Lessons Learned
Implementing an Open Source Library System

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LISA VI, Pune, India, 14–17 Feb 2010
Overview

Commercial Integrated Library System (ILS) → Improvements

Open Access Library System ← Savings

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<th>#</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bayesian Methods in Cosmology</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Hobson, M.P.</td>
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<td>Please contact the librarians to request this item. Copies on order</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>The primordial density perturbation: cosmology, inflation and the origin of structure</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Lyth, D.H. (David H.)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Discovering the expanding universe</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Nussbaumer, H. (Harry)</td>
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<td>From first light to reionization: the end of the dark ages</td>
<td>2009</td>
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ILS: Unicorn (SirsiDynix)

Advantages

- All necessary modules
- Legacy system at ESO (little development necessary)
- Maintained by vendor
ILS: Unicorn (SirsiDynix)

**Disadvantages**

- Expensive maintenance
- No access to data
- No influence on look & feel (OPAC needs make-over)
- Modular system

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Change ?

Incentives

- Fully integrated system (web-based)
- More control over functionality
- Access to data
- Cutting-edge technology
- Diminish costs

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Costs

One-time costs

- Purchase new system
- Data migration
- Customization

Ongoing costs

- Lower maintenance costs
- Access to community developments
- Features not developed by community (outsourced?)
Checklist

- Modules? Web-like navigation?
- Multi-site library system support?
- Company background (European customers?)
- Migration from SirsiDynix
- Costs, support, training...
- Specific questions important for ESO libraries
Candidates

- Koha by LibLime
- Koha by PTFS
- Evergreen by GPLS
  (Georgia Public Library Service)
- Liberty by SoftLink

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And the Winner is...

Koha Library System.
Vendor: PTFS / PTFS Europe

- Sufficiently developed (acquisitions module)
- Widely used
- Moderate costs
- Marketed by PTFS Europe
  Unicorn experts (data migration !!)

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>2. Inflationary Cosmology.</td>
<td>by Lemoine, M. (Martin); Martin, J. (Jerome); Peter, P. (Patrick)</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>A 26-1 / 202</td>
<td>Lecture notes in physics</td>
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<td>Copies available at: Garching (1), Santiago (1)</td>
<td>Inflationary Cosmology</td>
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<td>3. Mapping the Galaxy and Nearby Galaxies.</td>
<td>by Wada, K; Combes, F.</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>A 24-1 / 56</td>
<td>Astrophysics and space science proceedings</td>
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<td>Copies available at: Garching (1)</td>
<td>Mapping the Galaxy and Nearby Galaxies COSMOLOGY</td>
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<td>4. Relativity, Astrophysics and Cosmology.</td>
<td>by Belusevic, R. (Radojicic)</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>A 26-2 / 183</td>
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<td>Copies available at: Santiago (2), Garching (1), Let</td>
<td>Relativity, Astrophysics and Cosmology</td>
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Customizing the System

Areas that needed attention:

- Cataloging (multi-site library)
- Circulation
- OPAC
- Acquisitions

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Customizing the System
(contd.)

We developed

- Acquisitions workflow
- OPAC: description of brief and full record view
- Circulation: outline of improvements
- Prioritized lists of changes
Customizing the System
(contd.)

PTFS

- installed Koha on our server
- applied minor OPAC changes
- prepared data migration
- gave us quotes for tailoring (negotiable)

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Customizing the System (contd.)

At the same time . . .

including GetIT, LibLime-developed acquisitions module
Customizing the System (contd.)

Many phone conversations later...
We reevaluated the situation

Where do we go from here?
...and came to the conclusion that it would be best to put the system on hold for a while.
Agreement

- leave Koha system at ESO as-is
- monitor PTFS/LibLime merger
- pay special attention to GetIT module
- revisit situation approx. September 2010
Lessons Learned

- Look carefully at existing features
- Calculate time and money necessary for customization
- Prepare use cases !!
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TO BE CONTINUED
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