

# Choosing an Open Source ILS

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# Begin at the Beginning

- A comparison of proprietary versus open source ILS
  - Source code
  - Upgrades
  - Prices
  - Who is in charge?

# A Good Resource

- Breeding, Marshall. “Open source integrated library systems.” Library Technology Reports 44.8 (2008).

# What Carthage Did in 14 Easy Steps

- 1. Make a decision to adopt a new ILS
- 2. Select a team to evaluate and recommend a new ILS
- 3. Create criteria needed
- 4. Compile a list of vendors to evaluate
- 5. By process of elimination narrow list to a few vendors to be evaluated in greater detail
- 6. Request demo and discussion
- 7. Make selection
- 8. Select a team to oversee migration and implementation

# What Carthage Did in 14 Easy Steps

- 9. Discussions with vendor regarding your needs, timetable, contract
- 10. Determine the migration schedule
- 11. Vendor migrates data
- 12. Check functionality of the ILS
- 13. Work with vendor to resolve outstanding issues
- 14. Sign off on system acceptance

# Why we chose Koha

- 1. First open source ILS
- 2. Technology
- 3. Full featured ILS

# A Short Tour of Koha

- OPAC
- Staff modules

# Parting Advice

- 1. Take your time
- 2. Test everything
- 3. Don't believe everything you hear
- 4. Leave yourself an escape clause
- 5. Test everything
- 6. Trust but verify
- 7. Caveat emptor

# Promotion

- WAAL Conference, April 22, 2009
- Caveat Emptor : An Academic Library's Migration to an Open Source ILS