



ABCD VS KOHA ; THE ARCHITECTURE AND FUNCTIONALITIES OF SELECTED MODULES.

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*Presented in on 17th December, 2013 at Lib@web training
organised by VLIR/UOS at the University of Antwerp in
Belgium*





The purpose of the project

To compare the two software's with an aim of assisting librarians make a wise decision when selecting open source software's for their libraries.



Approach

- Installed Koha version 3.12 and ABCD version 1.2t,
- I prepared a checklist that would test the presence or absence of essential functionalities in selected modules
- Carried out some test
- Consulted documentation materials, and guidance from the supervisor.





Selected modules

- **General Features;** technology used, installation and customization.
- **Cataloguing;** Information organization
- **OPAC;** How users interact with the system
- **Circulation;** issue and return of resources,
- **Serial management:** Bibliographic description and circulation.

Installation

- **ABCD has installation packages for Linux and Windows OS. I installed;**
 - In Windows; unzipped the installable package in the root folder
 - In the Linux; used the terminal console to unpack the package. I then installed using the 'dpkg -i' command.
- **Koha currently runs only in Linux.**
 - In Debian Ubuntu (Desktop), using the terminal and the commands.
 - Live DVD



The Architecture of the software's

Layer	ABCD:	KOHA:
The database	ISIS-databases: Non relation database	MySQL: Typical relational database using SQL
The processing	Apache web server	Apache web server
The Formarting	PHP and only in EmpWeb) JavaScript scripts (Interfaces)	Perl (Interfaces)



General Features

Feature	ABCD	Koha
Database Technology	ISIS- Non Relational dbase.	MySQL- Relational database
Capacity/Ability	Flexible and non-restrictive	Its scalable
Available Support	Documentation, community and a Mailing list (Young and small).	Bigger active community a mailing list and blog
Standards Compliant	Pre configured to MARC21, UNIMARC, CEPAL and AGRIS) but can be used to create and maintain any structure	Only MARC21 & UNIMARC compliant Records.
Updates and upgrades	After 3 years the software evolved from 1.0 to 1.3, so one release on average per year	Koha releases new features every 6 months and new bug fixes every month.
Customization	Easy to install and implement	Needs some good IT skills



Selected features for DEMO

Features/ Module	ABCD	KOHA
System administrator	How to Create a new Databases	Interface- for navigation
Cataloguing	Other standards	MARC
OPAC	Site, Many databases,	Log in
Circulation		Offline Circulation
Serial	Bireme (Networked serial Collection)	

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand. Chinese proverb



Conclusion

ABCD and Koha have excellent functionalities in the essential modules for a library management system. However, it is good to note that;

ABCD

- Runs in windows and Linux.
- Has various modules which can work independently or together as a suit.
- Has various independent modules working together as a suit. Can be used in various Libraries (special/small and large libraries).
- Site module can be used as a website
- Flexible and non-restrictive as it supports all standards and non-standards

Conclusion cont' – Koha

- **Widely used and developed during last 10 years better support and greater community**
- **Has an off line Circulation Module**
- **More fancy (Book covers)**
- **wider range of additional functionalities and Web 2.0 features like automatic emails, virtual shelves.**

Way Forward

Develop the project into a full paper;

- **Targeting all the functionalities in the modules.**
- **At different Institutions using the softwares to capture the experiences of the users.**

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Thank you very much