

AN OVIERVIEW OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARES

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Abstract: *Open source software is software which anyone can run, copy, distribute, study, modify, share, and enhance for any reason. Integrated library management software eliminates the upfront expense of buying commercial software and gives libraries more control over their working environment. Open source software has several advantages that library workers should be aware of. The notion of Open Source Software is explained in this paper. Also covers information about the benefits of Open Source Software.*

Keywords: Open Source Software, Libraries, Koha, New Gen Lib, DSpace,

Introduction:

Because its design is available online, the term "open source" refers to something that can be modified. Open source software is computer software that has its source code available under a licensing that lets customers to study, change, and upgrade it, and also some redistribute it in modified or unmodified form. Over the last few years, the breadth and popularity of open source software has increased. The rise of Open Source Software has attracted librarians' attention and created new opportunities for libraries.

Advantages of Open Source Software:

- **Costs:** In most cases, there are no license expenses involved with open source solutions. The ultimate conclusion is that there'll be no maintenance costs. The only costs are for media, paperwork, and, if needed, service.
- **Licensing:** You just need to install the software once, and then you can be using it in as many locations as you want. There is no need to count, record, or monitor licenses comply.

- **Free From vendor bindings:** Vendor binding is a cause of concern for all Librarians. There is a lack of flexibility and the inability to customize software to fulfill specific requirements, in addition to continuing license costs. The advent of open source is an affirmation of freedom of choice.

- **Software of top standard:** Open source software appears to be important based on empirical evidence and research. The peer review process and community standards, or even the fact that source code is available publicly, actually encourage excellence in design and coding efficiency..

Libraries and Open Source Software:

The open source model offers librarians with the freedom to develop an application that we have always and Scalable wanted: to benefit people find information quickly and conveniently, no matter where that information exists. Open source software is a lifesaver for a librarian like us. Commercial software is difficult to come by for libraries. Even unless they were obtained, managing and upgrading them would be difficult due of the financial commitment they need from the Colleges. Commercial vendors have not yet been very supportive of libraries in terms of offering their software at a reasonable cost or even for free, according to experience. Libraries now have the option of include software training in their curriculum thanks to the development of open source software. They may now use the

more latest release of the integrated library management system to keep up to date. The following are amongst the most popular Open Source Software for Library Management.

- **Koha:** It is the first Open Source Integrated Library Management System and is in use worldwide. Its development is steered by a growing community of libraries collaborating to achieve their library automation goals. Koha is built using library ILS standards and uses the OPAC (open public access catalogue) interface.

- **New Gen Lib:** It is an Integrated Library Management System, is now freely available as an open source under the most widely used free software license, GNU General Public License. Before becoming an open source product at the end of 2007, it was already in use in 122 libraries, mainly in India but also including installations in Syria, Sudan, Cambodia, etc. Its important features includes: completely web based, complies with international metadata and interoperability standards: MARC-21, MARC-XML, z39.50, SRU/W, OAI-PMH, uses chiefly open source components - scalable, manageable and efficient, OS independent -Windows and Linux flavours available. New Gen Lib has been declared Open Source Software under GNU GPL Licence by the Verus Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, India.

• **DSpace:** DSpace is one of the first Open Source Software platforms to store, manage and distribute the collections in digital format. DSpace is the choicest software for academic, non-profit and commercial organizations, building open digital repositories. DSpace preserves and enables easy and open access to all types of digital contents including text, images, moving images, mpegs, data ta sets,. etc. And with an ever-growing community of developers, committed to continuously expanding and improving the software, each new DSpace installation benefits from the previous.

Conclusion: Open source software is free to use software. It is not inevitably free to use, modify, or share, but it is free to use, modify, and share. Using open source software in the library allows money that would otherwise be spent on software solutions to be used for other important resources, such as purchasing additional media resources (books, journals, etc.) or hiring educated, technical support to teach patrons how to better use existing resources. Moreover, this free software is updated, modified, and adapted to fit the library's needs on a regular basis.

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