

Sun™ and Ex Libris

Partner Brief



Market Segment

Ex Libris serves libraries and digital libraries worldwide.

Value Proposition

Ex Libris is a leading worldwide developer of high-performance applications for libraries, information centers, and researchers. The company's flagship product, ALEPH 500, is a market leader in the field of library automation for higher education. Ex Libris offers several other software products for stand alone use or use in conjunction with ALEPH 500 or other vendor systems. These products include the MetaLib library portal; SFX, the original context-sensitive link-server; the DigiTool digital asset management solution, and Verde, Ex Libris' new e-resource management system. Ex Libris offers a complete library automation solution that enables users to access, integrate, and personalize their heterogeneous information environment.

Competitive Standing

Currently in use at 1250 sites in over 50 countries, the majority of ALEPH 500 users are academic libraries, though the product is also popular in public, corporate and national libraries. Customized for each library's language and culture, this multilingual system incorporates Unicode-based multiple character sets. Ex Libris is a fully international company with presence in twenty-six countries across six continents. Eight fully owned subsidiaries in the US, UK, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Poland, China, Australia, Israel, and Brazil and 18 local distributors provide sales, project management, and operations support to the company's large installed base.

Ex Libris and Sun: A True Global Partnership

Close to 90 percent of Ex Libris' academic and research library customers run on the Sun platform. Although Ex Libris and Sun have worked together almost from the start, this cooperation has become increasingly strong in the North America market, with Sun co-sponsoring various Ex Libris initiatives at major industry meetings. Sun and Ex Libris provide a solution that allows academic and research libraries to utilize the network-computing model and extend access to include innumerable information resources worldwide. The ease of administration, speed, reliability, and scalability of the Sun and Ex Libris solution serve to increase user productivity and cost savings.

Benefits of Running Ex Libris Solutions on Sun

- *Open Standards* - Integration of Ex Libris applications with other library systems is critical to many of the company's customers. This integration is facilitated by an open standards infrastructure. Sun is a recognized leader of open standards and architectures including servers, workstations, appliances, integration services, web services, storage, and software. Sun is also a leader in open business practices and the sharing of best practices within the education and library communities, and is an active supporter of the American Library Association, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and EDUCAUSE.
- *Performance* - The breadth of Sun's product lineup today is stronger than at any time in the company's history. With over 600 new innovations and the best UNIX® to Linux interoperability, Solaris™ 10 sets a new benchmark



for operating system performance, vendor neutrality, and security. Sun's dual core UltraSPARC® IV processor has revamped Sun's entire UltraSPARC family of systems, enabling nearly twice the power of previous Sun systems in the same footprint and featuring better price-performance than IBM or HP offerings.

- *Scalability* - Sun is well equipped to meet increasing growth demands, with many years of experience with a 64-bit operating system on a 64-bit SPARC CPU, scaling to 72 CPUs and beyond. Sun provides a single hardware platform for libraries, regardless of whether they run their Ex Libris products on low or high-end servers. This scalability, combined with simple configurations, makes it easy for customers to enhance their ALEPH 500 system, which requires a powerful server, with additional Ex Libris products that run on smaller servers—MetaLib, SFX, DigiTool, and Verde. Sun's scalability makes for a seamless transition as customers move among the Ex Libris product suite.
- *Reliability* - As a library expands its implementation of Ex Libris products, server performance must remain reliable. Ex Libris developers prefer the Solaris™ Operating Environment because of its reliability. Sun products are superior to those of its competition as Sun has one architecture and framework, a single software platform, a single hardware platform desktop to computer, and a robust operating system that offers the

highest level of redundancy utilizing the RAS (reliability, availability, scalability) features that are included in the system.

- **Availability** - Sun's third-generation Sun Cluster software is an industry leader in high-availability support, as well as single-node hardware reliability, with features such as automatic system reconfiguration, dynamic system domains, and servers configured to eliminate single points of failure. If a server goes offline or a storage device goes down, the remaining servers and storage devices continue running the application or service, ensuring maximum system uptime.
- **Proven Success** - Ex Libris systems running on Sun provide solutions that allow academic and research libraries to utilize the network computing model, increasing user access to their valuable and extensive information. Sun's scalable and cost-effective systems ensure that Sun remains the provider of choice to thousands of libraries across the globe. The fact that the majority of Ex Libris' largest customers also use Sun reflects their confidence in Sun's ability to provide an available, reliable, and dependable hardware platform.
- **Customer Care** - In addition to excellent product performance, Sun's support organization contributes to a library's peace of mind through deep technology expertise, broad service offerings, and global experience serving enterprises of all types and sizes. By working with Ex Libris products almost from the start, Sun sales and support staff possess unequaled expertise, among computer system vendors, in the Ex Libris product line.

Case Study: University of Maryland

<http://www.lib.umd.edu>

The University of Maryland has opportunistically grown its unique digital collections, beginning with the Performing Arts Library and the Broadcasting Archives. A 1996 implementation of a commercial multimedia management platform had mixed results, due to the difficulty of integrating the product into the existing environment and the lack of specific library functionality. The University of Maryland has since taken a different approach, becoming an Ex Libris "Premier Partner" for the Ex Libris "DigiTool" product. This involves full implementation of the Ex Libris digital asset management product as well as ongoing participation in product design, development and testing. The implementation will emphasize streaming audio and video, as well as images. The university's goal is an environment that handles all types of digital objects.

Case Study: New York University

<http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst>

Drawing upon such standards as the Open Archives Initiative (OAI), the METS document format, and the Internet2 Shibboleth Project, NYU Libraries are implementing a digital library based on open standards that simplifies the processes of creating, acquiring, managing, preserving and disseminating electronic resources. Ex Libris' DigiTool software supports many of the standards required by NYU's digital library, including the Z39.50 and OAI protocols, as well as metadata standards such as MARC21, Dublin Core and EAD. DigiTool will form a key component of NYU's digital library infrastructure and the NYU Libraries will continue to work with Ex Libris on product development and integration of emerging standards such as METS and Shibboleth. NYU's digital library runs on 2 Sun Enterprise™ 15K servers, 22TB of Sun StorEdge™ 3960 storage and Sun StorEdge™ L700 Tape Library.

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