# Table of Contents

- Myka Kennedy Stephens ................................................................. 2
- Rebekka Pilppula ........................................................................ 3
- Lisette Scheer ............................................................................ 4
- Joy Nelson .................................................................................. 5
- Brendan Gallagher ....................................................................... 6
- Nathan Curulla ........................................................................... 7
- Jessica Zairo ............................................................................... 8
- Adam Brooks ................................................................................ 9
- Mengü Yazıcıoğlu ....................................................................... 10
- David Nind .................................................................................. 11
- Caroline Cyr La Rose .................................................................. 12
- Sher Afzal Khan .......................................................................... 13
- Kelly McElligott .......................................................................... 14
- Farasat Shafi Ullah ...................................................................... 15
- Sonia Bouis .................................................................................. 16
- Grant McLean ............................................................................... 17
Myka Kennedy Stephens is Seminary Librarian at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, United States. She initiated the library’s migration to Koha in December 2014 and actively seeks to integrate strategic planning for library and information services with open source adoption and development. Since migrating to Koha, Lancaster Theological Seminary has also adopted open source solutions for library guides, digital archives and exhibits, as well as digital asset management and internal records. Myka is a strong advocate for open source software and has enjoyed learning new skills and participating in the Koha community. Although often caught up in the work of “doing” open source, she writes about and presents on her open source experiences with some regularity.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 1, 11:00-11:25am: A patron, a librarian, and a developer walk into a bar: The conversations and relationships that fuel Koha development - Myka Kennedy Stephens

It takes multiple perspectives and a variety of expertise to build a successful open source library system. As the Koha community looks toward the future, it must continue keeping the needs of libraries and their patrons at the forefront of development. How does this actually work? How do these relationships form, and how are they maintained? How does the patron experience influence development? This talk will explore the communication flow between patrons, librarians, and developers in the Koha community. It will also share a case study from one Koha library showing how an integrated library planning process has helped contribute to the Koha development cycle.

Online presence

- “The Future of the Small Theological Library,” Theological Librarianship, 9:1 (2016), [https://doi.org/10.31046/tl.v9i1.411](https://doi.org/10.31046/tl.v9i1.411)
- “Leveraging Open Source Library Guides: Integrating Koha and Subjects Plus,” KohaCon 2018, [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nXYqUfl8crquLM_EFL1iiYEhlV5zccl](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nXYqUfl8crquLM_EFL1iiYEhlV5zccl) (slides), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KA7iGCDMbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KA7iGCDMbw) (video)
- “The Power and Promise of Koha’s ILL Module,” Koha-US Conference 2019, [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vTmGXgEN0XjRtr5qqPt9gtiVe_klm7a5lxg1W2uJNMIwD5hDz5kl4Zcq8lg7scRAgHrISdk-OqxpMv/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vTmGXgEN0XjRtr5qqPt9gtiVe_klm7a5lxg1W2uJNMIwD5hDz5kl4Zcq8lg7scRAgHrISdk-OqxpMv/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000) (slides)
Rebekka Pilppula

I've worked as a director of libraries in Turku since 2018. Earlier I worked as a director of Joensuu Regional library (2005-2017). I have been a member of the board of the Finnish Library Association (2006-2011) and a member of IFLA's Public Libraries section's standing committee (2010-2013). I was the deputy chairman of the Council for Public Libraries 2009-2011 and the chairman 2013-2017. I've been the Chairman of the Board of Koha-Suomi Ltd since the foundation of the company (2016).

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 1, 12:00-12:25pm: World's best libraries - Rebekka Pilppula

Finnish public libraries are efficient and innovative libraries that are highly respected around the world. All the public libraries use progressive library systems and use of automation is common. Almost 80% of all Finns use annually public library. Loans per capita last year were 15,4. Total amount of the loans was almost 85,000,000. The presentation will describe the story behind the success. The presentation will also point out the meaning of the library system to the efficient library work and the quality of customer service.
Lisette Scheer

Lisette Scheer works for the Latah County Library District as a System Administrative Specialist. She is also the current president of the Koha-US user's group. During her free time, Lisette enjoys puzzles, games, and spending time with her partner and their cat.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 1, 2:15-2:40pm: 46 libraries, 15 groups, 1 consortium – so now what? - Lisette Scheer

The Valnet consortium has 46 individual libraries across 15 hierarchical groups. We use jquery to customise a variety of pages to fit the needs of individual libraries and groups within the consortium. This presentation will focus on troubles faced by consortium and how we solve them.

Day 3, 3:00-3:10pm: Koha-US: Life since Portland Kohacon 2018 - Lisette Scheer

An update on what Koha-US has been up to since Portland Kohacon 2018.
Joy Nelson

Joy Nelson is the President of ByWater Solutions Koha Division where she supports a staff that works to provide the absolute best possible ILS and exceptional service to libraries. After spending many years in libraries and various software development firms, she knows what makes for great code development and database management – and it’s open source. It’s about connecting with librarians and leveraging their skills and knowledge to make Koha better with each release.

Joy received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and her Masters in Information Science from the University of North Texas. She has been active in the Koha community since 2011 and most recently was the Release Maintainer for 19.11 version and sincerely hopes she did not introduce any ‘unintended features’.

When Joy’s not at work or in the library, you can find her painting water colors, traveling, and/or enjoying a dirty martini – gin, never vodka.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 1, 3:45-4:10pm: Creative problem solving - Joy Nelson

Creative problem solving is more than simply brainstorming ideas. It is a critical skill that everyone needs in any field. We’ll review the four part methodology of creative problem solving and explore ways this process can be applied to virtual teams, software communities, and diverse groups. Everyone is capable of creating innovation solutions to problems.
Brendan Gallagher
CEO, ByWater Solutions

Brendan founded ByWater Solutions in 2008 and is an expert on installation, data migration, and customization of many open source platforms. He graduated with an MLS from Southern Connecticut State University. He was a member of the first class of ALA Emerging Leaders where he focused on ways those in the library profession could re-brand themselves in the digital world. He was honored as Alumni of the Year for the Southern Connecticut State University in 2011. Brendan has worked in all types of libraries (Public, Academic, and Special libraries).

Catch me at Kohacon20
Day 1, 4:15–4:50pm: Who wants to be a superlibrarian? - Brendan Gallagher and Nathan Curulla

Guaranteed fun, energy, and laughs.
Nathan Curulla

Nathan has a degree in Business Management and Marketing, and has expert customer service and relationship development experience. His extensive sales experience in regional, national and international forums has given him a broad scope with regard to our clients needs. He has also successfully managed many operational projects, maximizing work flow procedures and streamlining business operations.

Catch me at Kohacon20

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Jessica Zairo

Jessie has both graduate and undergraduate degrees in Library Science; receiving her MLIS from the University of South Florida. Her previous experience as a Law Librarian and as Member Services Coordinator for an 18 county library consortium in Florida provided her with the opportunity to work and train with libraries of all sizes and types. Her primary professional interests are advocacy, outreach and training library staff on everything from technology to project management and customer service techniques. In her spare time she is an avid runner, traveler, outdoors lover and crafter.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 2, 10:10-10:35am: What's missing: Koha from a marketing perspective - Jessica Zairo and Adam Brooks, ByWater Solutions

While everyone at Kohacon20 already knows that Koha is the premier ILS on the planet, there are still thousands of libraries not yet convinced. As hard to believe as that is, the perspective from the sales side of Koha can help all of us understand what libraries are looking for as they change systems. Focus will be given to what potential partners ask about, don’t believe and ask for as developments. Marketing of Koha to the masses can be much better, but how do we do that? Shout it from the mountain top – Koha is amazing.

Day 3, 12:10-12:20pm: Support isn’t just tickets: Marketing to the believers - Jessica Zairo and Adam Brooks, Bywater Solutions

As a support provider, we obviously provide solutions and troubleshooting for all of our partners as our most important role, however, there are numerous ways we can further market Koha to enhance our partners’ experiences, and often make our support efforts easier. Learn how one support company is making and sharing news about Koha and other open source projects to help improve how libraries use those products.
Adam Brooks

Adam has an M.L.I.S. and a BA in Psychology from Kent State University. He worked in public libraries for over 15 years, working up from reference to director. He has worked in both rural and major urban libraries. During his library career, he migrated 2 different libraries to Koha, and encouraged several others to do the same. Prior to his career as a librarian, Adam worked jobs ranging from busboy to labor market analyst. In his free time, he enjoys running and triathlons, fishing, camping and the Incredible Hulk.

Catch me at Kohacon20

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Mengü Yazıcıoğlu

Mengü was born in 1972 in Ankara, Turkey. He has a B.Sc degree in Mathematics Education and a M.Sc degree in Science and Technology Policy Studies from the University of METU.

After working for many companies, including the IT Center of METU, he moved to Devinim and is now CEO, but his hands are still on the computer. He spends most of his time in Free/Open Source Software including Linux, Mysql/MariaDB and Koha.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 2, 11:10-11:35am: Koha as central catalog - Mengü Yazıcıoğlu, Devinim

We'd like to share how we use Koha as central catalog, especially for small libraries and share bibliographic data between our system and with their Koha.

Online presence

- https://twitter.com/MenguYazicioglu
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/meng%C3%BC-yaz%C4%B1c%C4%B1o%C4%9Flu-75759432/
David Nind

I am from Wellington, New Zealand. While I don’t use Koha in my work, I love libraries, reading, learning, and free software. For the Koha community, I currently look after the @kohails Twitter account, Zotero bibliography, and am a member of the documentation team.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 2, 12:10-12:20pm: Wikidata – what libraries need to know about wikidata, the Wikipedia project you’ve probably never heard of - David Nind

A quick guide to what it is, how to edit it, and some practical uses for libraries (https://www.wikidata.org/)

Day 3, 9:55-10:05am: Working with messy data - David Nind

A quick introduction to using OpenRefine for tidying up messy data and getting it ready to import into Koha. (http://openrefine.org/)

Day 3, 11:40am-12:05pm: From a manual to a documentation portal…what’s the future for Koha’s documentation? - David Nind

Everyone likes using documentation – from helping to solve immediate problems, to tutorials and guides, to learning how to do something new. However, it is challenging to organise, write, translate, and keep up-to-date. How can the Koha community improve our documentation to support and keep up with the needs and expectations of our worldwide community, now and in the future? This session will share what the documentation team is doing now, and planning for the future.

Day 5: Workshops - Thorndon Room, 11:00am-12:25pm: Documentation - David Nind

A hands-on practical session to get you started contributing to Koha’s documentation:

- The easy way to edit: A hands-on step-by-step walk through of the process using just a browser.
- Working with a local repository: Setting up a local content development environment overnight.
- Working out what to work on: Identifying and selecting documentation tasks.
- It's not just writing: Other ways to contribute to the documentation.
Caroline Cyr La Rose

Caroline Cyr La Rose didn’t always know she wanted to be a librarian, but it was written in the stars. As a young girl, she didn't play house, or teacher, but library instead. After trying out different things (nursing, science, linguistics) and after doing various orientation tests (in high school, she was told her best bet was to become a crane operator), she finally graduated with a master’s degree in library science from the École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI) at Université de Montréal in 2009. She worked as a children's librarian in a public library for several years and joined the inLibro team and the Koha community in 2017. At inLibro, a Koha support company, she is responsible for data migrations, training and support. In the Koha community, she is part of the documentation team and the French-Canadian translation team. In her free time, she likes to cuddle with her cats, knit, read and drink tea (not at all stereotypical!).

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 2, 3:00-3:25pm: Cataloguing plugins - Caroline Cyr La Rose

Discover the Koha plugin catalog: Its purpose, its use, and how you can contribute

Online presence

• @caroline or @caroline_catlady on IRC
• https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolinecyrlarose/
Sher Afzal Khan

More than 14 years of professional experience in the field of information sciences, knowledge management, information communications technologies, open source technologies, research & development lead trainer and consultant open source technologies. He is also a member of the Board of Trustee and Vice Chairman Reed Pakistan, founder of “Koha Pakistan”, winner of IEEE, Emerald and other international awards winners. He has in-depth command on supporting consulting open source software and has successfully completed more than 40 open source software projects both nationally and internationally. He is also Country Ambassador for DSpace OS software by MIT University USA for Pakistan, has conducted more than 100 workshops and training sessions, and has been invited guest speak at many international conferences in places such as Uzbekistan, UEA, USA, Philippines, Greece, Germany, and many more countries.

Professional skills: Knowledge management, automation and digitization, information literacy, open source software specialist, data conversion, customization of WordPress technologies and HTML 5, proposal writing, and citation management.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 2, 4:00-4:25pm: User perceptions and experience with Koha Integrated Library Management System adoption: An experience from Pakistan - Sher Afzal Khan

This study aims to find out the reasons for adopting Koha ILS, determines the problems faced by libraries during its implementation, and gets the perceptions of librarians about the performance of Koha in Pakistan. The result will be discussed with the international community regarding the adoptions of Koha in Pakistan. The study will comprise all Pakistan librarian and libraries which are currently using Koha ILS in libraries. The main issue will be highlighted regarding the option of Koha ILS. The research will provide a brief picture of libraries’ perceptions about Koha adoption and satisfaction levels. The selection, implementation, and usage of the Koha software in their libraries.
Kelly McElligott

Kelly is energetic and personable which makes her perfect for her role as an Educator with ByWater Solutions. Kelly's background is in the Public Library sector starting with Technical Services and then moving towards a Systems oriented librarian. Although her degree is from the University of Arizona, she is an East Coaster all the way through! Currently, she resides in Maine, works from home and travels to libraries assisting with their migration to Koha. In addition to educating new libraries in Koha, she creates a weekly podcast with Jessie Zairo about Koha. The topics Kelly and Jessie cover in the podcast, Monday Minutes, range from upgrade features, contributing to the Koha community and cool unknown system preferences.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 2, 4:25-4:55pm: Teamwork: we have your back! - Kelly McElligott, ByWater Solutions

Kelly and Jessie took the question, how to continue to educate Koha users as the software grows and flourishes each and every upgrade? In what way/s can learning Koha be fun and educational? Solution: Monday Minutes! Jessie and Kelly created a weekly tutorial video and blog post called Monday Minutes with Jessie and Kelly. This has been very successful with our partners. Our goal was to break down one thing in Koha, demonstrate it, talk about use cases, and do this in less than 10 minute videos for users to watch. In this presentation, we will tell you how we created educational, fun, short videos to train Koha users. Through teamwork – we can make it easier and more enjoyable. Isn't work fun with another fellow colleague in the trenches with you? Turn to Jessie and Kelly for help – we present our making of tutorial videos about Koha and so much more.
Farasat Shafi Ullah

An experienced professional with more than 18 years of work experience with proven expertise in managing and leading university libraries, special libraries, and community libraries. He is passionate about volunteer support towards LIS professionals, and has successfully conducted many sessions on library automation, open source, and free ILS (i.e. Koha, WinIsis and LIMS) adoption in libraries. He has been working with Pakistan Library Automation since 2000. He has special skills in library data conversion from non-marc to marc21 using different tools like MarcEdit, Bibdata, MS Access and MS Excel. He has some international publications and conference presentations on his credit.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 3, 2:00-2:25pm: A timeline of Koha Pakistan: What went well and what went wrong - Saima Qutab, Farasat Shafi Ullah, and Asif Waheed Kokhar

The Koha journey in Pakistan started in April 2007 with a discussion among a few IT passionate libraries on PakLAG Yahoo group. There has been no turning back since then. Pakistani library professionals joined hands to learn, customise, adapt, and implement Koha in libraries. There were numerous challenges to adopt the open source solution, such as poor ICT infrastructure, lack of IT skilled libraries, lack of trust in open source solutions, and budgeting. Some selfless learners became volunteer mentors to other libraries for Koha training and implementation. Over the years, now more than 50 libraries are using different modules of Koha. However, several Koha training, intengration into formal LIS education and acceptability does not reflect the large-scale implementation of Koha in Pakistan. This presentation will throw light on the Koha journey in Pakistan, and outline what went well and what went wrong. The study will show guidelines for developing countries like Pakistan, and the Koha community to understand the challenges of adopting Koha and how to avoid pitfalls. It will also guide national strategy to lead a successful transition to open source ILS solutions.

Day 5: Workshops - Pipitea Room, 11:00am-12:25pm: Playing with MarcEdit: Harvesting, editing, and recycling of Open MARC21 data into Koha - Farasat Shafi Ullah

This workshop will provide professional experience sharing of data migration from software like WINISIS, Excel data, SirsiDynix to Koha ILS data migration testing, and a hands-on session to participants to understand the metadata editing challenges, strategies, and techniques. It is anticipated that through this workshop, participants will be able to cope with the metadata management and editing challenges during data migration, data updating for ILS/discovery tool, preparing MARC data for bulk import and the difference between mrk and mrc files.
Sonia Bouis
Document Applications Manager, Jean Moulin University

Sonia has been the head of the library's documentary software service, Jean Moulin - Lyon 3 University since 2011. She has been working for 19 years as a system librarian in several academic libraries, and before, for a ILS provider. Sonia is the chairman of the French association KohaLa, which aims to promote Koha ILS and the open-source tools diffusion, since 2015.

Catch me at Kohacon20
Day 3, 4:20–4:45pm: Dealing with personal data in Koha: From legal requirements to statistics necessity. GDPR: Welcome on board - Sonia Bouis

In Europe, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) had been implemented in May 2018. A lot of new enhancements had already been added to Koha, but libraries could be in difficulty with the obligation to provide statistics asked by state institutions. That could have an impact with the financing they benefit from the state. Kohala (French Koha non-profit group) was asked by its members to finance developments regarding anonymisation. I would like to raise several questions. What is anonymisation and what are the technical possibilities to achieve it?

Online presence

- https://bu.univ-lyon3.fr/sonia-bouis
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/sonia-bouis-7400649b/
- https://twitter.com/SoniaBouis
Grant McLean
Senior Developer, Catalyst IT

Grant McLean is a senior developer and trainer with Free Software specialists Catalyst IT. He has developed and contributed to a number of Open Source packages in Perl, Ruby, Python and Javascript. He is active in the Wellington user group community and a somewhat regular speaker at tech meet-ups and conferences.

Catch me at Kohacon20

Day 5: Workshops - Thorndon Room, 9:00-10:25am: Unicode and Perl: There is no escape - Grant McLean

If you've ever been frustrated or confused by encoding problems in Perl, this session is for you. We'll start by building a shared understanding of what Unicode is and how Perl's functions and modules deal with Unicode data. Then we'll explore some common pain points and look at tools you can use to deal with them. Areas we'll explore will include: encoding conversions; importing and exporting data; HTML, XML, and JSON; implications for web servers and databases.