

ULMS update for COLD – Christina Hennessey, Director of the ULMS, CSU Chancellor’s Office

In addition to the report I provided ahead of time on the activities of the ULMS, I gave a 5-minute update for COLD on September 26, 2024. I was asked to share my notes for that update on this agenda as well.

You have a report on the ULMS in the agenda, usually that has all the accomplishments of the committees, etc. but as this year has just started, I wanted to just include a list of the members of all the committees. Thank you for your nominations for the ULMS committee members this spring, and in supporting their time working for the ULMS. We currently have 74 unique members in functional committees and other groups working to make the ULMS better and in sharing resources of time and money.

An overall goal for the ULMS this year is to look [at the current structure](#), which has six functional committees based on the original categories of the RFP from the mid-2010s. There are also several task forces. The Ex Libris products have changed quite a bit since then and it may make sense to combine some of the groups and/or make some task forces into committees. We welcome the input of all COLD into ideas to make the ULMS committee structure more efficient. Talk to me tonight, send me email, we might have some open/listening sessions on this during the academic year as well.

Thank you also for those of you that are sending faculty & staff to the [eCAUG conference](#) next month at the CO. In addition to all our CSU library colleagues, our UC, California community college, and other California Ex Libris library friends will be in attendance so we can share ideas with each other. The conference is free but space is limited. We have reached the original capacity for attendance at the conference but have started a [waiting list](#) in the likely event that we get our sponsors to pay for more meals (and therefore more attendees), so please encourage your faculty and staff to join the waiting list if they are interested. eCAUG is a much less expensive alternative than sending faculty & staff to ELUNA in Atlanta next year or IGeLU in Italy next year.

Speaking of IGeLU, I just attended the [international version of the ELUNA conference](#), named IGeLU, I was able to attend virtually in the middle of the night two weeks ago and was able share notes and observations with your faculty & staff last week at the Technical Services Open Forum so they know what is coming soon. [There is a recording available](#) if you would like to jump to that part of the presentation.

IGeLU conference notes

- Everything in Ex Libris has AI now, or will soon, the [Primo Research Assistant](#) debuted, we have the AI Metadata Assistant that many of our catalogers are testing in beta to help with saving time and resources in cataloging. But the larger company that is over Ex Libris, that is Clarivate, is adding AI to a lot of other things, I saw roadmaps like: Web of Science Research Assistant, AI in resource sharing to figure out if a PDF is blurry and then get the request from someone else, AI that will help in fixing coverage of an e-resource, will be able to understand issue formats in other languages, and so on. Ex Libris has also added a Knowledge Center chatbot and will also be using AI to help answer support cases.
- A lot of the new Ex Libris products and features, have a free version and then a premium version. The CO is not saying no outright to the purchase of any of these but I want to make you aware, the functional committees can look at these and decide if some of these work well for the CSU. Please reach out if you have questions about what products are available with our contract and which ones will cost extra.
- Ex Libris is continuing development on a new interface that they are calling a ‘no code’ or ‘lo code’ option, this thing called Library Open Workflows to create some of your routine workflows in Alma. In my opinion, even though this is presented as a no-code option, you really have to bring programmer skills to it, and you may as well just have a programmer do it. This is also very expensive to use, even for the CSU to be a development partner on this would have cost us money. I am curious about the adoption of this overall during these lean budget times. But I am keeping an open mind on it. If you are interested in more, I have dozens of screenshots from the sessions. They showed a lot of workflow examples.

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Some other ULMS updates relation to COLD:

- Ex Libris contract goes through 2030 and we have a renewal in 2026. We will have an RFP for that eventually. This won't really impact us this year but it is always on the horizon. It isn't a huge landscape, it's mostly Ex Libris and EBSCO FOLIO now, with some interest in TIND as well.
- Keep in mind on discussion of combining campuses, as that comes up. What does that mean for our contracts, shared services? What does that mean for the ULMS, how do we combine and rebrand collections? Please reach out when you are having these discussions so we can start early with ULMS work and in supporting your transitions.