

Why Libraries Should Be Considering an Open Source ILS

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What's an Open Source ILS?

- ILS
 - Integrated Library System
- Open Source Software: free, licensed software
 - The license shall not restrict any party from selling or giving away the software as a component of an aggregate software distribution containing programs from several different sources. The license shall not require a royalty or other fee for such sale.
 - License permits users to use, change, and improve the software, and to redistribute it in modified or unmodified form.

Who What

Koha

- Developed originally in New Zealand, first US release in 2003
- Athens County Public Library
- Stowe-Munroe Falls Public
- Northeast Kansas Library System
- MASSCat
- **Salinas Public Library**
- and many more....

Evergreen:

- Developed in US and first released in 2006
- Georgia PINES
- Grand Rapids Public
- Marshall Public
- Kent County Public Library
- Michigan Library Consortium
- and many more...

Free ILS? Right.

- Must not be any good considering how much we pay for OUR ILS!
- My library needs something MUCH more powerful than some free thing a bunch of kids in a garage hacked together.
- Ah yes, I've heard of that...must be full of security problems.
- We have no IT staff for something like that!
- My board would never go for that.

Facts about Open Source ILS

- OS is generally MORE secure than proprietary software
“given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow...”
- You can still have a “vendor” for all the support and help you *need*
 - Liblime
 - Equinox Software
- BIG libraries and consortia are using it
- Small libraries with no IT staff are using it

But what really matters is this....

- Libraries control their own destiny
 - decide the features they need
 - determine the development path
 - make the features happen by investing time or money
 - decide the help and support you need
- The more the merrier
 - Your library adds a new feature, my library benefits
 - My library identifies a bug, your library is saved a headache
 - Three libraries sponsor the same feature and we all spend less money getting what we want

Learned Helplessness

- Vendor = Software Choice
- You get the features offered. Period.
- You pay the price set. Period.
- You use the hardware and software platform required
- You get the new features the vendor decides to roll into the next release, and
- You get the next release the *year* is it ready
- *Woe is me....I can't do that because our system doesn't allow it....*

Twins Separated at Birth

Libraries

- Committed to free access to information
- Believe Information is Power
- Trust and Respect the Community
- Empower Users
- Believe everyone has something important to contribute if given the right opportunities
- Not big on attaching "price tags" to things

Open Source Software

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Open Source. Open Libraries. A new library consortium

Statewide seminars “Why should I care?”

Open Source ILS Sandbox

Planning statewide resource-sharing strategy based on
OSS technology

Helping libraries evaluate OSS ILS options