Useful links - open source, ILMS etc

Koha release and RFCs for Koha 3.2

As promised at the OLE Project workshop in November 08, Irma Birchall of CALYX information essentials, has forwarded for distribution to those interested in the OLE Project, a document listing

- improvements in Koha 3.0.1 stable release,
- the RFCs for Koha 3.2 and
- what Koha's capabilities are.

27/4/09: Irma has also sent a link to the Koha Structure Version 3.0.1

Comments can be sent to Irma at Irma Birchall, Calyx Group Pty Limited trading as CALYX information essentials, Koha implementations and services, M: 0413 510 717 irma@calyx.net.au

Open source ILMS

Introduction

Post by John Little on the OLE website re the relationship between the OLE Project and existing open source ILS products

"Current open source projects do address aspects of the limitations in commercial ILS systems, and thus offer an excellent starting point. At the same time, we think there is more work to be done in rethinking completely the library management systems needed by academic libraries. We are optimistic that the open source library projects now in progress will inform our work, and possibly lead to some convergence or joint activities in the future. Therefore, these posts are helpful for us and we hope and expect our work will contribute back to other projects as well. We would expect any software development project which comes after our planning project to leverage software developed by other community-source projects."

1. Evergreen open source library automation system. It's also worth checking the blog of Equinox, the company who implements Evergreen in the US and Canada, where is there is some interesting discussion about why open source library systems are the way of the future.

In November 2008 Karen Schneider of Equinox presented a series of talks in Australia on Evergreen and open source software. Here are notes from the talk and links to the audio.

On the OLE Project website is a link to the audio of a webcast discussion held in early December where Georgia Public Library Service joined OLE Project to discuss the design principles and objectives of the Evergreen Project.

2. Koha open source ILS was first developed in New Zealand and now deployed world-wide.

3. Greenstone open source software for building and distributing digital library collections produced by the NZ Digital Library Project at the University of Waikato.

4. NewGenLib an IMLS from India based on open-source products.

5. Summa Denmark State and University Library open source integrated search system.

6. The eXtensible Catalog Project from the University of Rochester, NY, is also a Mellon funded project which is intended to work alongside both commercial and open source IMLSs. It is focused on processing batches of library metadata including MARC, Dublin Core and FRBRized records. The FAQs on the project's website provide a good summary of how it differs from (and will integrate with) open source developments like OLE.

7. The PACSCL Consortial Survey Initiative is a project to assess backlogged archival collections around Philadelphia. They use the open source program MarcEdit, to create collection-level MARC records from the survey data. The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has a similar national program, also funded by the Mellon Foundation. Also important is OCLC's Assess Archival Backlog Survey Tools Project which will survey existing instruments and practices for surveying archival backlogs and make recommendations for best practice. The June issue of Code4Lib Journal has an interesting article on Columbia University Libraries' Archival Collections Portal which reuses MARC records and new search engine features and techniques.

7. NCHe is an open source framework for semantic digital library infrastructure based on Fedora Commons software.

ILMS Reports, articles

1. Library Management Systems Study March 2008 report commissioned by JISC and SCONUL and based on findings from 100 UK higher education libraries - analyses the library management systems (LMS) market.

Amongst the recommendations is the following, which is relevant to the Library's GetWise Project:

1.1.5 Recommendations

The study recommends libraries invest in systems with caution but not complacency, emphasizing that, whilst the library function has continuing and potentially growing value, the role of 'conventional' library may appear increasingly unclear.

* Libraries reviewing LMS contracts should seek increased value, looking at ways to improve services by implementing features around the core LMS.

* The focus on breaking down barriers to resources is endorsed, involving single sign on, unifying workflows and liberating metadata for re-use.

* SOA-based interoperability across institutional systems is emphasised as the foundation for future services and possibly the de-coupling of LMS components.

2. Definitely worth keeping a watch on Library Technology Guides compiled by Marshall Breeding for all the latest news to do with library systems and trends.3. oss4lib listing of free software and systems designed for libraries and news about project updates or related issues of interest. Started in the Yale Medical Library, not very active.
3. Article by Janifer Gatenby of OCLC The Networked Library Service Layer: Sharing Data for More Effective Management and Co-operation published in Adriane Issue 56 July 2008. Gatenby identifies criteria for determining which data in various library systems could be more beneficially shared and managed at a network level eg through a Libraries Australia model. In introducing the need to reconsider the data in library systems she quite rightly says

The architecture of the ILS is a product of its time when storage was expensive, communications were slow, narrow-band and less robust, where the World-Wide Web was non-existent and terms such as social networking, mashups and syndication had totally different meanings.

She goes on to give an example of moving acquisitions and licensing data and processes to the network level and concludes with a call for a standards layer that does not currently exist at the network level.