**Koha-Users (Melbourne) Notes on the Meeting held at the Athenaeum Library, August 18th 2016**

Meeting opened at 6.05 pm by Moyra McAllister, who kindly agreed to convene this meeting while Siobhan Foster took notes. Guest speaker Alvet Miranda, Senior Discovery Service Engineer (Oceania) EBSCO Information Services to speak on KohaCon2016 and EBSCO/Koha. Moyra also welcomed interstate visitors and all present.

Present: Julia Philips (National Meteorological Library, Bureau of Meteorology); Kerrie Stevens (Harvest Bible College); Alvet Miranda (EBSCO); Shannon Parsons (Australian Technical and Management College); Galina Brejneva (National Meteorological Library); Clare Murayama (Melbourne Athenaeum Library); Irma Birchall (Calyx); Donna Benjamin (Catalyst IT Australia); Alex Lawn (Catalyst IT); James Baker (Melbourne Athenaeum Library / Calyx); David Cook (Prosentient Systems); Bob Birchall (Calyx); Tony McCumstie (librarian); Jill Bartholomeusz (Photography Studies College); Allison Belcher (Photography Studies College); Kathleen Fitzgerald (ANMF (Vic. Branch)); Tom Coleman (Melbourne Athenaeum Library); Christopher Vella (Catalyst IT); Moyra McAllister (Melbourne Athenaeum & Brotherhood of St Laurence); Siobhan Foster (Divine Word Missionaries and Redemptorist Libraries, Box Hill / Kew).

Apologies: Deborah Decru (St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox College of Theology); Pat Miller (Athenaeum Library Melbourne).

**KohaCon 2016**

Alvet Miranda spoke most enthusiastically about the KohaCon 2016 which was held in Thessaloniki, Greece. He said there were about 250 people present from 30 countries and about 60 stayed on for the hackfest.

NOTE: the following URL with slides of his presentation

[https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aki03K\_iByXmh-8D6TEOmmR597WzKA](https://1drv.ms/b/s%21Aki03K_iByXmh-8D6TEOmmR597WzKA)

**EBSCO / Koha**

Alvet then described ways in which EBSCO partners with the Koha Community to help with funding and development e.g. through Koha Gruppa Italiano. The Discovery Service API allows for seamless integration with other systems. The Future of Libraries is Open (FOLIO) encouraging collaboration between libraries, service providers and developers to make innovations that suit individual library’s requirements. Strategists, practitioners, and developers are needed to take library services to another level. EBSCO offers the base platform and the community drives it e.g Koha Discovery service plug in. (See the URL above for details.) Alvet then allowed time for questions.

Moyra thanked Alvet for his interesting presentation.

The next KohaCon 2017 is likely to be held in the Philippines.

**Koha’s Public Reports Feature**

Bob Birchall spoke briefly about some recent work he had done on Koha’s Public Reports feature to allow access through a web service, a URL can be added as a link on the OPAC and changed to a HTML button. Bob demonstrated this at the meeting and will send a copy of the Powerpoint talk to the Koha OZ Forum.

**Agenda Item on the Editions setting**

Kerrie Stevens asked if anyone is using the Editions setting to create links between multiple editions of titles. She has had limited success in that it worked linking to an e-book, but not linking 1st; 2nd; 3rd editions. Irma and James recognised that the MARC framework needs some preparation to make an analytic link, they will advise Kerrie and the group.

**Circulation is slow**

Moyra asked if anyone has noticed that circulation is slow, 4-6 seconds delay.

The next version upgrade should solve the problem. Then a short discussion ensued about the number of upgrades, are there too many? If the library is self-managed it is up to the librarian to turn them on or not, controlled by their system preference. The upgrades are all tested thoroughly before being released.

**New Librarians Symposium 8 Canberra, June 23-25 2017**

[**http://nls8.com/**](http://nls8.com/)

Shannon informed us about the New Librarians’ Symposium, a biennial 3-day event hosted by ALIA to encourage participation in the industry by new graduates and provide an opportunity for young and established professionals to exchange ideas and make connections.

She spoke with passion about the need for new librarians to have hands on experience in libraries both during their course and while applying for library positions. The university courses do not offer work placements in libraries. These students could learn so much from work experience and those with IT training could also offer their skills to Koha programmers and developers.

This suggestion was well received by the group.

**Koha Users in Papua New Guinea**

A notice on the Forum from Decka David (PNG - Unitech Library) suggests that Koha Users in PNG might form a Users’ Group similar to ours and get training on Koha developments. They are welcome to join through koha-oz@lists.koha-community.org

Meeting closed at 7.30pm and ten members went for dinner at Il Pom, Federation Square. Next meeting to be announced later.

Notes by Siobhan Foster fostersiobhan@hotmail.com