

Køge Municipal
Library*

Roskilde Kommune*
Bibliotek, Roskilde

17 Municipal Libraries
belonging to the
MINIBIB system

Vissenbjerg Municipal
Library

* Editor's note: see story on
"ALEPH-K in Denmark"

Italy:
Accademia   Nationale
della Crusca, Firenze

Comune di Roma

Faculty of Mathemat-
ics,   University   of
Milan

Gregorian University,
Rome

Spain:
Institut   d'Estudis
Ilerdencs, Lleida

Biblioteca Capitular y
Colombina, Sevilla

Israel:
Oranim College

On the Future of Journal Articles

The readers of this
newsletter may re-
member the "affair"
where a publisher made
an international libel
case of an article
published   in   a
well-known   journal,
comparing what you get
for your subscription
money from different
publishers. This was a
flagrant example of a
new trend, where fi-
nancial interests, by
intimidating the user
community,   stifle   a
sound   professional
debate.

This predicament may
soon resolve itself
due to new technology.
In two ambitious docu-
ment delivery projects
in   France,   optical
storage is used for
massive on-line access
to journal articles.
One of these projects
attempts to store 2000
journals cover-to-
cover, while the other
creates a network with
a union catalogue and
interlibrary transfer
of full-text, scanned
on the first request
and stored for future
access.

Of course there are
copyright and license
fee problems to solve.
But   the   techniques
allow full control of
what is delivered, so
not only can book-
keeping be made auto-
matically,   but   also
statistics on the use
of material. Since the
use, like citations,
follows a Bradford-
like distribution, it
seems evident that the
2000-titles-project
may   soon   experience
problems of cost-
effectiveness   for   a
large part of the ma-
terial, while the net-
work with scanning-on-
first-demand   project
will skim the cream of
the milk. If copyright
fees are paid accord-
ing to actual use, the
main   income   to   pub-
lishers will come from
a fraction of the con-
tents   of   journals.
This is of course con-
trary to the situation
where   a   subscriber
pays   for   the   whole
thing, irrespective of
use (in some cases one
even has to pay for
all   sections   of   a
split journal, even if
only one section is
needed   by   the   li-
brary).

Now publishing is bus-
iness, and, as these
new technologies catch
on,   publishers   will
try to optimize their
profit by reducing the
low-use material. I am
not   here   concerned
with how this could be
done.   However,   it
seems   obvious   that
one, or a couple, of
service centers in the
EC could cater for a
very large user commu-
nity, as an alterna-
tive   to   local   sub-
scriptions   to   many
journals.   Thus   the
sales would drop
dramatically,   to   the
point of making the
publishing effort
financially   impossi-
ble.

As a result, the ser-
vice centers (clearing
houses) would not have
journals to scan (or
take in electronical-
ly).   They   would   be
obliged to go back to
the source: the "manu-
script" or "preprint",
available hopefully in
a standard form (SGML,
postscript...), or as

a printout from exotic or antique systems (including type-writers). This "grey literature", in most cases unfortunately not refereed, would become public from the server for on-demand transfer or printing, and therefore "white-washed". In this scenario, the choice of "carrier" for the article would be re-duced, and refereeing may be imposed by the clearinghouses as a matter for the scien-tific community to cope with, perhaps as a prerequisite for acceptance to the store.

These speculations are, I believe, time-ly. In High Energy Physics, we are coming close to such a situa-tion. At CERN, some 250 preprints in HEP are received weekly, and immediately en-tered into the PREP database run on the CERN ALEPH implementa-tion. As soon as a current manpower prob-lem is solved, these preprints will be ei-ther stored as Post-script files, or scanned in as images.

A scenario, which is a near-reality in the High-Energy Physics community, goes as follows:

All papers are dis-tributed widely within the community as so-called preprints. Most of the preprints

are produced on text processing equipment using a few standard software packages with graphical facilities. Standardization (Post-script output, for example) already al-lows a considerable fraction of papers to be transmitted as ASCII files by Email and stored. The re-maining documents are scanned into optical storage. The full-text documents are linked to a central database in this case the PREP database on the CERN Aleph installation, called ALICE.

It is therefore possi-ble for any user world-wide to access the ALICE database, carry out a search, select an item and subsequently, depend-ing on the situation, request transfer and display of the full document. For ASCII files in Postscript format this transfer can be done, for exam-ple, via Email. For scanned documents, the compression/ decompression require-ment restricts to transmission via broadband networks (Ethernet, ISDN, etc.), but also Fax (Group III with re-duced resolution, and Group IV if networks are available). The ultimate resort is on-line ordering of on-demand printing in the documentation cen-ter, for conventional mailing.

So perhaps, after all, there will be fewer libel cases and more common interest and cooperation in the user-publisher rela-tionships in future. Or both parties will have to go to hell in their own way.

Stephan Schwarz
CERN

ALEPH-K in Denmark

ALEPH-K is the name for the version of ALEPH for the Danish public libraries.

The ALEPH-K version is adapted to meet the demands of the indi-vidual public librar-ies as well as the demands of the central Danish databases. This with regard to the import and export of bibliographic records and holdings data be-tween the Danish Bib-liographic Centre and the central Danish Holdings database for the public libraries.

In February and March, 3 Danish public li-braries have signed contracts with ICL DATA for ALEPH-K.*

Gentofte Public Li-brary
The Gentofte Public Library had started the holdings registra-tion with the library system UNI MASTER, developed by the Dan-ish company

Kommunedata. When Kommunedate closed down UNI MASTER, the Gentofte Public Library decided to move to ALEPH-K. The Gentofte Public Library system consists of a central library with 5 branches. The stock is 175,000 titles, or more than 500,00 items.

The library will start using all the ALEPH-K modules in late April. Because of the previous holdings registration the circulation module will be in use immediately.

Roskilde Public Library

The Roskilde Public Library signed a contract for ALEPH-K in March, 1992. The library will start using ALEPH-K in June, 1992. They will start with holdings registration and the acquisition module. After registering the stock, they will start using the circulation module. The Roskilde library is the same size as the Gentofte Public Library - i.e. about 500,000 physical items.

Køge Public Library

Køge Public Library signed a contract for ALEPH-K late in March, 1992. The library consists of a central library and 2 branch libraries. The library will start using the holdings registration

and the acquisition modules. As with the Roskilde Library, once the holdings are registered the library will start using the circulation module. The stock of Køge Public Library is 300,000 items.

With these 3 libraries contracted by ICL DATA, ALEPH-K is now recognized by Danish Public Libraries as a library system of high quality. ICL DATA expects more libraries to start using ALEPH-K in the future.

> Jytte Halling
> ICL DATA

* Note from the editor: All contracts signed with ICL DATA are for ALEPH operating under the UNIX operating system.

News in Brief

Ex Libris has E-mail. If you wish to contact us by electronic mail, our address is:

XLIBRIS@DCD3AM.DAS.NET

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Ex Libris is expanding. We are taking on more staff, and in order to accommodate them we will be moving to new and larger offices. We plan to move by May 20th and will be informing you about our new telephone, fax

numbers. Our Post Box address (P.O. Box 10586, Tel Aviv 69085, remains the same).

Third ALEPH Users Meeting - Pisa, Italy 22nd-23rd October, 1992.

The third ALEPH Users Meeting will be held in Pisa, Italy on 22nd-23rd October, 1992. Users will be receiving their invitations in the post, but we'd like to mention a few of the highlights planned for the meeting:

On the first day, as part of the agenda, participants will be invited to share their innovative or personal experiences using ALEPH. Persons wishing to take part are invited to send a summary of their presentation. A presentation should not exceed 15 minutes.

A discussion will also be held on how to develop the ALEPH Users' Consortium into a more active organism.

The second day will be devoted to a discussion with ALEPH distributors and developers. ALEPH users are invited to send their enhancement requirements, or problems encountered, in advance, to the Scuola Normale in Pisa.

Participants are invited to register with the Scuola Normale not later than 15th May, 1992. This is to ensure accommodation in a city that has many tourist attractions. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Mrs. Sandra Di Majo
Scuola   Normale
Superiore di Pisa,
Piazza dei Cavalieri, 7,
56126 PISA, Italy

ALEPH   Installation Profile

Name of library:
  Muriel and Philip
  Berman National
Medical Library
Address: P.O.   Box 1172, Jerusalem 91010
Tel: +972-2-428795
Fax: +972-2-784010
Type of library system: Central library with one branch in Hadassah hospital, Mount Scopus.
Subject areas: Medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and para-medical professions.
System librarian:
Carol Fuchs
System manager: Leah Bash

Date of ALEPH installation: Spring 1988
Type of computer: Microvax II
No of terminals: 23
No. of titles: 53,500
No. of journals: 1,300
No. of patrons: 3000

Description of the library:
The library's catalogue contains holdings information for the libraries on the two campuses - Ein Kerem and Mt. Scopus, catalogued according to the NLM schedules, and using MESH subject headings. A printer is available to the public to print out books on loan, bibliographic lists, etc. The computer is connected to ILAN giving access to the catalogue to anyone using a computer in their office or via a modem from their homes.

Articles on ALEPH in various journals

Over the years more than 30 articles on **ALEPH** (that we know of) have appeared in various journals, or have been presented at conferences and seminars.

Some of the latest articles to, appear are:

"High-Tech Information Network in Higher Energy Physics" by Ann-Sofi   Israelsson, Achille   Petrilli, Mogens   Sandfaer, Stephan Schwarz.

"ALEPH, Israel's Research Library Network: Background, Execution, and Implications for networking in a Small Country" by

Susan   S.   Lazinger. (Information Technology and Libraries, Vol. 10, no. 4 - pp. 275-291. December, 1991.)

If you wish to obtain a list of these articles, or a copy of a particular   article, please contact the **Ex Libris** offices.

If you have written, or know of an article about **ALEPH**, please send a copy to the **Ex Libris** offices.

S T O P

P R E S S !
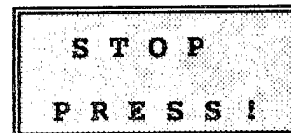
The Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

On April 15th 1992 The Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences signed a contract to lease **ALEPH**, replacing the Dobis Libis system. The system will be installed, personnel trained and operation   started within the next three months.

A detailed profile of the library will be included in a future issue of "**Ex Libris Reports**"