Open Minded

Moving to an Open Source ILS

Who Are We?

- Adam Brooks-Director of Libraries & Community Services, Hernando County
- Paul Alford-Library Services Division Manager, Lake County

Why Are We Here?

- Familiarity-Multiple vendors, libraries
- Experience-2 implementation processes
- Blame-Paul Alford

Koha Florida

Public Libraries

- 📍 Calhoun County
- 📍 Dixie County
- 📍 Franklin County
- 📍 Gilchrist County
- 📍 Hernando County
- 📍 Holmes County
- 📍 Jackson County
- 📍 Jefferson County
- 📍 Lafayette County
- 📍 Lake County
- 📍 Lantana
- 📍 Leesburg
- 📍 Pasco County
- 📍 Taylor County
- 📍 Wakulla County
- 📍 Washington County

Academic Libraries

- 📍 Florida Institute Of Technology
- 📍 Full Sail University
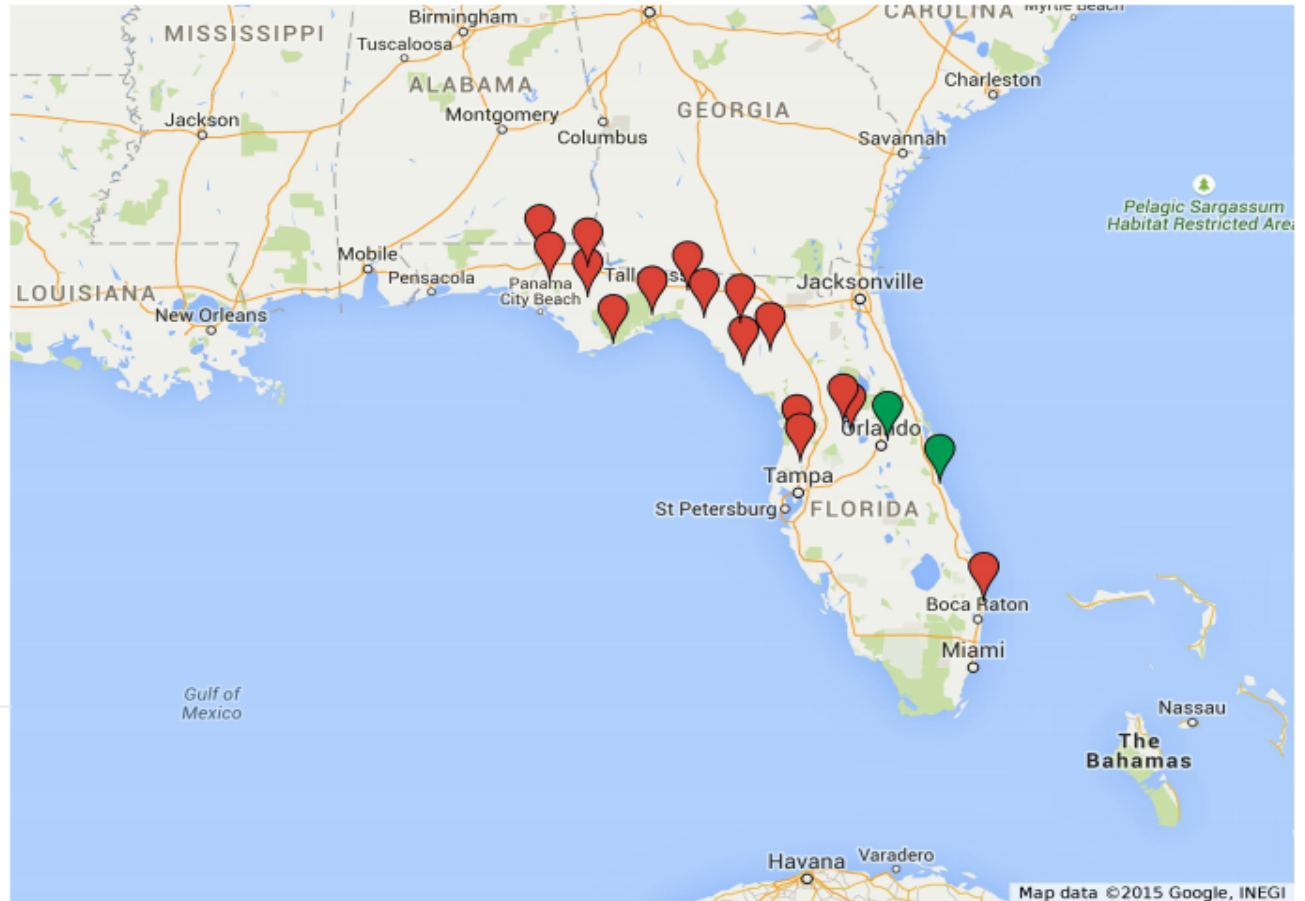
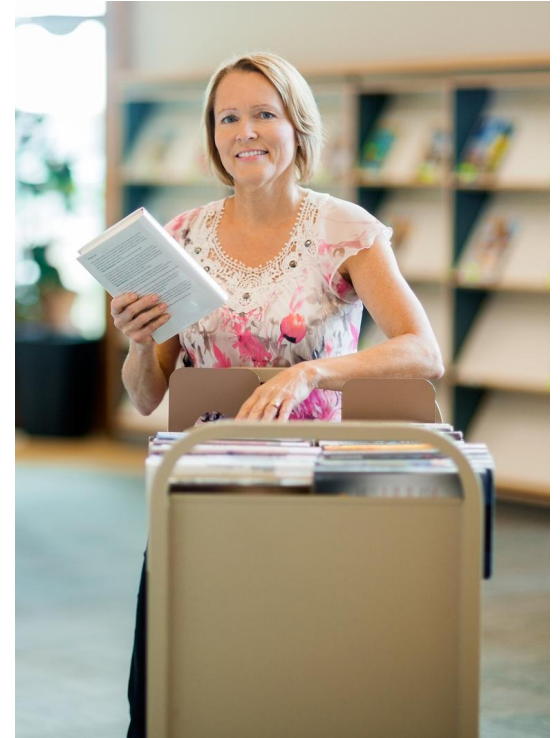**Open Source Software in Florida Libraries**

Quick Agenda

- Why koha?
- 3 (very) different implementations
- Do's & Don'ts
- Lessons Learned/Learning
- Q&A

Cost Effective - Hernando County
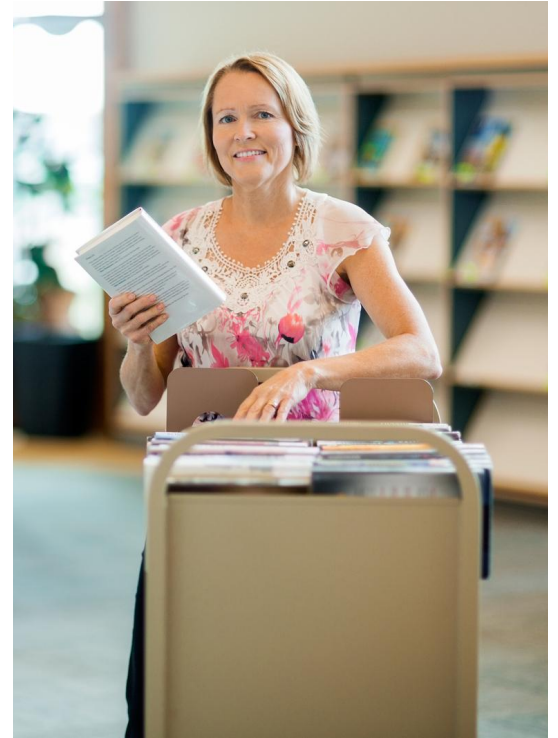
$55,000

vs.

$15,000

Cost Effective - Lake County

$16,000 savings annual

plus

Servers ($20,000)

Development Options

- Collaborative/Community
- Crowdsourcing
- Hackfest
- Improvements Benefit Everyone

Flexible

- Web-based
- Mobile
- Intuitive
- Familiar

The koha Decision

- Bell/Whittington Library-2007
- No online presence
- Open source software
- Do It Yourself!

Texas Implementation

- DIY nightmare
- Vendor decision
- Bidding process
- Staff acceptance
- Community acceptance

Florida Implementation-Hernando

- Vendor decision
- Bidding process
- Staff acceptance
- Community acceptance
- No systems librarian on staff

Florida Implementation-Lake

- Bidding process
- Vendor training - Crucial
- Staff acceptance
- Community acceptance
- Bandwidth Issues

DO

- Practice
- Testing
- Use the correct browser
- Communicate
- Expect changes
- Pre-Migration Purge (Lake)
- Mess up the sandbox (Lake)

DON'T

- Panic
- Hesitate
- Resist
- Expect perfection
- Or your previous ILS

Lessons Learned

- Huge savings
- Embrace it, truly yours
- Know it, people will ask
- Open source is advancing
- Cutting edge library
- Don't be afraid to ask for more (Lake)

Staff Feedback

"What I find to be the most important aspect of Koha is that it's web based and can be accessed from any device with a browser. It makes it easy for outreach events as well as inventory purposes where you can have Koha running on a tablet scanning books in the stacks. Being that it is web based both the staff and patron sides are easily customizable with HTML. The page design is user friendly and new staff learn how to use it fairly quickly."

Juan, Systems Librarian

Staff Feedback

Flexibility is the single greatest asset of an open source ILS. An inflexible staff is the greatest liability of an open source ILS.

Anthony, Information Services Coordinator

Koha is displayed well and easy to operate and learn.

Debbie, Library Services Supervisor

Staff Feedback

Every time we voice a concern, it is handled in a timely manner. I enjoy using Koha and I actually learn new ways to handle tasks on a regular basis.

Colleen, Library Services Supervisor

Staff Feedback

Bywater's responsiveness was, and continues to be, fantastic. It is refreshing to be able to get immediate responses, whether I'm submitting a ticket, or calling on the phone. They really bend over backwards to find an answer, and the community aspect of it is also extremely helpful. I often find solutions to problems without even having to submit a ticket. I mean, I've talked to the president of Bywater personally on several occasions. I couldn't even tell you the name of Sirsi's president.

Gary, Support Services Manager

Staff Feedback

Bandwidth is Important - 3 MG vs. Fiber

It took 3-5 seconds per scan on a good day, and 30-40 seconds during the slow part of the day, which is usually from lunch till the end. [Staff], on the Circulation Desk, would scan a book, and while she was waiting for it to scan through, she would start a conversation, the weather was usually a winner. By the time she was done processing the patron's stack of books, they were swapping cooking tips and such. Another problem is when I would input something incorrectly then hit enter. I would have to stare at your mistake for up to 15-40 seconds before the error pop-up box would appear. There is nothing worse than staring at a mistake you can't fix ASAP, and knowing you will have to go through the whole process again, but correctly. Also, when placing a hold for a patron, [staff] would strike up a conversation to pass the 30 second wait, and only half paying attention, she would forget what it was she was placing a hold on, or how far into the process she was.

Laurel, Library Director

Additional Perks

Reporting Flexibility

[Lake County Library Makes International News](#)

Q & A

Contact Us!

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