

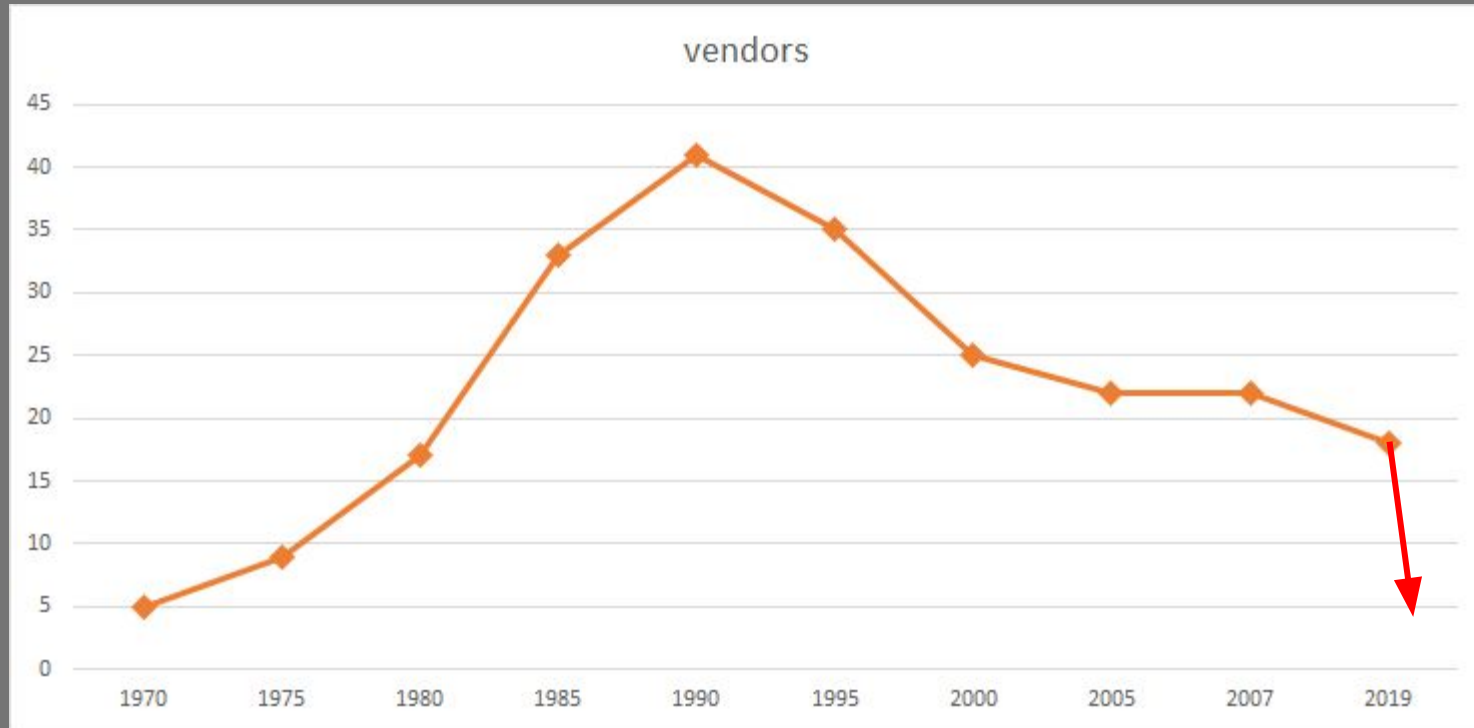
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# Library systems: SaaS or Open Source?

Joseph Koivisto, MLS  
Consortial Library Applications Support  
University of Maryland Libraries

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**So, what's  
happening now?**

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# Horizontal Consolidation



ARE YOU GUYS FAMILIAR  
WITH VERTICAL INTEGRATION?

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Management Services

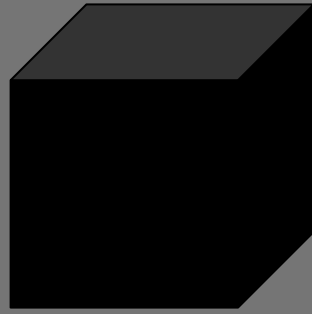
Alma

 SirsiDynix

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# Software-as-a-service

- Black Box



o' Doom



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# **Vendor Paternalism (Askey & Askey, 2017)**

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**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

Joseph Koivisto

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

**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



- 
- **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?