Koha-Users (Melbourne) Notes on the Meeting held at the Athenaeum Library, August 10th, 2015. [Amended 2/9/15]

Meeting opened at 6.05 pm by Siobhan Foster, convenor. Thanks to the Athenaeum Library for hosting this meeting. Welcome to all those present and especially to those attending for the first time – Galina; Nadine; and Damian.

Present: Tom Coleman (Melbourne Athenaeum); Kerrie Stevens (Harvest Bible College, Scoresby); James Baker (Melbourne Athenaeum); Moyra McAllister (Melbourne Athenaeum & Brotherhood of St Laurence); Nadine Huser (Brotherhood of St Laurence); Pat Miller (Melbourne Athenaeum); Belinda McDonald (FKA Children’s Services, Richmond); Galina Brejneva (Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne); Damian Kelly (Castlemaine Art Gallery and Archives); Kathleen Fitzgerald (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Vic.); Bob Birchall (Calyx host of Koha, Sydney); Siobhan Foster (Divine Word Missionaries and Redemptorist Libraries, Box Hill / Kew).

Apologies: Jill Bartholomeusz (Photography Studies College, Southbank); Deborah Decru (St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox College of Theology, Doncaster); Rosa Serratore (Bureau of Meteorology); Judith Wakeman (Phoenix Institute of Australia, Melbourne); Irma Birchall (Calyx, Sydney).

Each person introduced themselves and their interest in or use of Koha.

Discussion:

1. Overdrive

The Athenaeum Library has subscribed to Overdrive for ebooks and Koha can integrate the Overdrive ebooks into the Koha database, so that the reader can be offered book titles + ebook version on the OPAC. Overdrive is widely used in public and special libraries for downloading ebooks, mostly fiction, to a device (not Kindles). The library can pay by subscription or per book. Moyra and Tom reported that they had experienced some difficulties with searching, Overdrive often came up with more titles than Koha, but many were not relevant. Nonetheless it is popular with readers.

Q. How to authenticate users? By using Koha’s membership details.

Ebooks are also sourced through Project Gutenberg, through the University of Adelaide which format them well.

1. Bootstrap
Bootstrap enables a computer OPAC to be accessed and used on smartphone, iphone or tablet, using the new 3.18 version template. The picture on the OPAC can be shrunk width-wise to phone size, but expanded lengthwise to allow all the information to be viewed on the smaller screen. James designed the Athanaeum Opac to fit Bootstrap. He had to overcome several challenges but it is operating well now.
2. Analytics

i.e. journal index entries. The Athenaeum Library had a series of “Quarterly Essays” they wanted to give author / title entries linked to the host item ‘Quarterly Essay’ and bar code.

Kerrie said that she puts those details in the note field but that is not searchable.

Several people do journal indexing on a separate programme e.g. DBText, it would be great to have it incorporated on the Koha catalogue and searchable. It would be very useful for conference proceedings too.

Moyra will send a ‘How to’ for easy analytics to the Koha User’s Group.

Update 2/9/15 Moyra will send these instructions as promised.

1. Downloading using Z39.50

Siobhan noted that recently, around about the time that SRU (Search and Retrieval by URL) was added on Koha, that she is having difficulty accessing addresses on Z39.50 from some other libraries (e.g. State Library of Victoria; Moore College etc.). On asking by email if they had changed their access address one library said that their licence with Libraries Australia does not permit them to share cataloguing records, and suggested we make our own payment to Libraries Australia. Kerrie had much the same response. Belinda does all original cataloguing as downloading records was unsatisfactory. It seems that there has been a tightening up on sharing cataloguing records; a contrast to Koha’s Open Source.

1. Stocktaking

Kathleen asked about stocktaking on Koha. Tom said that the Athenaeum Library uses the Easy Reports Wizard guided reports. Build the report e.g. title / author / barcode – this must be set in the required order as it cannot be changed later; then send the contents to an iPad saving it as an Excel spread sheet. One can then walk around the shelves noting details on the iPad. It is a slow, on-going process, maybe do only 30 mins a day. The Athenaeum does a stocktake every two years.

1. Report SQL

It is worth checking the Wiki ‘tips and tricks’ queries where other libraries have developed open source solutions to share with Koha users.

1. Wiki Maintainer required

Bob mentioned that Koha International needs a Wiki Maintainer to spend about 2 hours per month to maintain that page. Bob and Kerrie worked on stocktaking. Omit : Kerrie will send their solution to the Koha discussion list.

The Meeting closed at about 7.30pm with thanks to our hosts at the Athenaeum Library.

Next meeting to be announced later this year.

After the meeting several of us went for dinner at Il Pom in Federation Square.