Migration of Bibliographic Data to Koha
at the Women's Education and Research Centre

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Introduction

The Women's Education & Research Centre (WERC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, undertook a project to migrate its library management system from WINISIS to Koha on March 31, 2024. This transition aimed to modernise the library's operations and provide a more user-friendly experience for patrons. However, the transition revealed limitations in the existing WINISIS data, which required additional processing for optimal functionality in Koha.

Project plan and Methods

Following the methodology proposed by Cong and Xiaoyi (2009), the data migration process necessitated three key steps, such as:

Data Extraction: The project began with extracting 5,238 bibliographic records from the WINISIS system. These records represent the core information about the library's collection.

Data Transformation: The extracted data was not directly compatible with Koha's data structure. Therefore, the bibliographic records were transformed into a format compliant with Koha's MARC standard, which is a widely used library cataloguing format. This transformation ensured the smooth transfer of bibliographic data into the new system.

Data Loading: Once transformed, the data was loaded into Koha. This process successfully populated the new system with 4,626 bibliographic items, representing the library's holdings.

Findings and Discussion

The initial data migration successfully transferred bibliographic records to Koha, providing a solid foundation for the library. However, missing fields mentioned below from the original WINISIS data hindered Koha's full potential.

Publication Information: Incomplete details on the place of publication, publisher, and publication date hinder resource identification.

Physical Description: Missing information on the physical extent of items, such as pages or volumes, limits catalogue browsing.

Item Details: The absence of crucial details like item type, status, collection code, acquisition source, cost, volume number, and URI restricts functionalities like

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searching, inventory management, and item tracking. The migration date was used as the acquisition date for all records due to missing historical data.

These gaps limit Koha's effectiveness for searching, browsing, and managing collections (Mole & Ofodu, 2017). Further, identifying and merging duplicate records could not be performed during data cleaning due to these missing data. Duplicate entries can lead to inaccurate data and inconsistencies within the library catalogue (Singer, 2009). Hence, effective utilization of Koha's functionalities requires populating these missing data fields.

Conclusion and Suggestions

While the initial data migration successfully transferred bibliographic data to Koha, additional work is necessary to optimize the system for WERC's needs. Manually editing records within Koha will be necessary to populate the missing data fields and unlock the system's full potential.

To ensure Koha's successful implementation and enhance its usability at WERC, three recommendations are proposed.

> **Staff Training:** Train staff on manual data entry in Koha to populate missing fields, enrich the catalogue, improve search capabilities, and identify duplicate records.
> **Duplicate Record Management:** Conduct a comprehensive check for duplicate records and merge identified duplicates to ensure data accuracy.
> **Data Enrichment Projects:** Undertake projects to add details like author data, subject headings, and digital resource information to enhance the discoverability and usability of the library's resources.

Addressing these data limitations and implementing these actions will help WERC leverage Koha's full functionalities, creating a robust and user-friendly library management system.

Keywords: Library data migration, Koha, WINISIS, Women's Education & Research Centre

References

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