

Application of Koha-Integrated Library Management System in Academic Libraries

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Abstract

The present article is being highlights an attribute of Koha software and its different modules. Koha is an open-source integrated management library system (LIMS) by Katipo Communications in 1999. Recently it is available in 26 languages, a Linux server is needed, Apache, MariaDB or MySQL, Perl is being required to installation. As on today the Koha community was released Koha 22.11.27 version. Koha software system provides variety of modules to assists the different library functions. Mainly this software is developed to assist libraries in the term of collection management, enhancement of library services as well as execution of critical process of libraries. The Koha software having variety of modules such as Acquisition module, Cataloguing module, OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) module, Serial Control module, Circulation module, Patron Management module, OPAC module, Report module, and Tools module etc.

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Introduction

Introduction of the new computer-based technology is the output of ICT revolution; it has brought drastic changes in every sector and the academic libraries is not lacking behind. The effects of advance ICT technology, most modified library software come in duo format: the proprietary software (those that require the payment of subscription fee) and the open-source software (Umahi, B. O., 2018). Now days different types of open-source library software are available but Koha is widely used by libraries of all sizes around the globe. It provides an opportunity to the libraries with all inclusive modules to streamline the comprehensive operations and increase user services. Basically, this software offers libraries flexibility to customize the system according to needs of libraries.

About Koha

According to the Wikipedia Koha was developed in 1999 by Katipo Communications for the Horowhenua Library Trust in New Zealand, and the first installation went live in January 2000. Koha is the first free and open-source library

automation software (Chauhan, K., 2018). Free software deal with which are available free of charges with source code Free Software Foundation defines “Free Software” means that respects users’ freedom and community.

Major Features of Koha

- Web-based system- Libraries create each data in digital format easily and these data can accessible through a browser, while browsing the data no need of client installation. It also supports remote access for librarians and library patrons. Patrons can disseminate the library information through a browser.
- Comprehensive modules- Koha provides various modules as like acquisitions, cataloguing, administration, circulation, serials, reports, tools and online public access catalogue (OPAC). These modules assist in smooth functioning such as creating and managing bibliographic records, automating circulation processes, managing acquisitions and orders, and providing user-friendly access to the library's collection.

- Standards compliance- It provides an opportunity to the library staff to maintain the bibliographical standard of records in standard format e.g. MARC21, UNIMARC, Z39.50, SRU/SRW, SIP2, RFID compatibility.
- Customization and flexibility- It is precious characteristic of as an open-source software, Koha permit library staff to customize the software according to the needs as well as user interface.
- User features- Koha provides the user-friendly interface for library staff and users. Users can perform self-checkout and renewal via OPAC, reservation / hold request, availability of Email/SMS notifications and while library patrons can easily search for materials.
- Koha user can efficiently navigate the system, perform

tasks, and access relevant information, while library patrons can easily search for materials, place holds and manage their accounts through the OPAC.

Different Modules

The attributes of any ILM system is determined by its different modules. Every module has its own features because it covers whole library operations. The distinct attributes of every modules is inter-connected to other module for smooth operations. Koha integrated library management software having the different modules which is shown in figure- 1 as follows.

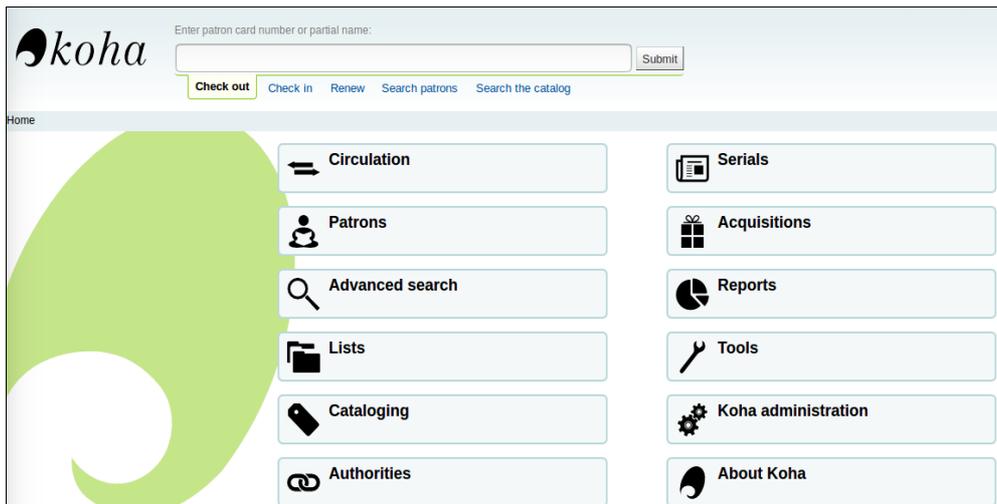


Fig 1: Koha Interface

1. Cataloguing Module

The catalogue is considered an important module of any ILMs it provides an avenue for libraries to showcase what they have to their users. The personnel of library may add edit, and delete bibliographic records through this module. It

performs as the window of information or knowledge the libraries have. This module contains bibliographical records on the collection of library collections like title, author of the creation, ISBN, ISSN and many more figure- 2 present the cataloguing module of Koha.

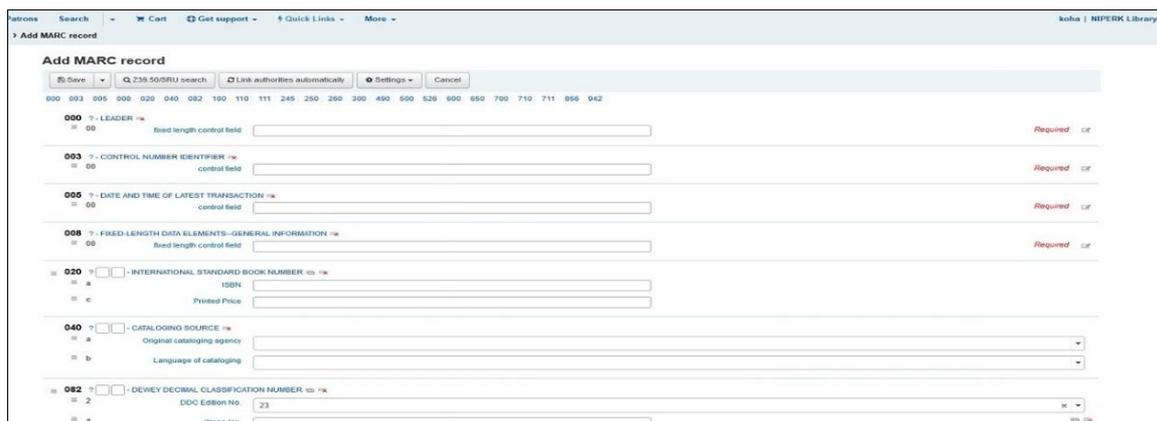


Fig 2: Cataloguing Module

2. Circulation Module

This module plays an important role in Issue (check-out) & return (check-in), it allows to patron's get access to library collections or library materials on or before defined time bond. This module provide the facility to patron for holds/ervations of library material. It manages issue/return of books and user transactions records in a library. Furthermore, it automatically counts the fine and fees of dues; figure-3



Fig 3: Circulation Module

3. Reports Module

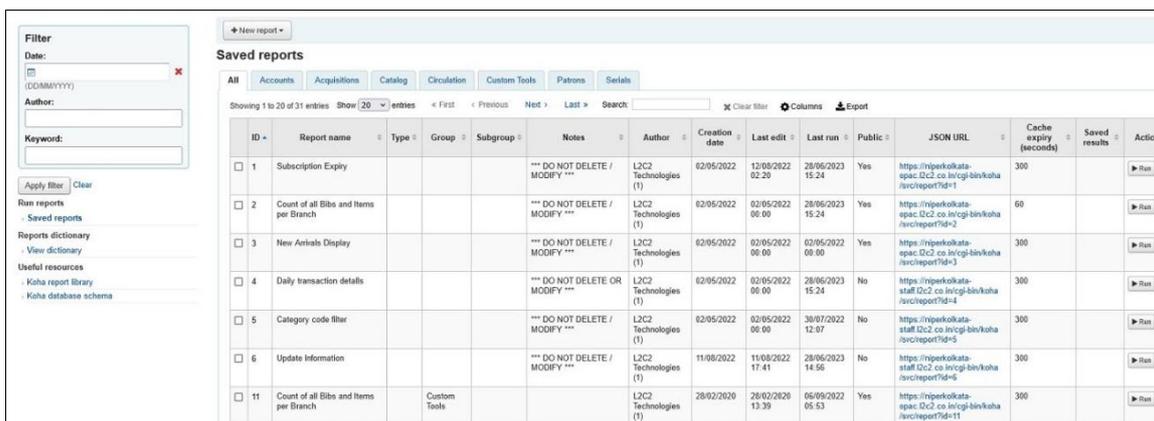


Fig 4: Reports Module

This module provides various types of reports regarding services through gathering of data, the reports constituted by statistics on metrics. The reports help to the librarian to analyse the existing services by library. Metrics and statistics represent the all inclusion picture of library. Librarian can customize the reports as per his/ her need by 24x7 by single click, figure- 4 depicts report module in Koha.

4. Serials Modules

This module is as important component of any library software which is help in to manage periodicals like journals, magazines, newspaper and annual reports within a library. That facilitate to libraries manage subscriptions, check-in, check-out, claims and binding of serial publications, figure- 5 elaborated more to help in understand this module.

Frequencies					
Description	Unit	Issues per unit	Units per issue	Display order	Actions
2/day	day	2	1	1	Edit Delete
1/day	day	1	1	2	Edit Delete
3/week	week	3	1	3	Edit Delete
1/week	week	1	1	4	Edit Delete
1/2 weeks	week	1	2	5	Edit Delete
1/3 weeks	week	1	3	6	Edit Delete
1/month	month	1	1	7	Edit Delete
1/2 months	month	1	2	8	Edit Delete
1/3 months	month	1	3	9	Edit Delete
2/year	month	1	6	10	Edit Delete
1/year	year	1	1	11	Edit Delete
1/2 year	year	1	2	12	Edit Delete
Irregular		1	1	13	Edit Delete

Fig 5: Serials Module

5. Patrons Module

This module provides an opportunity to the library personnel to manage the information details of patron or users of the

library. It is facilitated to create, update, delete and maintain patron accounts, ensuring efficient management of user records and providing personalized services to library patrons.

Patron identity

Salutation:

Surname: Required

First name:

Middle name:

Date of birth: ✘
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Initials:

Pronouns:

Other name:

Female Male Other None specified

Fig 6: Patrons Module

6. Administration Module

The administration module gives the freedom to the librarian or libraries they can modify the Koha system as per library's

specific needs. This is a valuable tool it provides access to various administrative functions and settings, enabling efficient system administration and maintenance.

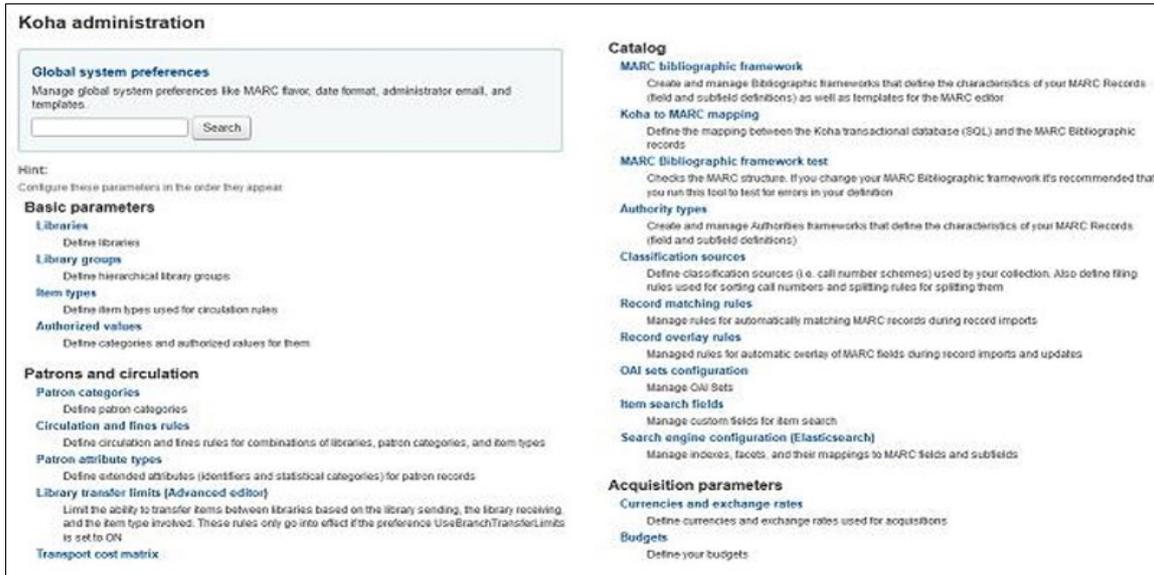


Fig 7: Administration Module

7. Tools Module

The Koha Tools module performs to enhance their management and maintenance of the Koha system. This

module provides different functionalities that aid in data manipulation, system maintenance, and troubleshooting tasks.

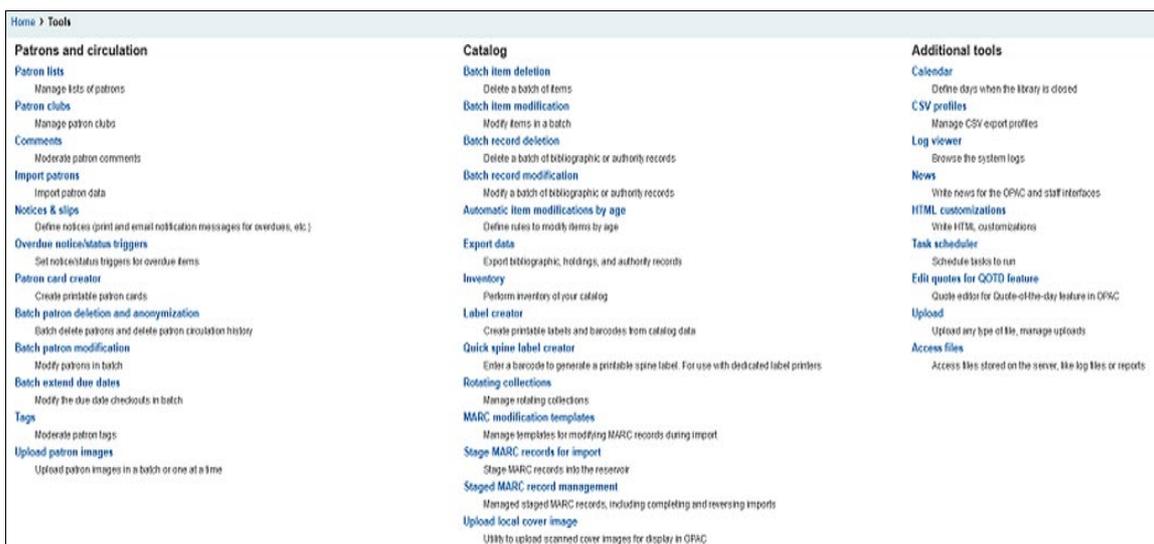


Fig 8: Tool Module

Conclusion

Koha is an open-source Integrated Library Management Software that inbuilt various important modules to handle the library operation. It provides the user friendly interface and customizes set according the requirement of stack-holders. This LIMS offers powerful tools to streamline tasks such as cataloguing, circulation, acquisitions, and reporting. Overall, it help to the librarian to manage whole information his/her library having with flexible platform. Koha is an open source based LIMS, It allows for collaboration and full customization, making it a popular choice among libraries worldwide.

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