



ABCD vs Koha

Open source Library Options

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Integrated library management system (ILMS)



Integrated library management system (ILMS) is an automated library system that is capable of managing the operations of more than one basic library functions. (UNESCO)

Open Source Definition



Open source doesn't just mean access to the source code. The distribution terms of open-source software must comply with the following criteria:

- Free Redistribution
- Source Code
- Derived Works
- Integrity of The Author's Source Code
- No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups
- No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor
- Distribution of License
- License Must Not Be Specific to a Product
- License Must Not Restrict Other Software
- License Must Be Technology-Neutral

(Open Source Initiative: <http://www.opensource.org/docs/osd>)

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Library Open Source Software



Open source software's are available with source code and the libraries can make changes in software.

The fundamental difference between commercial and OSS is visible in the development process and distribution. Group of people or institutions contribute resources (time, money and skill) into the development of open source library management system for their library automation. Open licenses are adopted for the free distribution of software.

Open source software is highly depended on users for its development and maintenance.

Available ILMs's



OPEN SOURCE

- Koha
- ABCD
- Evergreen
- LibLime
- MarcoPolo
- PhpMyLibrary
- OpenBiblio
- NewGenLib etc.

PROPRIETARY

- Aleph
- Voyager
- Janium
- Altair
- PINAKES
- LogiCat etc.

Reasons for ILMS*



OPEN SOURCE

- affordability
- functionality
- customizability
- freedom from vendor lock-in
- ease of use
- security
- technical support
- portability

PROPRIETARY

- functionality
- affordability
- ease of use
- technical support
- trusted brand name

Reasons for implementing open source ILMs



INIDEP (ABCD)

- flexibility of bibliographic structure (ABCD supports all bibliographic standards)
- customizability
- ease to use
- technical support (ABCD has a little active community)
- tradition

RBI (Koha)

- affordability
- MARC21 standard support
- technical support (open source program with large and active community)
- functionality
- customizability
- freedom from vendor lock-in
- ease of use

Comparison of ABCD and Koha

General Information



	ABCD	KOHA
Version evaluated	1.0 (Beta)	3.01.00.058
Company or organization that develop and maintains the software / support	The main input comes from the Brazilian BIREME institute and UNESCO, VLIR/UOS (Flemish Interuniversity Council)	Initially developed by Katipo Communications for Horowhenua Library Trust from New Zealand in January 2000; currently maintained by a team of software providers and library technology staff all around the world
Open source/license	GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL)	GNU Public license (GPL)
Programming language	PHP - Java (only EmpWeb/Linux)	PERL
Type of database	Textual / MySQL (only EmpWeb)	MySQL
Multi-branch mode	YES	YES

General Information



	ABCD	KOHA
Multi users and remote load	YES	YES
Local version of ILMS	YES	YES
Community support	<p>YES, ABCD is a young software has a little community yet.</p> <p>Project: http://reddes.bvsaude.org/projects/abcd</p> <p>Wiki and Trac: http://reddes.bvsaude.org/projects/abcd/wiki /HowToParticipate</p> <p>Mailing list: http://reddes.bvsaude.org/projects/abcd/wiki/HowToParticipate</p>	<p>YES, Koha has a large community which communicate between each other via</p> <p>Wiki: (http://wiki.koha-community.org/)</p> <p>Mailing lists: (http://koha.org/about/get-involved/mailling-lists/mailling-listsg) and</p> <p>Blogs:(http://owu.towers.org.uk/planets/koha/ ; http://www.myacpl.org/koha/)</p>

Modules



	ABCD	KOHA
Cataloging	YES	YES
Circulation	YES	YES
Acquisition	YES	YES
Serials	YES	YES
Patron management	YES	YES
Reports	YES	YES
Branch relationship	YES	YES

Cataloging



	ABCD	KOHA
Supported metadata standards	ABCD is independent of formats. The same mechanisms, interface and forms can be used to create and maintain any structure, whether bibliographic or not	MARC 21 and UNIMARC
Managing of various types of material (books, serials, DVDs, audio and video tapes etc.)	YES	YES
Managing print and digital content	YES	YES
Cataloging via Z39.50	YES	YES
Authority control	YES	YES
Export and Import data for reports	ABCD allows export records to XLS, DOC, TXT, HTML	.csv

Circulation



	ABCD	KOHA
Barcode and RFID support	Only barcode	YES
User authentication via LDAP	NO	YES
Reservations	YES (only for EmpWeb module)	YES

Reports and Statistics



	ABCD	KOHA
Pre-defined reports	YES (only for CEPAL and MARC 21 formats)	YES
Custom reports	YES	YES

OPAC



	ABCD	KOHA
OPAC search	Simple and advanced search	Simple and advanced search
Possibility of managing record by the end-users	The OPAC allows print and export (in XML,HTML,TXT formats) the results of the one search.	MODS (XML), Dublin Core (XML), MARCXML, MARC (non-Unicode/MARC-8), MARC (Unicode/UTF-8)
OPAC record view	All the formats can be showed.	Short view, labeled MARC view, MARC view, ISBD view
Templates for OPAC view	NO	YES
Search engine	Lucene search engine	Zebra search engine

Additional functionalities



	ABCD	KOHA
Enhanced content	NO	YES
E-mail/SMS overdue and other notices	NO	YES
Multi language support	YES (spanish, portuguese, french and english)	YES
Virtual shelves	NO	YES
Publishing news on the OPAC and staff client	NO	YES

Additional functionalities



	ABCD	KOHA
User accounts on OPAC (with reading history, personal data, user's tags, comments, lists etc.)	NO	YES
RSS feed	NO	YES
Making private or public lists	NO	YES
Tagging and commenting	NO	YES

Conclusions



- Koha is widely used and developed during last 10 years, has better support and greater community; ABCD is still a young software and its community will grow in time
- ABCD has also offline local version of software which is easy to set-up and use (good for small libraries without system administrators and/or servers/internet connection)
- Koha has wider range of additional functionalities and Web 2.0 features
- ABCD is more flexible when it comes to metadata standards – it supports all standards and non-standards, while Koha supports only UNIMARC and MARC21
- Both softwares support multi-branch mode

Conclusions



Both ABCD and Koha satisfy all the basic functional requirements of a Integrated library management system. But...

Koha has more and better developed additional functionalities and enhanced contents than ABCD at this moment, as well as 10-years of developement and a great community and support behind it, so it is a better solution for libraries implementing web based ILMS.

ABCD is on the other hand a better solution for local use (offline) at small libraries without system administrator and/or servers/internet connection, as well as for libraries using other bibliographic standards (or non-standards) than UNIMARC or MARC21.

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Thank You

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