Library systems: SaaS or Open Source?

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From Kinner & Rigda (2009), modified by Koivisto (2019)
So, what’s happening now?
Horizontal Consolidation
ARE YOU GUYS FAMILIAR WITH VERTICAL INTEGRATION?
Software-as-a-service
- Black Box o' Doom
Vendor Paternalism
(Askey & Askey, 2017)
It may not be in your best interests...

- Matthew Reidsma
- Safiya Noble
- Frank Pasquale
The narrowing field: The interrelationship of systems librarian training & ILS marketplace consolidation

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Abstract: The ongoing consolidation of the integrated library system vendor environment, coupled with the increased shift towards closed remotely hosted software options, has created a situation in which librarians can no longer evaluate the technology that serves as the primary infrastructure for library service. This shift, coupled with inadequate preparation for systems librarians through LIS graduate coursework, sets the stage for a future in which librarians' professional values of openness and equity will stand at odds with the necessary choices in library software providers. Advocacy and professional development through organizations dedicated to technology in libraries, and open source development, may help to prevent the total loss of institutional autonomy.
Open Source

folio

CORAL

EVERGREEN

LibLime

Koha
● More direct control over application
• More direct influence on the development trajectory
DSS well positioned to play influential role on a national & global scale
But...
The open source economy is not all about the warm-fuzzy feelings
“Full Stack Librarians” and hyperfocus on technosolutionism - Mirza & Seale
Systems reflect people and organizations with the privilege to build them - Kate Dohe
- Where do our institutional values lie?

- Given our current state, are we enabled to make system decisions based on our values?

- What type of system will benefit us? What type of system will enable us to benefit others?