Peculiarities of migration in Koha ILS

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Modern library requires modern automated library information system (ILS), which covers all processes in library and has clear and defined development perspectives. Among all free and access-open ILS, Koha is the most functional and complete software, which shows steady and stable growth for many years. The emphasis in Koha is on granting services to the readers in the same way those services were delivered in Library 2.0, integration into the global information space, a full-featured enterprise-level ILS for libraries of all sizes – all of these are the distinctive features of Koha.

Traditional manual and automated library processes have been shaping over the years, so migration to ILS Koha requires a detailed plan, so for the university we shall consider these 5 steps of implementation:

1. Inventory of library processes. That includes - main elements of the hauling and processing of books and other materials, storage places, types of materials, types of collections, categories of readers and types of statistical reports that accompany processes in library.

2. Testing ILS Koha. Koha is free and access-open software, so it is easy to test the work with it on your test server, and on the numerous Koha demo-servers in the world and Ukraine. In this test system, you can see how the system works with real library data and compare library processes in ILS Koha and those available in the library. This requires the migration of bibliographic data (either UNIMARC or MARC21), readers' data, authoritative files, etc.

3. Analysis of the use of ILS. As a result of testing and examination of the experience of other libraries the list of new features for readers and librarians is being formed. It is likely that some library processes need to be adapted to the functionality of ILS Koha.

4. Launching of ILS Koha in the library. At this stage, when a decision on the implementation is made and the data and all main processes are tested, the final migration of all data on ILS Koha working server is being made, also modules used for the needs of the library are being configured. It is also necessary to prepare teaching materials and conduct training for staff and library users.

5. Development of new features. At this stage, new perspectives of ILS usage appear, which will likely lead to the development and introduction of new features in ILS Koha and searching for resources (both internal and external) for this. The cooperation with Ukrainian and world ILS Koha user community and participation in collective activities will help with this.

Well-planned steps, the ability to enlist own professionals and outsourcing services, exchange of experience – all of this are the key to successful implementation of free and access-open Automated Library Information System Koha.