

## What is Koha?

Koha, meaning “Gift” in Maori, is a full featured Integrated Library System (ILS). Developed initially in New Zealand by Katipo Communications with Horowhenua Library Trust, it is currently maintained by a dedicated team of software providers and library technology staff from around the globe as an Open Source software product.

## What does Open Source mean?

The idea behind Open Source is simple: It is a general public license (GPL) product not tied to a vendor who will demand yearly license renewals and maintenance contracts. It can be read, modified and adapted by your library or any programmer to suit your needs. Proprietary systems are reliant on the vendor that sells it and if they go under or get taken over then you could end up with “dodo software” – no longer supported, no longer evolving. With Open Source you have the security of knowing Koha is software with a future.

## Library standards compliant

Koha is built using library standards and protocols (MARC, Z39.50 and soon NCIP) that ensure interoperability between Koha and other systems and technologies. It is a web based, fully customizable library system offering either basic or advanced options in these modules:

- Full Catalogue
- OPAC
- Circulation
- Serials
- Reserves
- Acquisitions
- Patron Management
- Branch Management

Koha has all the features you'd expect in a major library system, with a strong emphasis on services to members. Koha is scalable. It can meet the transaction load of any library, no matter what the size.

## Who uses Koha?

More than 60 libraries, including academic, public, school and special libraries, in Africa, Australia, Canada, USA, France, and, of course, New Zealand. Along with a committed team of programmers its development is steered by a growing community of libraries collaborating to achieve their technology goals.

## What does it cost to move to Koha?

Instead of paying licensing costs for proprietary solutions, users of Open Source software can either deploy the product themselves or pay for implementation. This is where Katipo Communications comes in. We have a charge-out rate of \$90-100 per hour (Ex GST). As an example, for a small library we would recommend a budget range of \$5,000 - \$8,000.

## More information

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