

“We Love Libraries” :
is the chorus line of the *Koha Community* and how it’s gift
keeps on giving.

Irma Birchal ~ CALYX Group Pty Limited

Data Buzz, 30 October 2018
@ The Australian Catholic University

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Koha is software and also a community

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHav6PL_4Bo

<https://koha-community.org/about/>

- It's *open source* software
- It's free and always will be
- It's a fully featured library management system that is working for over 15,000 libraries
- You can find a Koha on every continent.
- It's developed by an international community
- It's supported by services providers like **CALYX**
Hosting, implementation, data migration, development, training

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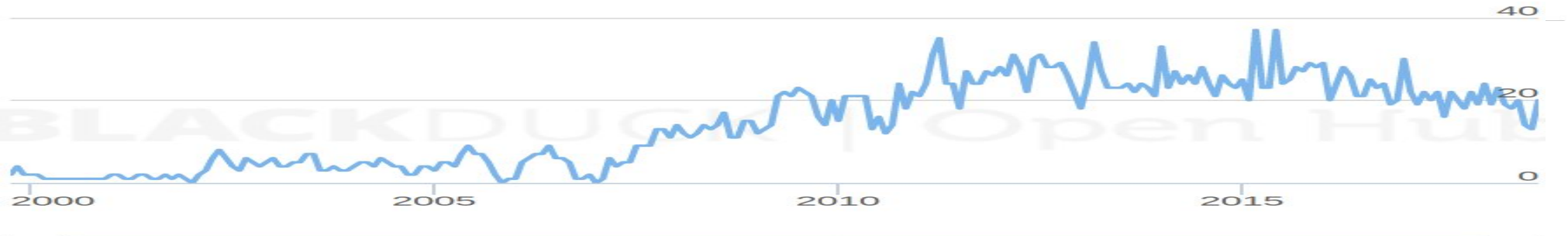
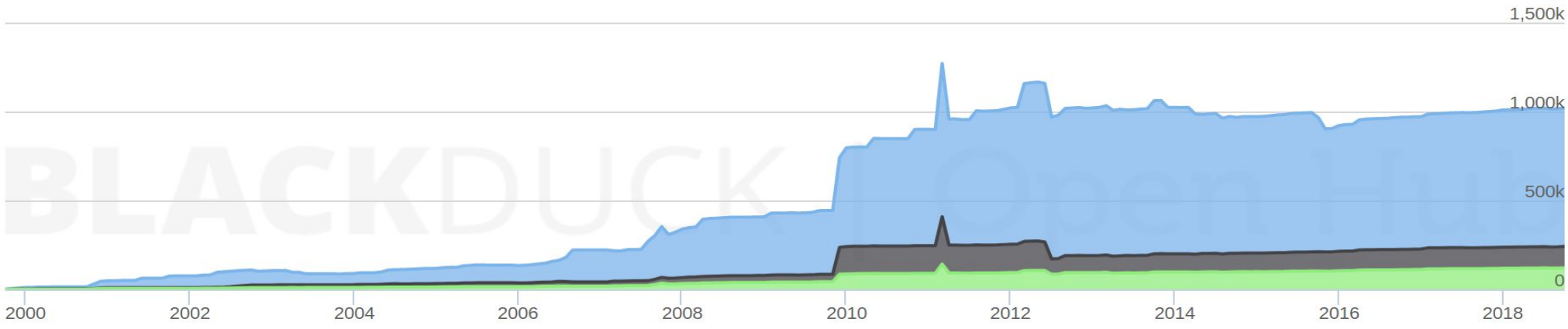
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Koha : from Levin NZ to the World



CALYX : our journey.....2002..2003.....2006.....2010.....2018.....

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Libraries have evolved



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Behind the relaxed scene is a complex organisation ...

- Skilled staff and volunteers
- Clients, readers, patrons, members, partners
- Collectables
- Automation
- Data security
- Budgets
- Communication devices and the Internet
- Library specific processes & routines

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... which is highly dependent on advanced technology

- Managing members data
- Assisting search <> Providing online access to collections : description, linking and archiving
- Lending and retrieving collection items
- Facilitating research and inter library loans
- Managing collection acquisitions
- Handling automatic and manual stack retrievals
- Having a Web presence for communication
- Tracking budgets and providing reports for various stakeholders
- Interoperating with other business centric applications
- Helping Book clubs, exhibitions, special calendar events
- Visiting home bound readers
- Linking to third party content
- Supporting literacy training **and much much more**

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How Koha evolves through collaboration

Koha's feature set continues to evolve and expand to meet the needs of its user base.

Technical decisions concerning the development of Koha are made every day by a variety of people: via IRC, email, meetings

- Individual developers
- Libraries who directly or indirectly contribute or sponsor new features
- Members of the release team

Bugzilla – Main Page

wiki.koha-community.org

Documentation



When are Feature and Maintenance releases made?

Feature releases are made each May and November on or around the 22nd of the month.
Maintenance releases are made each month on or around the 22nd of the month.

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How Koha evolves through iteration

← → ↻ 🏠 ⓘ Not secure | schema.koha-community.org/18_05/columns.byTable.html

Tables Relationships Utility Tables Constraints Anomalies **Columns** Donate

SchemaSpy Analysis of testsql_comments - Columns

Generated by [SchemaSpy](#) on Mon Jul 16 08:37 NZST 2018

Comments Legend

testsql_comments contains 1836 columns - click on heading to sort:

Table	Column	Type	Size	Nulls	Auto	Default
account_offset_types	type	varchar	16			
account_offsets	amount	decimal	26,6			
account_offsets	created_on	timestamp	19			CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
account_offsets	credit_id	int	10	√		null
account_offsets	debit_id	int	10	√		null
account_offsets	id	int	10		√	
account_offsets	type	varchar	16			
accountlines	accountlines_id	int	10		√	

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How CALYX evolves

- By building a strong and professional team
- By contributing to the Koha Community and other OSS groups
- By collaborating in co-opetition with other services providers
- By being engaged and contributing to the GLAM community
- By advocating for open source development and access
- By doing business by the principles and promises of OSS
 - transparency
 - no vendor lock-in
 - code is supplied
 - data is owned by the client ...

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Our clients

In Australia, in New Zealand, in PNG, in Fiji

Public libraries :



Government libraries :



School libraries :

Special libraries :

The Dalton McCaughey Library

University libraries :



Some of our clients are listed here <https://calyx.net.au/our-work/>

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Example of an innovative activity: Auto-provisioning of student records into Koha

Each year new students must be added to the LMS and existing students advanced one year - a huge job for the library team of any school, college, university

Auto-provisioning eliminates this tedious task:

- existing records are updated at next login;
- new students have their record automatically created at first login

This is done in collaboration with the school's identity provider

also since 2003managing very diverse non-library usual collections or sub-collections
.....managing digital content only, no physical resources
..... managing off site borrowers only, no face to face contact
.....managing online catalogue interfaces in multiple languages
.....managing hosting servers infrastructure and more

- It's possible through Koha's support for open standards (in this case SAML) and provision of a RESTful API.
- Complex tasks can be made relatively easier when adhering to Open Standards
- Developments are more creative and more tailored to the clients needs
- Costs are managed using a number of open source applications <> with improved return on investment

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Lessons learned

Clients have a myriad of issues to solve, needs to fill, aspirations to meet

Change is a constant and in this change opportunities are a plenty

Attention to detail is important but perfection is impossible

Work to amplify your communities and people

Encourage discussion of "dreamed about only features" so they go live in a future version

Understand who the decision makers are and what their priorities are

Keeping good project and task documentation....**Improves** the efficiency of all Team Members by building your organisation's knowledge

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The constant innovation and adaptation process

1. Requires clear communication
2. Requires a clear understanding of:
 - what we want to ask / know / find
 - what we have tried so far
 - what we are expecting the end result to be
3. Requires GRIT and courage <> there are no dumb questions
4. Data and analytics <> and don't forgo the important for the trivial
5. Requires leadership and the will to win to deliver

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Keep learning and be in touch with your customers

By keeping in touch with your customers, you increase the likelihood to understanding what problem the customer needs to solve

If you understand the customer's problem you dramatically improve your odds of successful innovation

When you work with an open source community

He rau ringa e oti ai
(Many hands finish the work)

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In a small business there is a lot of dying and rising

"Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste death but once." -
William Shakespeare ("Julius Caesar ~ Act 2 Scene 2")

Questions ?

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