

USAGE PATTERNS OF KOHA SUITE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Libraries confront bigger difficulties than ever before as we go from the information age to the knowledge society. The concept of a library has evolved from a collection of books to a single-window knowledge repository. Koha, an open source library management software, is the subject of this article, which provides an overview of the program's features and description. The cost of library management software may be reduced by using open source software. Koha, an open source library management software, has a number of valuable features that may be used to build digital libraries and institutional repositories. An efficient computerised library is one that provides rapid access to resources. Mechanization of library operations primarily via computerization is what is meant by the term "library automation". Open source software Koha may be used to automate the circulation department of a library and give numerous search options for the library's collection, as well as to create a list of books that are overdue and a bill for those books. Koha is an all-in-one software solution that can handle libraries of various sizes. This programme is open source, so any library that wants to automate its housekeeping tasks may use it.

KEYWORDS: *Library Digitization, Library Management Tools, Koha Suite*

INTRODUCTION

Library services that use information technology and electronic resources, such as digital databases, have become more common in recent years. Libraries need high-quality integrated software and cutting-edge retrieval tools to handle a wide range of materials and information. In an automated library, computers are utilised for the majority of tasks, such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation control, and periodical administration, in order to manage, regulate, and automate the library collection, activities, and services. Automated library systems not only perform housekeeping tasks, but they also present users with the most up-to-date and relevant information. Open-source integrated library software (ILS) Koha is the first of its kind, utilised by all types of libraries, from public to school and special libraries, globally. An international network of libraries and users is helping to direct the project's development as it strives to realise its technical goals together [1].

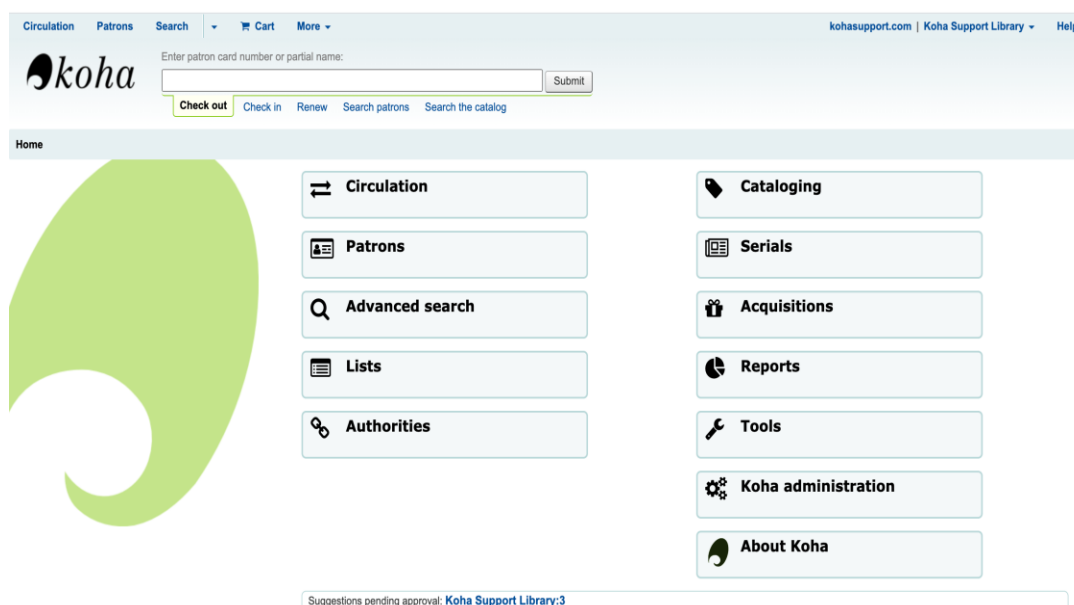


Figure 1: Koha Portal and Dashboard

Koha is an all-in-one library management system (ILS). The licence is free, and you may do anything you want with the product to make it meet your specific requirements. The Horowhenua Library Trust and Katipo Communications collaborated on the project in 1999, and the first live installation took place in January of the following year. The commercial sponsorship for Koha began in the year 2000. Many additional features were added to Koha by Paul Poulain (of Marseille, France) beginning in 2001, most notably multilingual support. Many new capabilities for Koha were introduced in 2005 by Metavore Inc. (trading as LibLime), including support for Zebra funded by Crawford County Federated Library System in Ohio [2].

Koha has been customised based on a previous study by the Spanish Ministry of Culture and is still in use in 2011. Over 15,000,000 items and 1,800,000 active users have been added to Turkey's Ministry of Culture's (Turkey) Koha - Devinim edition in 1,136 public libraries. For the time being, this is the largest Koha installation. Dedicated software vendors and library IT personnel from all around the world work together to keep it updated. Customers become "joint owners" of a product when they use it. Customers may choose whether or not to use newer versions, and they can become involved in future improvements by funding or performing them themselves [3].



Figure 2: Koha Features and Reports

Patterns and Use Cases of Koha

The Koha is one of the greatest web-enabled open source library automation tools. The Koha Serial module may be used to analyse journal articles since it was developed using open source software and is simple to set up and put to use. Koha is an all-in-one software solution that can handle libraries of various sizes [4]. This library automation software may be used as a template for others. This programme is open source, so any library that wants to automate its housekeeping tasks may use it. It's safe to say that Koha is a helpful tool for database construction and retrieval from this vantage point. In contrast, the ever-increasing demands of librarians have put automation software suppliers to the test. Some of the basic functional modules of open source ILS software include an online catalogue, circulation management, and cataloguing with a variety of limiting parameters formats, although most ILS software provides just a single functional module for all types of libraries [5].

FOSS advocacy may be a challenge. It takes a lot of time and effort to gather the correct sorts of information, examples of where it has been effective, and the advantages it may bring to your library, and then to be presented in a manner that informs decision-makers without boring them. Senior managers may be difficult to persuade of the usefulness of FOSS and the advantages of switching. The argument for Koha advocacy is stronger than it may be for less well-known software since it is one of the most successful FOSS applications now. The open-source ILS Koha is widely used by EIFL libraries.

EIFL-FOSS conducted a Themed Week workshop on Koha and library FOSS activism to begin addressing some of these challenges. In this session, three individuals shared their experiences

using Koha to assist you advocate for free and open source software (FOSS). You may get their presentations by visiting this website and downloading them.

An Integrated Library System, Koha has several characteristics, such as a wide variety of options. User-friendly interface allowing library users to conduct operations such as browsing the catalogue, reserving materials, and recommending new materials [6].

Full catalogue module that allows library workers to record information about every item in the collection. In addition to being MARC-compliant and z39.50-compliant, this means that data input and interchange will be more easier and faster. Borrowing and item management can be entirely automated, and the OPAC can be integrated so that users can see what they have on hold, for example. It is a budget management tool that helps with both purchases and basic budget management for librarians Serials management and reporting modules do exactly what their names imply. Originally developed for Linux, Koha may be made to run on Windows by installing a set of add-on modules. It may be used in English. In addition to Spanish, Arabic and French, the community members are developing and translating more languages. The GNU General Public License governs its use and distribution (GPL)

The rationale for FOSS advocacy around Koha is greater than it may be for less well-known software since it is a well-established FOSS ILS and possibly one of the most successful library FOSS tools now.

Key Advantages of Koha

- Library employees and patrons have easy access to information thanks to efficient searching and issuance of items.
- Notifications to consumers and employees concerning things that are either late or new are sent automatically.
- MARC and z39.50 interoperability has resulted in shorter processing times for library materials.
- Senior staff's line management duties are reduced as a result of online supervision.
- Automated data collecting makes library administration more efficient.
- Budgets may be better handled with the acquisition module.
- In Koha, library customers and staff may work together more effectively to meet each user's objectives since each have access to different areas of the system.

TABLE 1 : KEY FUNCTIONS AND FEATURES

Circulation & Patron	Acquisition
• Supports unlimited patron categories	• Budget with multiple funds
• Bulk upload or modification of records and images	• Real time update of budget / fund
• Manage check-in, checkout, renew, reservation, ILL services	• Alert on budget limit expenditure
• Blocking of users	• Order suggested title and give live updates to users

• Offline circulation module	• Claim and track order status
	• Manage exchange rates, currencies
Cataloging	Serials Management
• Cataloging as per AACR2 standard	• Subscription details with prediction
• Create spine and barcode labels	• Receive single or multiple copies
• Batch modification and deletion	• Define frequency patterns
• Copy catalogue for any type of item	• Alerts for missing issues
• Customized cataloguing (data entry) templates	• Single window display of complete serial history

New Zealand's Horowhenua Library Trust began using History Koha in January 2000, when Katipo Communications developed it for the library. Since 2000, more than 50 firms have been offering commercial support for Koha [7].

Many additional features were added to Koha by Paul Poulain (of Marseille, France) beginning in 2001, most notably multilingual support. By 2010, Koha has been translated into French, Chinese, Arabic, and a number of other languages from its original English. There were more features introduced in 2002, including support for the cataloguing and search standards MARC (MARC) and Z39.50 (Z39).50). In 2007, Poulain was a co-founder of BibLibre, an open-source bibliographic database [8].

Many new capabilities for Koha were introduced in 2005 by Metavore Inc. (trading as LibLime), including support for Zebra funded by Crawford County Federated Library System in Ohio. Increased search performance and scalability due to Zebra support allowed us to handle hundreds of millions of bibliographic entries.

TABLE 2: STANDARDS AND ASSOCIATED DIMENSIONS OF KOHA

Standards Compliant	Administration
MARC21	Define role based access
ISO2709	Define categories of items and users
Z39.50	Define circulation and fine matrix
OAI - PMH	Define SMS and email alert system
UNICODE	Support multiple library configuration in a single installation
ISBD	
SIP2/NCIP	
LDAP & Shibboleth	
OPAC	Report
Access OPAC on any device	100+ predefined reports
Basic to advance search with filter	Customized reports for NAAC and AICTE
See book covers, ToC and Reviews	CSV format for further analysis
Suggest resources; comments, tagging and star rating	Grouping of reports
Create recommended, online reservations and account status	Filter reports based on item, patron categories or branch

In 2007, a consortium of Vermont libraries started experimenting with the usage of Koha [9]. For the time being, each library will have its own implementation. One database for all libraries was then created by the Vermont Organization of Koha Automated Libraries (VOKAL). In 2011, this database was made public. Fifty-seven libraries have made the switch to Koha and are now using ByWater Solutions' shared production environment. The Catamount Library Network, a group of libraries in Vermont, has also embraced Koha (also hosted by ByWater Solutions). Previously, automated libraries in Vermont utilised software from Follett or other commercial software companies, such as the Library of Congress [10].

After a lengthy feasibility assessment, the King's Fund moved to Koha with the help of PTFS Europe in 2010. According to an earlier source, the Ministry of Culture in Spain maintains KOBLLI, a customised version of Koha [11].

With more than 17 million items and more than 2 million active users, Turkey's Ministry of Culture began using Koha-Devinim in 1,136 public libraries in 2014. The open-source nature of Koha makes it an attractive choice for specialised libraries like music repositories. The most extensively deployed open source integrated library system (ILS) in the world, according to a 2017 article in Library Technology Reports, is Koha.

A disagreement emerged in the Koha community in 2009 between LibLime and other members. There was a disagreement about the content of the sites and the lack of software patch contributions from LibLime to the community. LibLime has been accused of forking the programme and the community by a number of members. New websites, repositories of code, and a community have been developed [12]. It continues when LibLime was bought by PTFS in March 2010.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand awarded LibLime a provisional trademark on the term Koha in New Zealand in November 2011. Catalyst IT Ltd (NZ) successfully appealed against the provisional trademark award, with a ruling issued in December 2013 with LibLime being ordered to pay the costs.

CONCLUSION

The world's first open source library automation system, Koha, is a Mori term that means "gift." The Horowhenua Library Trust created the Koha Integrated Library System (ILS) in 1999 and published it under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL). In libraries throughout the globe, Koha Library has shown to be a really enterprise-class ILS with a broad variety of features and capabilities. In a Koha library, there are modules for everything from acquisitions to cataloguing to circulation and patron management to serials management, the Web-OPAC to reporting to management.

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