Conference report

Informatie2005

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Introduction

This bi-annual two-day Belgian event Informatie2005 – the largest of its kind in Belgium – has held in Brussels on 22 and 23 September. The event has attracted around 900 delegates and about one third of them did attend both days.

A description of each exhibitor is to find on the website of the organizer, the VVBAD (Vlaamse Vereniging Bibliotheek-, Archief- en Documentatiewezen – www.vvbad.be). The papers can be accessed via www.vvbad.be/Informatie2005.html, although a password is needed. Please contact the executive director of the VVBAD Marc Storms (marc.storms@vvbad.be).

There was no special theme this year, although – as usual – it is still IT-oriented with a large number of presentations and exhibitors in the area of library automation and presentations about online content (local and from international vendors). Presentations were given – to mention a few only – about Dspace in use by the University Library Ghent in its digital library application, the E-depot of the Municipal Archives of Rotterdam and the Library and Documentation Centre VTi (Flemish Theatre Institute) with a depot server for digitised video records. ERM is increasingly a hot topic, not only in Belgium and the many lectures and product presentations emphasize this trend. ERM (electronic resources management) combines the integrated processing and management of Electronic Resources (ER) and related services, often as part of a Digital Library service. ERM ranges from (consortium) buying of ER (also via a national site license), as well as cataloguing of the ER, making ER available to the user, authentication and linking ER within the OPAC.

Basically ERM combines elements of the various modules of the ILS system, whereby the A to Z listing/index is a major access and discovery tool. An ERM tool has to be Counter and IOCLC standards compliant.

In my report about Information2003 I wrote "... Unfortunately the VCOB (Vlaams Centrum voor Openbare Bibliotheken/Flemish Centre for Public Libraries) couldn't report yet about the outcome of their tender for a new ... union cataloguing system... and the same applies to Libis-Net the Flemish union catalogue of academic libraries... There is news now!"

LIBIS-Net has implemented Aleph500 of Ex Libris, but the so-called VLACC II project has been put on hold. With VLACC II it was planned in 2003 to have the Digital Library Vlaanderen with web-based access to more than 1M bibliographical records of 25 m holding items in nearly 300 public libraries. VLACC II – coordinated by the VCOB, the Flemish Public Library Centre – would replace the 20 years old VLACC (a combined catalogue of the 6 largest public libraries in Flandria: the 6 Centrale Openbare

Bibliotheken (Central public libraries) of Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels (HOB), Ghent, Hasselt and Louvain. The contract was awarded to the ICT company Ardatis (Louvain) in cooperation with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (Millenium), but has been dissolved early 2005 (It is not known what is going to happen at this very moment).

Suppliers of IT systems

The most recent information about library suppliers, incl. library automation vendors, is to find on the website of the latest bi-annual conference (Informatie2005) www.vvbad.be/informatie2005.html as well as at the website www.bibliotheek.be maintained by the VCOB.

Belgium has a relatively diverse library automation scene with hardly no Belgian companies playing a role.

Exhibitors were:

3M	www.3M.com/library	security & control	x
ACMIS	www.acmis.com	DMS/preservation	x
ADLIB Info. Systems	www.adlibsoft.com	ADLIB	x
@dm (vartec)	www.vartec.be	IKEM toolkit (thes.s/w)	x
ADT Sensormatic	www.tycoint.com	security and control	x
ARCO Information	www.arco.be	network management	x
CIPAL	www.cipal.be	BROCADE	x
		Digital preservation	
Ex Libris	www.exlibrisgroup.com	Aleph 500	x
		VERDE	
		SFX	
		Metalib	
Forez	www.bidoc.be	BIDOC	x
Geac	www.geac.be	Advance	x
		VUBIS	
		VUBISmart	
		Fabritius (museum)	
IVS Iscientia	www.iscientia.com	security & control	
Kno_tech	www.kno-tech.be	security & control	x
LIBIS-Net	www.libis.kuleuven.ac.be	Aleph500	x
Lorensbergs	www.lorensbergs.com	security/control	x
SIRSIDynix	www.sirsidynix.com	HORIZON	x
		UNICORN	
Square	www.squareis.com	BIBIS	x
		VKS	

Looking at this list we are missing some active players like BOND(Bibliotheca2000), CTI (CIGAL), CuadraSTAR, FDI, InfoPartners (Q/T-series) and VTLS.

VVBAD

The national role of the VVBAD is increasing drastically and it has become focal point on information about librarianship and information science in Belgium.

The VVBAD (major association) acts like a clearinghouse with via its website (www.vvbad.be) access to

- Vlabidoc – An overview and directory of all 1400 libraries, archives and informatieservices in Flamish Belgium can be find in the Vlaamse Archief-, Bibliotheek- en Documentatiegids (Vlabidoc) and a printed version (August 2004) and a digital version (provides also information about national and regional associations, institutions and cooperatives)
  www.vvbad.be/common/showarticle.asp?itemID=356
- suppliers database (bedrijvendatabank)
  www.vvbad.be/bedrijven/
- Bibliotheek- en archiefgids (journal) – digitaal
  www.vvbad.be/06_publicaties/bag.html
- Bibliotheek- & archief portaal (portal)
  www.bibliotheekportaal.be
- Recruitment vacancies
  www.vvbad.be/common/jobs_visitor.asp
- VVBAD-blog
  http://vvbad.typepad.com/blog/
- activities and events
  www.vvbad.be/common/events_visitor.asp

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