



Review

## ***Open Source Web Applications for Libraries***

*Karen A. Coombs and Amanda J. Hollister. Medford, New Jersey: Information Today, Inc., 2010. 280 pp. ISBN: 978-1-57387-400-7. \$39.50.*

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With the economy in turmoil, libraries everywhere are looking for ways to save money while continuing to offer new and innovative services. Open source software is a low cost way to experiment with and offer new services. The term "open source" generally refers to the ability to access and edit the software code an application was written in. The definition also includes the idea of free use and redistribution and is something librarians everywhere can well appreciate. *Open Source Web Applications for Libraries* surveys what's out there and offers suggestions for installation and implementation.

Librarians new to open source will be interested in the blogs, wikis, and subject guide coverage. Librarians already familiar with these tools will enjoy the discussions on content management systems, federated searching and NextGen catalogs.

This book would be useful for any type of library. Blogs and wikis can help keep patrons from special libraries to school libraries informed. Subject guides are often thought of as academic library services, but as presented in *Open Source Web Applications for Libraries*, they can dou-

ble as easy to implement content management systems. That's something any library can benefit from.

The chapter on web hosting options is especially welcome. The authors suggest there is no need for an IT department and servers, only someone to tinker and just do it. Now that's innovative!

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