

# Open Source software examples great for use in a Library

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Open Source software is free to use and allows libraries that may be under a tight budget to provide more for their clients. One major downfall to certain Open Source software is that it requires a fair amount of technical knowledge so you may have to hire someone with that knowledge to get the product installed properly.

**Recommended Books:** *Open Source Software for Libraries: A hands on tool* by Dr. Bhaskar Mukherjee and Prashant Kumar ©2010. ISBN: 978-3-9393-3535-3  
*Open Source Web applications for Libraries* by Karen A. Coombs ©2010. ISBN: 978-1-5738-7400-7

## Integrated Library Systems

### Features:

- Full-featured ILS
- Dual Database Design
- Library Standards Compliant
- Web-based Interfaces
- Free/Open Source
- No Vendor Lock-in

**KOHA** - <http://koha.org/>

### Koha Requirements:

- A Linux server
  - Apache
  - MySQL
  - Perl
- Root on the server
- A reasonable level of comfort with the command line
- Database administration skills

**Evergreen** - <http://www.open-ils.org/>

### Evergreen Requirements:

- Server installation on Linux based machine
- Staff Client install for either MAC or Windows

*\*Note - There are other Open Source ILS systems out there, however these are the most widely used options.\**

## Desktop Production Software

**GIMP** - <http://www.gimp.org/>

used for  
**Photo Editing**

comparable to  
**Photoshop**

**OpenOffice** - <http://www.openoffice.org/>

used for  
**Word Processing, Presentations, Spreadsheets, graphics, and databases**

comparable to  
**Microsoft Office**

**Scribus** - <http://www.scribus.net/canvas/Scribus>

used for  
**Page Layout**

comparable to  
**Adobe InDesign**

**Inkscape** - <http://inkscape.org/>

used for  
**Vector Graphic Editor**

comparable to  
**Adobe Illustrator**

**Dia** - <http://live.gnome.org/Dia>

used for  
**Diagram Creation**

comparable to  
**Microsoft Visio**

## Content Management Systems

**Joomla!** - <http://www.joomla.org/>

Easiest to Install  
User friendly for designers, developers and administrators

**Drupal** - <http://drupal.org/>

Requires a bit more knowledge to install  
Great for those who are excellent with coding  
Longer Setup time  
Developer friendly  
Not designer and user friendly

**WordPress** - <http://wordpress.org/>

Easy to Install especially if you use  
one of their recommend web hosting sites  
Simple to use  
Not developer friendly

*\*Note - These are just the top three options in no particular order.\**

## Operating Systems

**Ubuntu** - <http://www.ubuntu.com/>

**Features:**  
Easy to install  
Great for running OpenSource Software  
Free

*\*Note - There are other Open Source Operating Systems, however this is the easiest to use.\**