

Koha: Participation is Key

Nicole C. Engard

Author, Trainer, Blogger, Librarian

Koha Documentation Manager

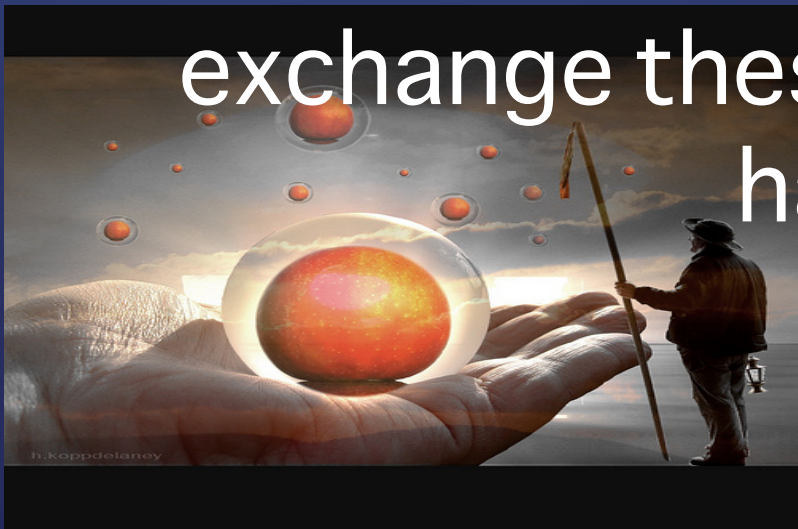
Director of Open Source Education, ByWater Solutions

Power of Open Source

- Koha was born out of one library's dream, but lives by the hands of the community
- Communities power open source – without them projects die

Sharing Ideas

"If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange apples, then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas."



Attributed to Bernard Shaw

What is the roll of the community?

The community looks out for the best interests of the software. They work as the governing body behind all decisions related to the software. The community decides what features to develop next and who the managers are.

Who is the community?

- You are!!!
 - Your participation shouldn't stop at choosing open source – you have to help the software grow or you have no right to complain when things don't go your way

For the Love of Koha

The best person to do a job is the one who most wants to do that job; and the best people to evaluate their performance are their friends and peers who, by the way, will enthusiastically pitch in to improve the final product, simply for the sheer pleasure of helping one another and creating something beautiful from which they all will benefit.

How do you participate?

- Jump right in



Test and Re-test

- Install a copy of Koha and test it
- Report bugs as you find them
 - <http://bugs.koha-community.org>
- Request enhancements as you come up with them
- Test Koha again

Ask Questions

- You won't learn unless you ask
- There are no “mean” people participating in Koha
 - Do not be afraid to ask anything and everything
 - There are no stupid questions

Answer Questions

- Join the Koha mailing list and communicate with others
 - koha-community.org/support/koha-mailing-lists/
- Answer questions or point people to a place they can find answers
- Sign on to IRC – questions are also being asked here all the time
 - koha-community.org/get-involved/irc/

Add to the Wiki

- Sign up for the Koha wiki
 - <http://wiki.koha-community.org>
- Add reports you've written
- Add JQuery you use on your system
- Share tutorials for other new members or Koha users

Write Documentation

- Enhance the manual with things you've learned
 - git.koha-community.org/gitweb/?p=kohadocs.git
- Report necessary edits to the manual (missing or incorrect content)
 - <http://koha-community.org/documentation>
- Translate the manual to another language
- Write tutorials/guides and share them

Write Code

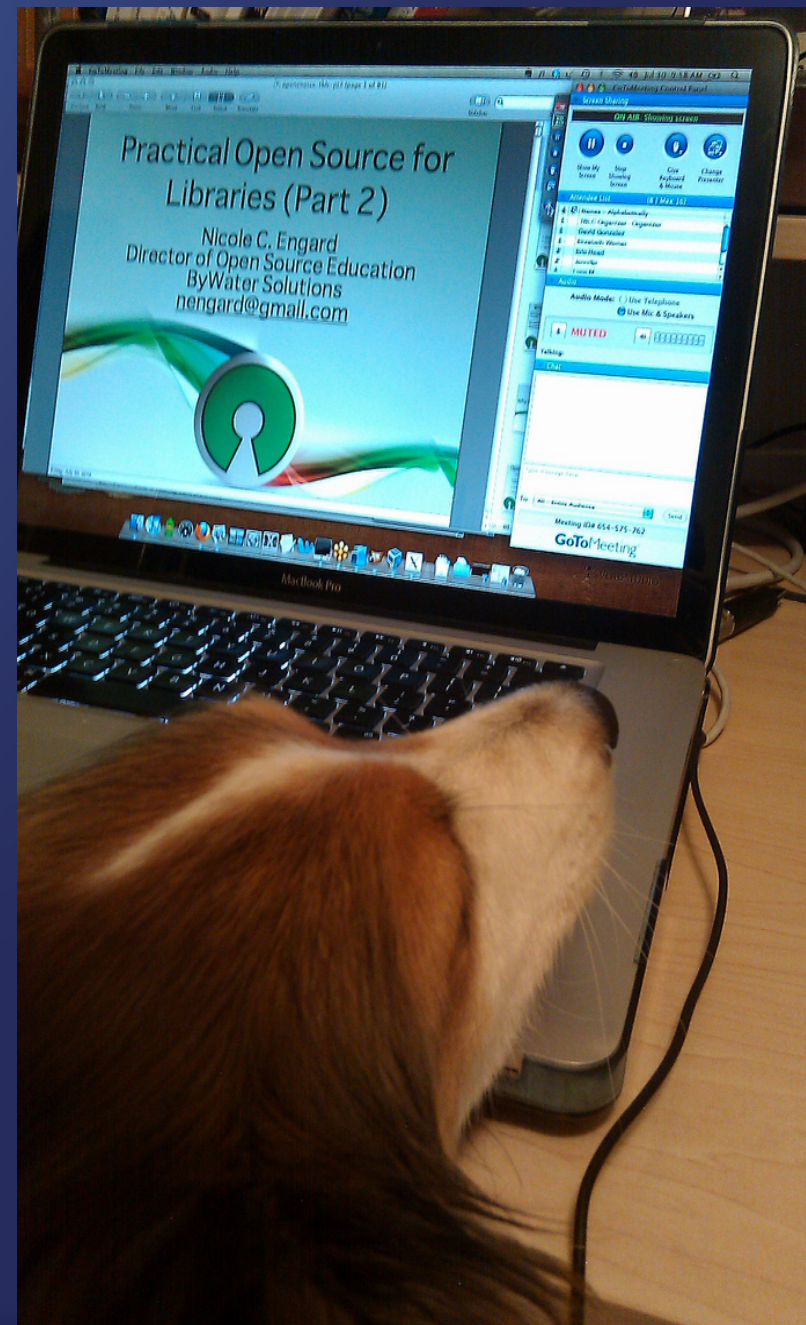
- Not all of us can participate in coding, but if you have the right skills, share them
- Write new features you'd like in your library (or know that another library would like)
- Fix bugs
 - You don't need to know a lot of Perl to fix some of the more minor bugs, you'll never know if you don't try

Attend Meetings

- Koha is governed by any and all who are interested in participating
- One great way to shape the future of Koha is to attend monthly (or special) meetings
- Simply log into Koha at the agreed upon time
- Archived meetings can be found on the wiki
 - wiki.koha-community.org/wiki/IRC_Meetings

Educate Others

- Teach those around you about Koha & open source
- Explain why it works, how it works, and how awesome everyone is
- Show them that many of the things they thought are really nothing but FUD (Fear, Uncertainty & Doubt)



Participate Openly

Be a Mentor

[W]e all learn differently. You might want to settle in with a programming book, while I prefer to take an in-person class. If your project wants to attract new contributors, it behooves you to think past the "dive into the deep end" culture



Be Honest

In a world where people are constantly exchanging ideas, evaluating concepts, and suggesting enhancements, it is vitally important that everyone speak the truth as he sees it. If someone fails to speak the truth, the process of creating software will be greatly impaired.

Be Transparent

Make sure that everything you do and say is out in the open so that everyone can benefit from your opinion, experiences and skills. If you're communicating about the project, log the discussion for those who aren't online. If you're writing code, make sure it's submitted to the public repository or logged in a shared database of current projects so that work isn't being doubled, and if you teach someone something new document it and share it with others so they too can learn down the road.

Important Links

- Code & Documentation are shared publicly:
 - git.koha-community.org
- Bugs are reported publicly:
 - bugs.koha-community.org
- Discussions are had openly:
 - koha-community.org/support/koha-mailing-lists/
 - koha-community.org/get-involved/irc/
- Info is shared socially:
 - wiki.koha-community.org/wiki/Koha_on_Social_Networks

Thank You

nengard@gmail.com

nengard@bywatersolutions.com

<http://web2learning.net>

<http://opensource.web2learning.net>