# 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 Inicitive: http://www.opensource.org/docs/osd)

# 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

Riewe, L. M. (2008). Survey of open source integrated library systems. Available at: http://users.sfo.com/~lmr/ils-survey/080831-paper-Riewe.pdf (October 8th, 2010)

# 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** | YES, ABCD is a young software has a little community yet.<br>Project:<br>http://reddes.bvsaude.org/projects/abcd<br>Wiki and Trac:<br>http://reddes.bvsaude.org/projects/abcd/wiki<br>/HowToParticipate<br>Mailing list:<br>http://reddes.bvsaude.org/projects/abcd/wiki/HowToParticipate | YES, Koha has a large community which communicate between each other via<br>Wiki: (http://wiki.koha-community.org/)<br>Mailing lists: (http://koha.org/about/get-involved/mailing-lists/mailing-listsg) and<br>Blogs:(http://owu.towers.org.uk/planets/koha/ ; http://www.myacpl.org/koha/) |

# 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 independient 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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