

ELAG2004 – 2003 PROGRESS REPORT NETHERLANDS – JOHAN VAN HALM INFORMATION CONSULTANCY (Amersfoort - NL)

JOHAN VAN HALM

1 News from library automation vendors active in the Netherlands

Overview

The Dutch library scene is, as always, changing rapidly with some new names replacing long established ones and an ongoing reshuffling is taking place in this – basically – shrinking market. Certifications have been given now to Bicat (HKA), CONCERTO (BiblioMondo), SunRise (SISIS) and VUBIS (Geac). New market entrants cannot easily get certification, as no ongoing ad-hoc procedure exists, leaving potentially successful companies out of the Dutch market for a minimum of 1 year.

2003 has been the year of the introduction of Hotspots in public places, including libraries (see also my ELAG2004 Paper about WiFi) and has also seen the breakthrough of the AquaBrowser application for associate searching and access to metadata in many public libraries.

Bibliotheca-RFID and the Public Information Kiosk (Informatiezuil) company are now being represented by DILITES in the Netherlands (BENELUX). One of the first public libraries with RFID is Heiloo, whereby DILITES Bibliotheca-RFID has been integrated in BiblioMondo's CONCERTO.

A broadband solution (ADSL and *flatfee* IDSN fast Internet and CONCERTO OPAC access) for all public libraries in the provinces North- and South-Holland has been developed by Bbeyond for ProBiblio.

Haarlemmermeer Public Library has a wireless GPRS connection to its mobile libraries via a cooperation between Geac and Fujitsu Services. Other VubisSmart customers are the Free University of Amsterdam and the library for visually-impaired users FNB.¹

Vendors

ADLIB Information Systems	ADLIB	www.adlibsoft.com
Autocheck Systems	security	www.autochecksystems.nl
Axiell Bibliotek AB		
BIBLIOMONDO	CONCERTO	www.bibliomondo.com
	Zone1/ZonePro (portal)	
DILITES	Bibliotheca-RFID	www.delites.nl
Ex Libris	Aleph500	www.exlibris.group.com
	DigiTool (digital management)	
	MetaLib (portal)	
	SFX (link resolver)	
FDI	OLIB7	www.fdi.com
Geac Benelux bv	VubisSmart	www.benelux.geac.nl
	Vlink (OpenURL resolver)	
HKA	BICAT	www.bicat.com
IT-Accent CuadraStar	CuadraSTAR	www.cuadra.nl
Medialab Solutions bv	Aquabrowser (associate search)	www.medialab.nl
Nedap N.V.	Bibliochecker (RFID)	www.nedap.nl
OCLC PICA	LBS4	www.oclc-pica.nl
	iPort (portal)	

¹ This review is based on requested and **received** input from vendors.

	see also Progress Report	
SIRSI	UNICORN	www.sirsi.nl
SISIS Informatiesystemen BV	SISIS-Sunrise	www.sisis.nl
	SISIS-Elektra (portal)	
	RFID	
SQUARE IS bv	BIBIS	www.squareIS.com
	BIBIS Library Portal	
Truston Solutions BV	Biblio-byte (ex Biblioservice)	www.truston.nl
X-ref Nederland b.v.	X-ref	Info@x-ref.nl
3M	security (RFID, barcode)	www.3m.com/library

2 Activities of Johan van Halm

2003 has seen again an array of challenging activities, such as

- brainstorming projects with many European and international vendors, as well as major international library suppliers
- a Virtual Reference Desk project (VRD) in Germany has been started-up recently
- ongoing teaching activities at the Fachhochschule Cologne(D) for marketing, library and information consultancy and information brokerage, increasingly with coverage of e-commerce and e-content
- joint ventures and take-over preparations for a variety of information industry companies at both sides of the Atlantic ocean
- a project to automate the 8 public university libraries in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (financed by the World Bank); the tender document has just been released
- a multi-client study in Germany in cooperation with IT/content-branch monitoring company NMS (New Media Services)
- recruitment projects for 'top-dog' positions in the library services industry
- ongoing assistance with the launch of sophisticated new library automation systems world-wide
- the editor-in-chief of the well-known information industry journal Information Service and Use (ISU) a variety of topics could be covered, incl. a special issue on electronic publishing and e-learning – papers of EUSIDIC events
- monitoring the European library-portals market
- exploration of the various national library services markets
- Chairman of EUSIDIC, the European Association of Information Services, trying to re-vitalize this association
- Board Member of the Dutch Platform Information Management

johanvanhalm@cs.com