



## National Consortium Standardizes on Leganto

# BIBSYS

BIBSYS responded to the members' need for a reading list solution by choosing Leganto. Leganto enabled a streamlined rollout and gave the libraries a new way to showcase their resources.

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## About BIBSYS

BIBSYS\* is a public administrative agency that provides common systems and services for education and research, serving academic and special libraries throughout Norway. The core library system they offer is based on Ex Libris Alma, and is used by most Norwegian libraries in higher education and research. BIBSYS also provides the Ex Libris Primo discovery service, a shared electronic publishing system and institutional archive, and educational platforms such as a learning management system and online course system.

\*As of January 1 2018, BIBSYS, CERES and parts of UNINETT are gathered in a new administrative agency – ICT Services for Education and Research.

## Request from Institutions, Mandate for BIBSYS

As the administrator of the large consortium for subject and research libraries throughout Norway, BIBSYS keeps its finger on the pulse of the needs of its member institutions. When some of the members identified a shortfall in their visibility to course resources, BIBSYS responded. “It was a project run by the institutions,” explains Asbjørn Risan, ICT Services for Education and Research, department BIBSYS. “They wanted to investigate how much of the material on their course reading lists was available electronically, and how those resources were accessed. It was clear there was a lack of visibility into the content of reading lists.” Course materials were hidden in the learning management system and in other places, and every institution had a different approach to creating, managing, and distributing course resources.

“They wanted a solution to handle and maintain their reading lists in an easy and efficient way,” Risan states. “BIBSYS saw that as a mandate to do something about it, on behalf of the institutions and based on our experience with other joint systems. We asked the institutions if they would like to participate in a joint acquisition and be member of the new reading list consortium. Nine institutions signed on.”

## Open Tender, Exacting Requirements

As an organization serving the best interests of its members, BIBSYS went through a due diligence process. They conducted a thorough investigation and followed a rigorous process. According to Risan, “We looked at the solutions on the market to find out what was available. We created a list of functional requirements and put that into an open tender. The joint tendering and acquisition process also saved the participating institutions time and effort and paved the way for an efficient implementation process. Based on the responses from vendors, the institutions chose the system that answered the requirements best.” That system was Leganto.

While Leganto was chosen on its own independent merits, the fact that the BIBSYS library system consortium was already using Alma and Primo was a substantial benefit. “One of our goals was to integrate whatever reading list system the institutions selected with the library system and the search-and-delivery system. The decision to adopt Leganto matched well with the library system and discovery system from the same vendor. It made it easier to make the systems work together.”

*“Leganto makes library resources more visible and showcases the library for the entire institution.” - Asbjørn Risan, ICT Services for Education and Research, department BIBSYS*

## Efficient Implementation and Knowledge Transfer

As part of its response to the tender, Ex Libris outlined an implementation process designed to minimize the costs for BIBSYS while most-efficiently transferring knowledge to the BIBSYS team. “The plan divided the institutions into three groups,” details Risan. “For the first group, Ex Libris did most of the leadership and implementation management and BIBSYS shadowed the Ex Libris team. Most of the communication with the local project teams was handled by Ex Libris. For the second group, we handled the implementation and communication with the local teams, and Ex Libris shadowed us. For the last group, we did all the technical implementation and communication ourselves, and reached out to Ex Libris for clarification if needed.” BIBSYS would then be prepared to independently on-board other institutions that wished to join in the future.

The implementation of the nine institutions ran from the end of August until the end of December — a time span of approximately four months. After a soft launch with selected courses, the goal is for all institutions to run Leganto for all courses by the fall semester.

## Support for a Consortium Model

As a consortium, all the institutions benefit from a shared set of efficiencies and integrations. For example, “We have three official languages that we need to support within the system. We took the code tables from Ex Libris and translated them as part of the project,” explains Risan. “Another example is that all the institutions load their course data from a central source in Norway. We have constructed a converter for the centralized data to create the course loader file for each institution; it’s an efficient way to do that. We are also looking at other integrations for copyright clearance and archiving of reading lists. And because all institutions also use the same learning management system (LMS), it was easy for us to take the experience with one institution and transfer it to the next.”

## Local Priorities and Workflows

The BIBSYS team also created a common configuration that they could push out, with the idea that each institution could work with it and revise it, if necessary. Emmanuelle Dabin, the system expert for Leganto at BIBSYS, explains: “We sent institutions a recommended configuration that generally met their needs. This enabled institutions to start the project faster, and gave them the opportunity to focus on testing and learning the system rather than spending time on configuration.” However, once through the soft launch, the BIBSYS team expects more local adjustments to the configurations as each institution learns and adjusts to what is right for them before the full-scale rollout.

Each local institution is able to establish its own model for creating the reading lists. According to Dabin, “The institution that has the highest number of lists used to have a reading list system, and their library was already quite involved and created all the lists. At other institutions, the long-term plan is that the instructors are going to create the lists.”



## Working towards Wider Adoption

What is next for BIBSYS and Leganto? “We have signed one more institution and have had other expressions of interest,” states Risan. “We hope that the reading list consortium will grow in the near future, as the current institutions become showcases for the others. We will also be looking into the Ex Libris Campus Engagement program as we work to carry the solution to other institutions.

“The feedback we’ve been getting so far is that it is an easy system for instructors to use. The integration with the LMS is working fine. We have had no feedback from the students yet, and we see that as a good sign.

“The system is not difficult to use, set up or configure. As I see it, Leganto fills a gap between the discovery tool and the library system. It makes the library more involved in the process of developing reading lists, and connects the resources with the students and with the teaching activity. Leganto makes library resources more visible and showcases the library for the entire institution.”



### About Ex Libris

Ex Libris, a ProQuest company, is a leading global provider of cloud-based solutions for higher education. Offering SaaS solutions for the management and discovery of the full spectrum of library and scholarly materials, as well as mobile campus solutions driving student engagement and success, Ex Libris serves thousands of customers in 90 countries. Visit <http://www.exlibrisgroup.com>

