

An Evaluative study of Koha, Coral and Vu Find: An Open source software

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Abstract: Purpose – The purpose of the formative study is to bring out the comparative features distinctively of KOHA – Serial management, CORAL database management tool for electronic resources and VuFind. The purpose to evaluate the different open source software and its characteristics with possibility to integrate the best available resources.

Methodology/Design/approach – The paper is based on the qualitative literature available online particularly for CORAL & VuFind. The study is a platform for practical implications of the usage of CORAL & KOHA.

Results/Conclusion/Findings – The study is an attempt to which tries to highlight the distinctive features of KOHA, CORAL & VuFind

Practical implication – This study provides the libraries a programme oriented assessment to prepare and migrate for different software as per the requirements.

Paper type – Evaluative study

Keywords: Open source software, Electronic resource management, Koha, Coral, VuFind

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I. INTRODUCTION

With the revolution led by ICTs i.e. Information & Communication technologies the quality of functioning of traditional library functions have been enhanced. The term Library automation given ICT has ensured effective management and utilization of library tools and services. And there has been a paradigm shift from manual to digital world with the advent of Open source library automation software. Open source software refers to software created by a community of programmers rather than a single vendor (Blumenthal, 2005). With free access to the source code, there are virtually no limits to what can be done to the software (Williams von Rooij, 2009)

KOHA

Koha is a fully featured, scalable, library management system. It is the world's first free and open source library system. Development is sponsored by libraries of varying types and sizes, volunteers, and support companies worldwide.

The Koha integrated library system includes catalogue, OPAC, Circulation, Member Management and acquisition packages. To install koha for use following configuration is required. It requires a Linux Server, Apache, MySQL, Perl, Root on the server a reasonable level of command with command line and database administration skill. Koha was created by Katipo Communications in 1999 by for the horowhenua trust in New Zealand, and the first installation went live in January 2000.

In 2001, Paul Poulain (of Marseille, France) began adding many new features to Koha, most significantly support for multiple languages. In 2010, Koha has been translated from its original English into French, Chinese, Arabic and several other languages. Support for the cataloguing and search standards MARC and Z39.50 was added in 2002 and later sponsored by the Athens County Public Libraries. In France Paul Poulain co-founded BibLibre in 2007. In 2005, an Ohio-based company, Metavore, Inc., trading as liblime, was established to support Koha and added many new features, including support for Zebra sponsored by the Crawford County Federated Library System. Zebra support increased the speed of searches as well as improving scalability to support tens of millions of bibliographic records. The latest stable release of Koha is 18.11.03.

Coral ERM & its modules

Coral is an open source electronic resources management system. The local developer of Coral Hesburgh libraries at University of Notre Dame gave an expansion to libraries and vendors across the world to add their contribution for future developments.

Centralized Online Resources acquisition and licensing is highly customizable an open source electronic resource management system. CORAL also allows customization MODULE WISE. Depending on the requirements the installation can be done. However, if entire suite is installed, the records are easy to link.

A tiny installation CORAL runs on -

- MySQL 5
- PHP 5 &
- A webserver which is available under GPL v 3 and on GitHub

Comparison of KOHA & CORAL

	KOHA	CORAL
	Open source integrated library management software	Open source electronic resource management software.
Modules	Acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serials, Reporting	Resources, Organisation, License, Statistics, Management
Management of resources	Can manage physical & digital resources – Acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serials etc.	Can manage Licensing of electronic resources
Management of e-resources	Can manage local e-resources – Acquisition, cataloguing & its access	Can be efficiently managed through the four different modules- Resources, Licensing, Organisation & User statistics & management
Electronic subscription	Cannot be managed	Management of e-resources can be processed through Resource module in CORAL. With the robust database for tracking data& customizable workflow tool
Web services	To write in KOHA are many	To write in CORAL are few
Data model	Can be updated at a low level	Can be easily updated
Integration	Koha and Coral can be integrated. Koha 18.05 or later is needed to use OAuth authentication. Vendors can be synchronized between Coral and Koha.	

In the above emerging approaches tremendous technical processes are involved for libraries. To closely track the perpetual access terms there is a need to design a new roadmap. However, the developers have conceived a ONE ROOF SOLUTION i.e. VuFind. It can also be termed as Catalogue for the next generation.

Villanova University has developed a free access open source simple interface VuFind. The portal allows responsive and bootstrap driven design that is an extension to the patrons of library to search and browse beyond the resources – books, journals, electronic resources, institutional repositories, institutional bibliographies and other resources of library. The software is also modular and highly configurable, allowing implementers to choose system components to best fit their needs. VuFind features multilingual capability, faceted search, browsing capability, organisation and annotation of resources, citations and author bibliographies. The search results page is able to display the live status of a record through the use of AJAX by querying the catalogue at that exact moment. The user is offered suggestions of resources that are similar to the current resource. The user is able to save the resources from both the search results page and from the record view page to their own customizable lists with a very narrow spectrum of results. VuFind has many APIs to interact with the search, data and many other features. The data can be syndicated with other institutions via an OAI server. Searching can be made using vufind's algorithms via OpenSearch. And a complete access to indexed data is available, while interacting with Solr, VuFind's backend search and index engine.

II. CONCLUSION

The present evaluative study is based on the literature available on the very recent advancement in the field of data management. KOHA is one of the best open source library automation for creation of database and for information retrieval. With interoperable modules CORAL has distinctive features for electronic resource management. However, a community supportive VuFind which is offered for free through the GPL open source license is completely a one roof solution and also known as age bracket for the library catalogue. There is no

such major difference in the interoperability functions of KOHA & CORAL for acquisition and management of Electronic resources but for digital repositories, bibliographical resources the library has to adopt different software. Wherein the study brings out the adopting VuFind will render a modular approach to best fit the requirement of each and every library as per the requirement.

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