

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF KOHA INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM IN SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTRE: A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of Koha integrated library system in school resource center. This paper provides features, advantages and module of Koha. So End the result, we can know the suitability, capability and effectiveness of KOHA OSS to be used in the school resource library.

**Keywords:** Koha, Integrated library system, School resource centre, Open source.

### INTRODUCTION

In Malaysia, most public libraries, academic library or school library has its own integrated library system. But, with the rapid development of technology, most of the integrated library system has been in the upgrade; especially in terms of its use can be used to describe the software that automates the many activities in the library. The term Library Management System (LMS) known as Integrated Library System (ILS), the function is enterprise resource planning system for a library. Muller, (2011) stated that integrated library systems (ILS) are multifunction, which can software applications that allow librarian to manage, catalog and circulate the materials.

KOHA is an Open Source ILS which can keep the library operations. Therefore KOHA system known as open source for the integrated library system that allows the cataloging activities implemented smoothly. Koha is the most advanced open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide ( Aute & Ghumare, 2014). This mean, the system is able to increase the expertise and skills of librarians for cataloging activities.

Koha system was introduced as one of the library system which is suitable for use in public libraries, academic library and school library. According Ahamad, (2014) by using the Koha ILS, librarians can manage all library functions, such as acquisition, serials control, online public access catalogues (OPAC) and etc. All library function can help the librarians to organize the material in library and the system is upgraded as the foundation "Knowledge Sharing" in the librarian.

### ISSUES

In this paper, we identify several issues regarding MRSM committee regarding Koha open source. Based on our observation from the previous study, there is still some limitations about Koha open source awareness among MRSM committee. Some of the limitations are:

- MRSM committee especially, teacher librarian and school librarian no have knowledge about Koha open source.
- They worry about the capability and suitability to be implemented in their school resource center.
- MRSM committees are idle and not interact with the Koha open source.

MRSM committee don't have skill to using Koha open source

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- How do we develop interests Koha open source among MRSM committee?
- What the important implement that can effectiveness the Koha open source as integrated library system in MRSM school resource centre?
- How we need to create the awareness about Koha open source as integrated library system in school resource centre?
- Is it possible Koha is capability and suitability to be implemented in their school resource centre?

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this paper is to determine the effectiveness Koha integrated library system among MRSM committee. This is our research objectives:-

- To develop MRSM communities interest and soft skills in using the Koha as integrated library system.
- To determine the effectiveness Koha as the integrated library system among MRSM committee.
- To analyze the suitability and the applicability of KOHA OSS to be implemented in school resource centre.
- To determine the important implement such as advantages, modules and features that can effectiveness Koha

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK**

Based on the reference, most articles talk about the module, advantages, implementation, and features the Koha. So we can get analyze, explore and discuss

that the most important point to effectiveness the Koha as integrated library system in school resource library. There are advantages, features and modules.

The features most the articles discussion are Koha community, customizable search and security. Koha Community website is Koha Library Software Community. They is an official Development Team is reelected to manage its new releases and the list of core teams can be found at Koha Community website (Macan, Fernández & Stojanovski, 2012). Maybe, more than 150 individual developers as well as 16 contributing companies and institutions participated in development of Koha and this community. It features allowing libraries to manage reading groups, book clubs, and other community programs. It also provides worldwide support for the product. Besides that, it a very high degree of integration by adopting two Marc formats such as 21 and Unimarc.

The school resource center using the Koha can choose the fields that they want to search in form. Koha offer the best research options when searching the OPAC. The use of Boolean operators is widely used in Koha. It also offers by default a simple search in a streamlined interface similar to Google's search engine interface. (Muller, 2011). Koha provides the security measures to protect unauthorized persons from accessing the system. "Superlibrarian" can also easily switch on and off all the functionalities in Koha Macan, Fernández, & Stojanovski, (2013), It is one of the security to protect the functionalities in Koha

The 3 advantages of Koha most discussed in article are flexibility, free cost and ease to cataloging. According Singh & Sanaman, (2012), Koha is highly flexible as consultations and library can be used at terminals without any hard disk or specialized hardware. This mean, it gives users opportunity can to choose solutions that will suitable for their needs depends the problem.

Besides that, Koha is available free of cost but is not providing all desired software modules and technical support. This mean Koha is free when download it. Koha have own community so if want to training, management, upgrade, equipment and another, the librarian must payment for it. The software's internal operations overall ease of implementation. Shared administration is not limited to the catalog and applies also to bibliographic records, , categories of documents, patron records, budgetary funds, etc. (Muller, 2011). This mean, the user can catalog the material just using the material just from the library server.

The important modules of Koha that most articles discuss have 3 modules. There are acquisition, cataloging, and circulation modules. Koha have acquisition module where libraries can set up their budgets and create their vendors database. (Macan, Fernández & Stojanovski, 2012). The function acquisitions are selection of items, duplicate checking, and selection of vendors, ordering, claiming, receipting, fund control, report and statistics. For the cataloging module, most articles discuss the function the cataloging module. The functions the cataloging are record creation, duplicate checking, record editing, authority control, copy cataloging, keyword/thesaurus generation and import and export data. (Macan, Fernández & Stojanovski, 2012). It

present the copy cataloging through z39.50 protocol, authority control, keywords, recording date and time of the latest transaction, and export or import of information and bibliographic records. It means that Koha can copy function when cataloguing a new bibliographic record from different library system.

Last module is circulation module. The circulation module in an ILMS has common functions and features used in workflow by all types and size of library. (Manisha & Sanaman, 2012) This mean it can made the users access to the material from library. Besides that, it helps the staff to make the decision making on the collection development.

Figure 1 shows the research framework of effectiveness KOHA system in school resource center. In this research framework, there are three independent variables and one dependent variables studied. All the variables above are studied in order to determine the effectiveness KOHA system in school resource center.

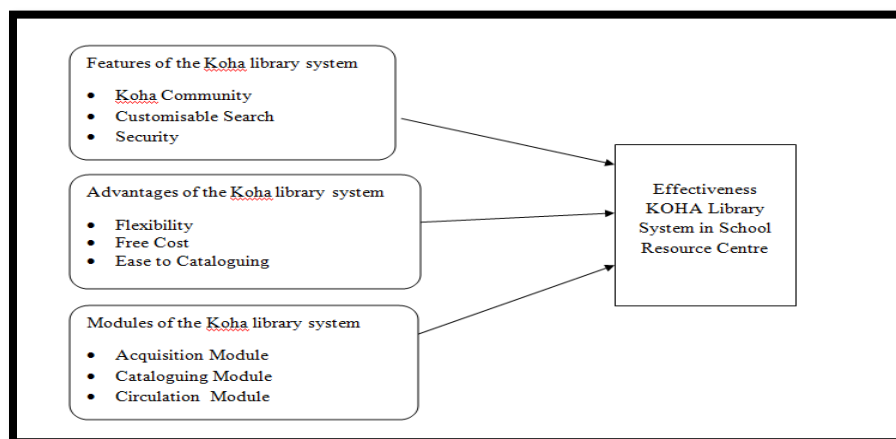


Figure 1. Theoretical Framework.

The *dependent variables* are the effectiveness Koha library system in school resource center whilst the *independent variables* are features, advantages and modules of Koha library system. . The independent variable consists three dimensions each namely; Koha community, customizable search and security which bodied features of the Koha library system as an independent variable. The under advantages have three advantages. There are flexibility, free cost, and ease to cataloguing. The module category also have three module was discusses. There are acquisition module, cataloguing module and circulation module while the dependent variable is the effectiveness Koha library system in school resource centre. The effectiveness Koha library system in school resource centre depends on the features, advantages and the module of Koha library system.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the effectiveness the Koha as integrated library sistem in school resource center depend on the feature, advantages and modules of the Koha open source. This research is to explore the suitability and capability of KOHA OSS as a library management information system specifically for school resource center in Malaysia. Besides that, to achieve the purpose, the features, advantages and modules of KOHA OSS are explored, analyzed, and discussed. As a result, the conclusion will be made on the suitability and capability of KOHA OSS to be used in the school resource center.

The main reason behind this research is to abolish the opinion of teacher's librarian not familiar that open source library software. Next, in particular KOHA OSS is not suitable and capable to be used for the management of school resource center. School resource center can use Koha to offer modern services completely with free of cost. Libraries in developing countries have especially benefited from open-source ILS, such as Koha, as they do not have the financial ability to purchase ILS for their libraries, but generally have sufficient library staff to run the library. (Ahammad, 2014)," This mean, to convince the library community that KOHA OSS can get the financial and profit faced by many school resource center in trying to computerize their library management.

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