

ALA Midwinter 2018 Open Source Panel proposal

Logistics

[ALA Midwinter](#), Saturday, February 10 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. Location: [Hyatt, Mineral Hall E](#)
[Session details](#) in ALA Scheduler

Program Description

Libraries and open source software share a common thread: an innate desire to work together to solve a problem that an organization standing alone couldn't solve. In the library profession, this takes the form of shared cataloging records, cooperative reference, consortia and interlibrary loan agreements, and regional book depositories. In open source software, organizations work together on discovery layers, integrated library systems, and digital archives.

Smooth cooperation cannot be assumed, however. Conflicting goals, uneven institutional support, and challenges communicating across distances can hinder any project. How do open source projects move past these issues?

In this moderated panel discussion, participants from [three or four] open source projects address these questions:

- How does the project scale in an organized manner?
- How do participants provide input, help define requirements or contribute code?
- How do features, in fact, get prioritized for delivery and by whom?

Panelists will offer experiences from their communities and participants will be able to ask questions about how open source software is developed across this broad set of communities. Participants will come away from the session with knowledge about how open source projects work and how they can get involved in a project's goals and outcomes.

Possible seed questions for panelists

- How is your project structured and how are decisions made?
 - What techniques do you use to encourage participation and decision-making by a global community?
- Do you find the need to balance the questions of needy users versus the time available from volunteers? How do you get to that balance?

- How do projects market themselves to users that are beyond their initial core user base?
Public library projects promoting to academic libraries, for instance.
 - When does it make sense to expand an existing project or start a new one?
- What is your community struggling with?
 - Have you had growing pains in the project? Any helpful anecdotes to share?
- What is the most effective way to get people involved in the project?
- What are some barriers to adoption that your community has faced?
- What are barriers to contribution and participation, both for organizations and individuals?
- What are your project growth areas for the new year?

Prep meeting notes

Introduction include something about the topic of the panel. Integrate discussion of the projects the panelists participate in as part of answering questions. Introductions include not only role in the library but role in the project(s).

Tweets for ALAMW – Open Source Panel

Hashtags:

#opensource

#ALAMW

1. Paula Sullenger from @tamulibraries will be representing @FOLIO_LSP]
2. Galen Charlton (@gmcharlt) from @EquinoxOLI will be representing @kohails #kohails
3. Kathy Lussier @kmlussier from Massachusetts Library Network Cooperative will be representing @EvergreenILS #evgils
4. Rosalyn Metz @rosy1280 from @EmoryLibraries will be representing @FedoraRepo
5. Chris Hallberg (@crhallberg) from @FalveyLibrary at @VillanovaU will be representing @VuFindorg
6. Evviva Weinraub @evviva from @NU_Library will be representing @samverarepo
7. Peter Murray from @indexdata will be moderating

Participants

<i>Project</i>	<i>Contact/Participant</i>	<i>Comments/Notes</i>
FOLIO	Paula Sullenger, Texas A&M	Confirmed
Koha	Galen Charlton, Equinox Open Library Initiative	20171010: Confirmed

Evergreen	Kathy Lussier, Massachusetts Library Network Cooperative	20170910: Confirmed
Fedora	Rosalyn Metz, Emory University	20171103: Confirmed
VuFind	Chris Hallberg, Villanova University	20171204: Confirmed
Samvera	Evviva Weinraub, Northwestern University	20170926: Confirmed
Islandora		20171010: Mark and Melissa cannot make it.
Coral		20171017: Eric Harnett can't make it
moderator	Peter Murray	