Efforts of Promoting Koha ILS: The Malaysian Experience

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Table of Content

- Background: Malasian Library Automation Landscape
- Historical perspective on Koha in Malaysia
- Strategy Change
- Malaysian Library Automation Landscape changed.
- Malaysian Koha User
- Koha in Malaysia: The new beginning.
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

Background: Malaysian Library Automation Landscape

- Academic, public and special libraries are using: locally developed ILS known as Integrated Library Management Utility (ILMU), Virtua VTLS, Horizon (later on migrated to Symphony), GEAC Advance and Millennium.
- Small number of school resource centre were using locally developed ILS which are not comply to standard.
- Rural libraries – CDS/ISIS by UNESCO. Promoted by National Library of Malaysia.
- Majority of small libraries and school resource centre is still not using ILS.

Historical perspective on Koha in Malaysia

- From 2005 to 2008 only three (3) libraries are known to use Koha - One School library, one special library and one small academic library.
- Several factors of libraries not choosing Koha (Before 2008):
  - Libraries are not exposed to Open Source ILS.
  - Libraries did not have confidence in Open Source ILS support.
  - Pricing
  - Inexistence of reliable local reference site

Strategy Change

- After 2008, there are significant changes in Koha promotional activities.
  - Price reduction
  - Introduction of local academic based reference site – growing confidence among libraries to follow AeU and AMDI library foot step.
  - Improved support and services
  - Promote awareness on Open Source Software among librarian.

Malaysian library automation landscape changed

- 8 installations on Academic Library with more than 41 branches.
- 1 installation on Public Library and 5 installation on Special Library.
- 88 installations on school resource centre.
- Total of more than 100 installation of Koha version 2.2.9 and 3 installation on Koha version 3.0.6 covering more than 135 branches.
- All above implementation took place in just THREE years. Malaysian Koha User are shown in the following slides.

Malaysian Koha User

Type of Library	Description	Version
Academic	**Advance Medical and Dental Institute, USM** http://library.amdi.usm.edu.my	2.2.9 – migrating to 3.0.6
Academic	**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY** **Al-Madinah International University, SHAH ALAM** http://catalog.mediu.edu.my/cgi-bin/koha/opac-main.pl	2.2.9
Academic	**ASIA e UNIVERSITY, K.L** http://library.aeu.edu.my Implemented with RFID – Selfcharge, Book Drop and Security Gates.	2.2.9
Academic	**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA, SERDANG** – Faculty Resource Center http://libsys.upm.edu.my 19 Resource Centres	2.2.9

Malaysian Koha User

Type of Library	Description	Version
Academic - College	**INSTITUT AL-QURAN, TRENGGANU** http://iq-koha.dyndns.gov.my/	2.2.9
Academic - College	**UNITY COLLEGE, P.J.** (Intranet)	2.2.9
Public	**Kelantan State Public Library** http://koha.kelantan.edu.my 1 main library, 6 branches libraries, 5 mobile libraries, 38 village libraries	2.2.9
Special	**MARDI, Serdang** http://202.190.32.100 Currently used in 10 station's library nationwide	2.2.9

Malaysian Koha User

Type of Library	Description	Version
Special	**Kadir, Andri and Associates (Law Firm)** (Intranet)	2.2.9
Special	**Zaid, Ibrahim and Co** (Intranet)	2.2.9
Special	**Urban Development Authority (UDA)** - http://koha.udanet.com	3.0.6
Academic - College	**Politeknik Seberang Perai** http://opac.psp.edu.my/	3.0.6
School	88 Smart Schools nationwide (First Phase)	2.2.9
Academic	**Regional Libraries – School of Distance Education, USM** 15 branches nationwide	2.2.9
Special	International Institutes of Advance Islamic Studies - Intranet	3.0.6

Malaysian library automation landscape changed

- Factors of increase number of Koha users:
  - Koha is a full web based ILS
  - Koha attractive features
  - Existence of reliable reference site
  - Low cost maintenance

Koha in Malaysia: The new beginning

- Severa positive Koha developments in Malaysia:
  - Adoption of Koha as part of Teaching and Learning Process by School of Information Management, UiTM.
  - Formation of Malaysian Koha User Group - in process.
  - Attention from large academic libraries.
  - Attention from Academicians and Researchers.

Recommendations

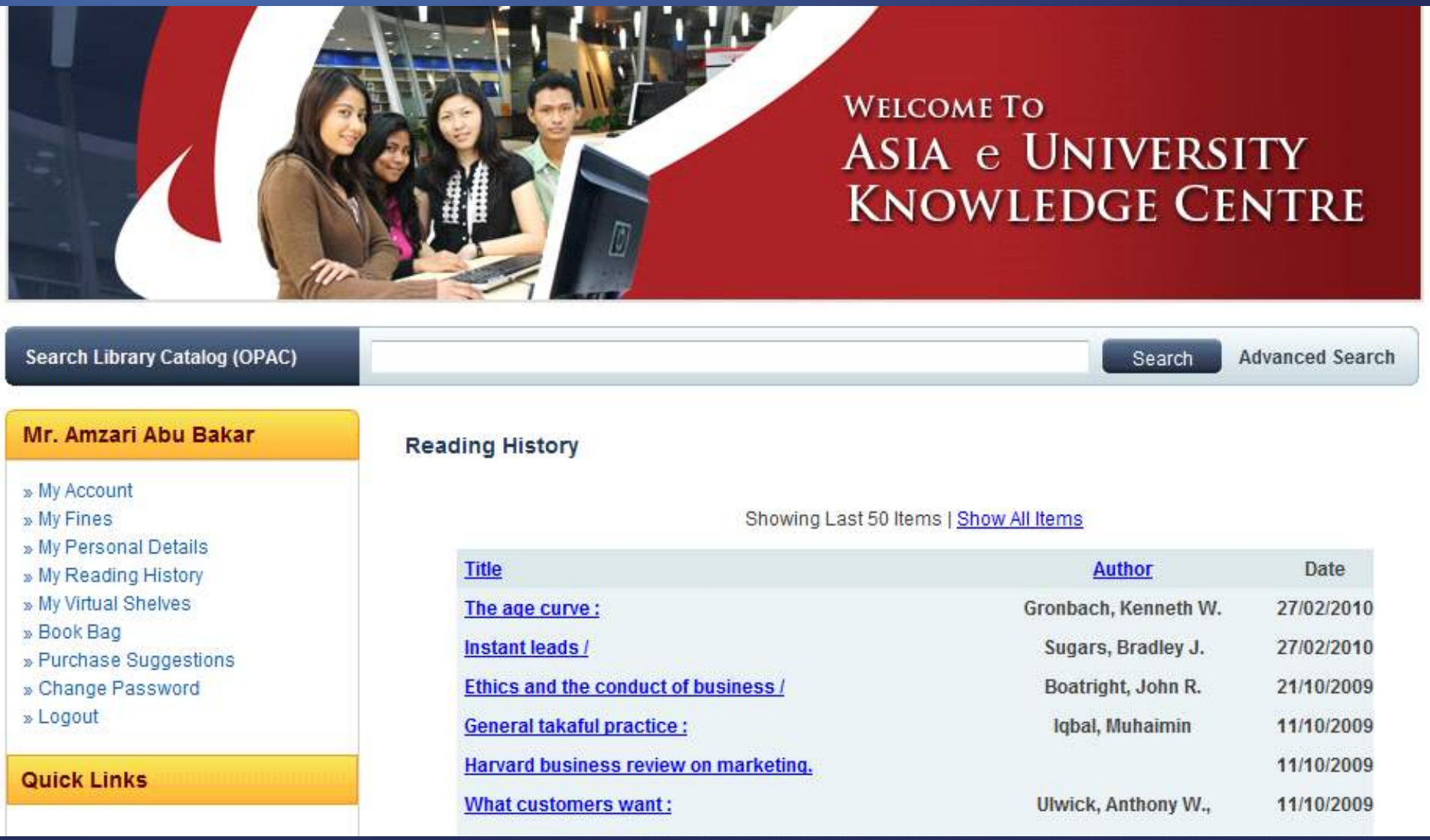
- User Group could be a platform for coordinated efforts.
- Local vendors should look into win-win cooperation with international, more experienced international vendors aimed to provide better support.
- Introduce certified Koha training programs aimed to generate revenue for Koha betterment.

Conclusion

- Koha promotional activities in Malaysia is more user driven and user oriented.
- Koha adoption by Malaysian libraries is very progressive especially in past 3 years.
- Koha itself has proven to be reliable, state of the art Integrated Library System.
- Given a correct formula and promotional strategies, Koha could be more prosperous in Malaysia.

Enjoy few pictures from Malaysia Koha User...

Koha User: Asia e University Knowledge Centre



Customized Web OPAC at Asia e University Knowledge Centre

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Book Drop using RFID implemented at Koha reference site

Koha workshop held at Asia e University Knowledge Centre

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Koha workshop participants. Participants are from librarian, academician and teacher librarian

Visitors from UNESCAP, Bangkok came to see Koha in action

Thank You

Q&A

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