Lessons Learned

Implementing an Open Source Library System

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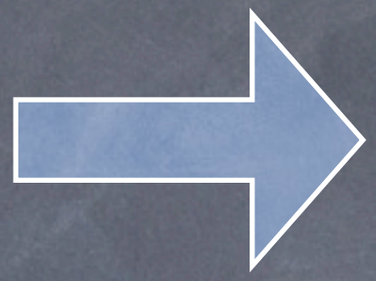
LISA VI, Pune, India, 14-17 Feb 2010

Overview

Commercial Integrated Library System (ILS)



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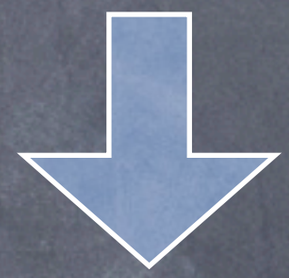

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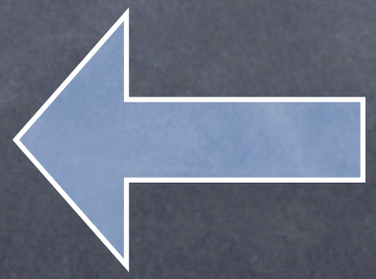

Open Access Library System

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ILS: Unicorn (SirsiDynix)

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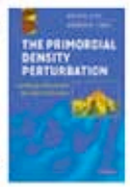
#2	**A 26-2 / 187**	**2009**	
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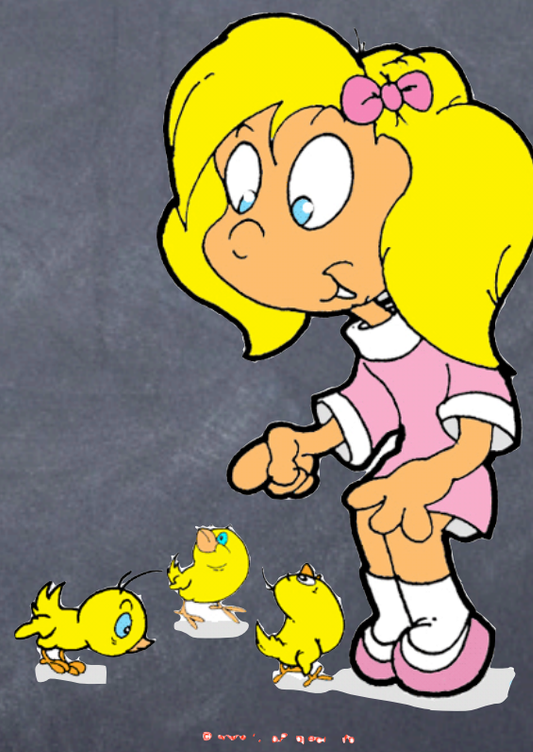
ILS: Unicorn (SirsiDynix)

↑ Advantages

- All necessary modules
- Legacy system at ESO (little development necessary)
- Maintained by vendor



ILS: Unicorn (SirsiDynix)



↓ Disadvantages

- Expensive maintenance
- No access to data
- No influence on look & feel (OPAC needs make-over)
- Modular system

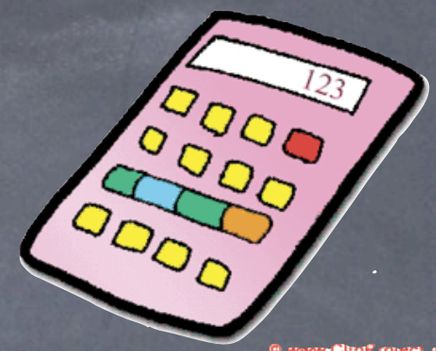
Change ?

Incentives

- Fully integrated system (web-based)
- More control over functionality
- Access to data
- Cutting-edge technology
- Diminish costs



Costs



One-time costs

- Purchase new system
- Data migration
- Customization

Ongoing costs

- Lower maintenance costs
- Access to community developments
- Features not developed by community (outsourced?)

Checklist

- Modules? Web-like navigation?
- Multi-site library system support?
- Company background (European customers?)
- Migration from SirsiDynix
- Costs, support, training...
- Specific questions important for ESO libraries



Candidates

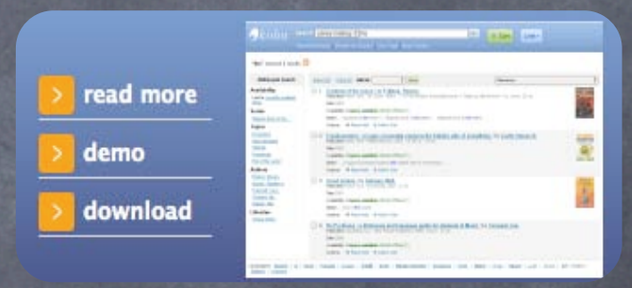
- Koha by LibLime
- Koha by PTFS
- Evergreen by GPLS
  (Georgia Public Library Service)
- Liberty by SoftLink



And the Winner is...

Koha Library System.
Vendor: PTFS / PTFS Europe







- Sufficiently developed
  (acquisitions module)
- Widely used
- Moderate costs
- Marketed by PTFS Europe
  Unicorn experts (data migration !!)

Koha

ESO Library CATALOG

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Customizing the System

Areas that needed attention:

- Cataloging (multi-site library)
- Circulation
- OPAC
- Acquisitions



Customizing the System
(contd.)

We developed

- Acquisitions workflow
- OPAC: description of brief and full record view
- Circulation: outline of improvements
- Prioritized lists of changes



Customizing the System
(contd.)

PTFS

- installed Koha on our server
- applied minor OPAC changes
- prepared data migration
- gave us quotes for tailoring (negotiable)



Customizing the System
(contd.)

At the same time . . .



including GetIT, LibLime-developed acquisitions module

Customizing the System
(contd.)



Many phone conversations later...

We reevaluated the situation



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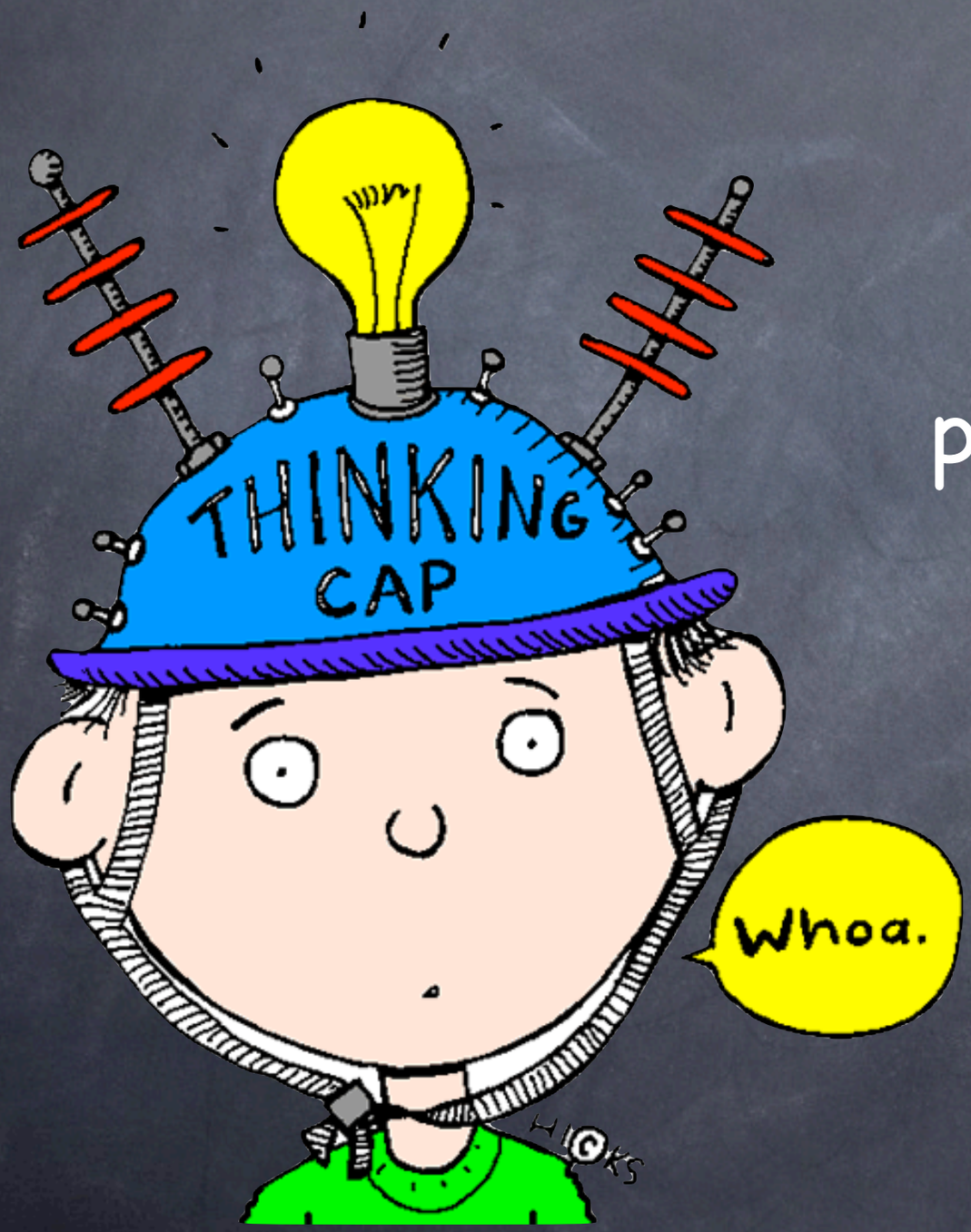
...and came to the conclusion



that it would be best to put the system on hold for a while.

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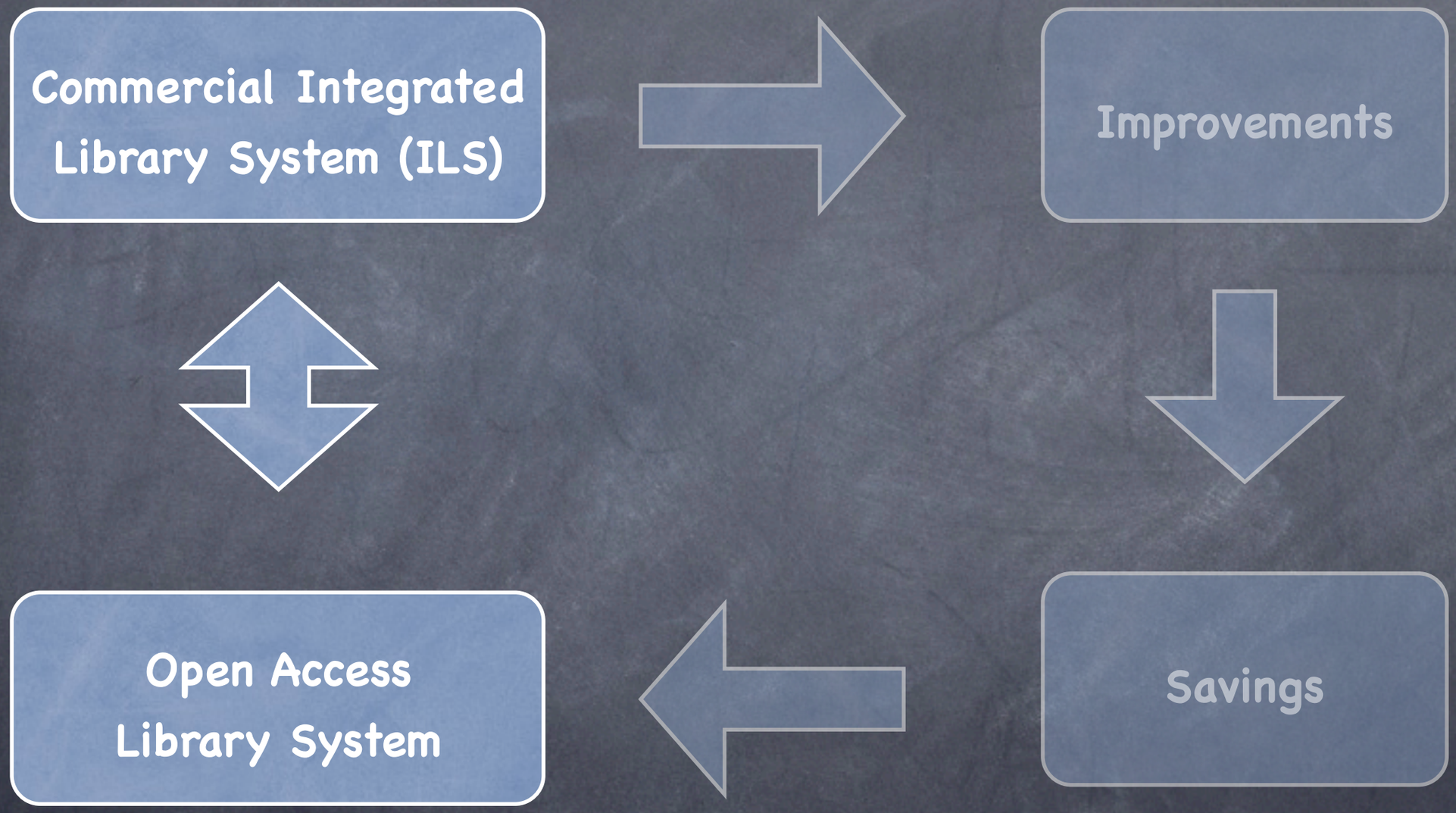
Agreement

- leave Koha system at ESO as-is
- monitor PTFS/LibLime merger
- pay special attention to GetIT module
- revisit situation approx. September 2010



Status



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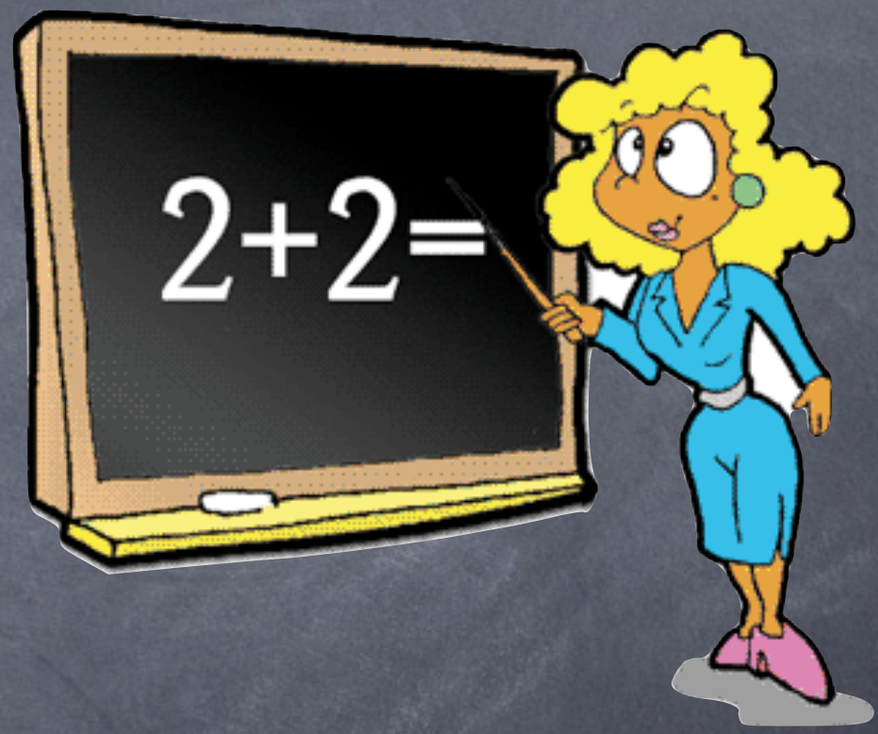
Lessons Learned

- Look carefully at existing features
- Calculate time and money necessary for customization
- Prepare use cases !!



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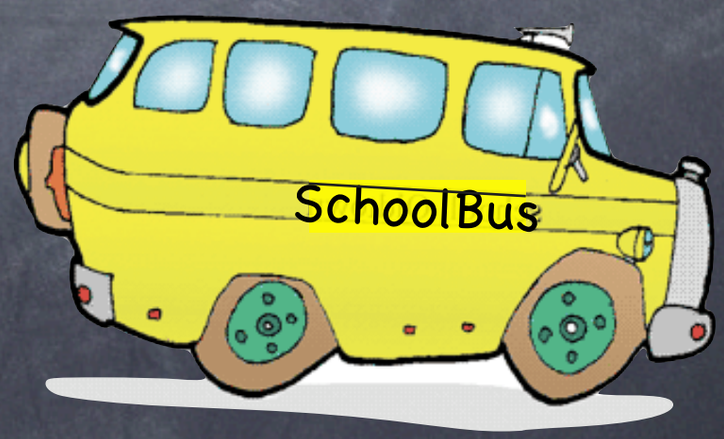
TO BE CONTINUED



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