Breaking the Barriers 2009
Session 6
Koha in the university classroom

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Overview

• 1/4 Revision of our MSc Information and Library Studies
• 2/4 Digital Libraries module
• 3/4 Use of Koha
• 4/4 Future plans
1/4/1 Revision of MSc Information and Library Studies

• No options, deliver the core in depth
• Eight “modules”:
  – Library Sectors
  – Management
  – Service Management
  – Information Sources
  – Information Organisation
  – Information Retrieval
  – Research Methods
  – Digital Libraries
1/4/2 Revision of MSc Information and Library Studies

- Core must be both academic **and** practical
- Course Team wrote the course text book!
2/4/1 Digital Libraries module

- How to achieve **practical** elements?
- For Digital Libraries module these were:
  - database design
  - website construction and design (HTML/XML/CSS)
  - digitisation
  - Dublin Core/MARC
  - use of library management systems
2/4/2 Digital Libraries module

• Achieving practical aims:
  – **Database design** – use DabbleDB to store references from an assignment
  – **Website construction/digitisation/Dublin Core** – student work in groups, use University Archives to source collections of photos for digitisation, created collection websites incorporating DC metadata e.g. opening of the Royal College University building in 1903
3/4/1 Koha in the Digital Libraries module

• Achieving practical aim:
  – **MARC/use of library management systems** - use Koha to enable students to create own set of MARC records
  – Each student has access to own virtual copy of Koha
  – Each must set up branches, item types, borrower categories, charges and enter a record in MARC
  – Each must add themselves as a borrower and reserve an item
3/4/2 Koha in the Digital Libraries module

• Introduce open source through lecture content on:
  – open standards
  – development of operating systems
  – range of software available (e.g. ERP)
  – LAMP: Linux + Apache + MySQL + Perl
3/4/3 Koha in the Digital Libraries module

• Introduce library management systems through keynote lecture on:
  – acquiring stock
  – cataloguing stock
  – loaning stock
  – dealing with serials etc
  – supporting user searches/reservations etc
  – reporting on above for effective service management

• All the above are illustrated using Koha
3/4/4 Koha in the Digital Libraries module

• Assessment of student use of Koha:
  – Students must enter 6 MARC records of books from 6 different authors with the same surname as the student (dropping letters if need be)
  – Limited to the following set of MARC fields:
    • 100, 245, 250, 260, 300, 440, 5XX, 700
4/4/1 Future plans

• Develop ‘CPD’ version of Koha part of Digital Libraries module:
  – offer both inhouse and distance?

• Work with the Centre for Digital Library Research (CDLR) who have been funded by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) to investigate the use of open source in libraries
Any questions?

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