

John Thompson (English department, QUB) emphasized this when he spoke about the Percy collection: a collection which can be viewed as a construct by means of which Thomas Percy selected and affirmed an identity as linguist and scholar.

There are various ways in which collectors can work their books in further pursuance of such identities. These include annotation, the use of bookplates, decisions on how the books are to be organised, and private binding. Percy, for instance, heavily annotated his books as he consulted them. Canon O'Hanlon attached great importance to bookplates. Penny Woods (Russell Library, NUIM) included in her paper a detailed analysis of these: from the plain "Ex libris J. O'Hanlon" to a design that the clergyman-scholar used after 1885 and which incorporated an elaborate coat of arms. Other collectors do not seem to have needed such physical affirmation of their identity as collectors. As Gerard Long (National Library of Ireland) noted, Jaspar Joly rarely ventured to write his name in the books he so avidly acquired. Personal methods used to organise collections are another support to a collector's identity. While a standard classification scheme such as DDC organises books according to a publically generated arrangement of ideas, private collectors using individually created schemes can make their collection a representation of their own thought and interests.

Sarah Evans (RIA) explained that Haliday organized his vast collection of pamphlets in chronological order and had these bound in volumes with the generic title "Pamphlets relating to Ireland". William Cooke used personally selected bindings to affirm a cultural identity, as Cronan Doibhlin (UCC) explained. Cooke, whose interests included Spanish literature, would purchase items abroad and have them privately bound at home in Cork.

The two strands of the seminar (i.e. the institutional versus the privately created collection) merge precisely around the issue of identity. When a private collector bequeaths books to an institutional library, it is partly to perpetuate (after death) the identity nourished by his or her collection. The institutional library is the permanent repository. The speakers at this seminar, whose skill, expertise, and dedication were so striking, fully justify the private collector's faith in the institutional curator.

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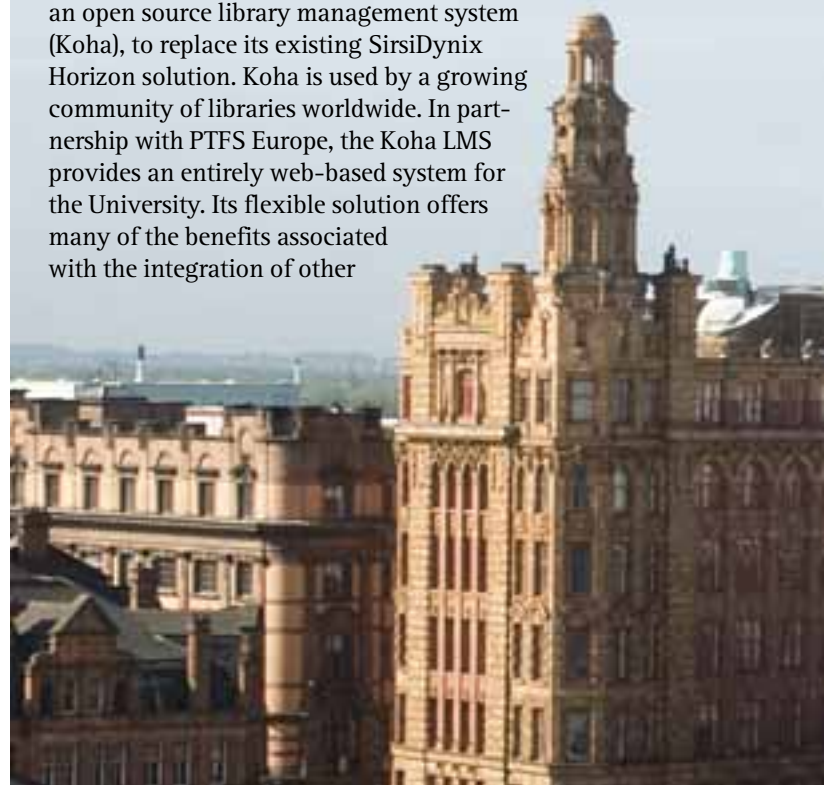
National Acquisitions Group

# Strategies for

Presentations at the 2011 Conference explored various developments and examined some of the strategies that are being put in place that will define the services offered by libraries in the future. The speakers were librarians from diverse backgrounds and industry practitioners.

In his keynote address Ken Chad (Ken Chad Consulting) spoke about libraries in all sectors facing the challenge of relentless, disruptive, technology-driven change and tough economic times. There is a risk that decisions might be made without an appreciation of their strategic importance. He suggested that libraries look at approaches to strategy, differentiating it from "mission" and critically explore business models identifying 3-6 capabilities and deciding how the Library can perform better than any other body in these areas. The overall message was to "treat the library as a business because you are in a competitive marketplace".

David Parkes (University of Staffordshire) and Nick Dimant (PTFS Progressive Technology Federal Systems) spoke on open source programming code that can be read, viewed, modified, and distributed free of charge. Staffordshire University was the first UK Higher Education institution to choose an open source library management system (Koha), to replace its existing SirsiDynix Horizon solution. Koha is used by a growing community of libraries worldwide. In partnership with PTFS Europe, the Koha LMS provides an entirely web-based system for the University. Its flexible solution offers many of the benefits associated with the integration of other



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# or the Future

web based services including social media functionality. The solution provides support infrastructure, full standards compliance and, importantly, great value for money.

A session on discovery tools – Summon (a Proquest/Serials Solutions product), Primo from Ex Libris and the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) – illustrated that all users want the simplest, easiest, most effective and fastest way to access online information. Users no longer want to go to a number of different catalogues, websites and platforms to find information.

Resource Description and Access (RDA) the new, unified cataloguing standard, designed for the digital world and an expanding universe of metadata users, was addressed by Gordon Dunsire (freelance consultant). For more information see <http://www.rdatoolkit.org/>

In Worcester, both the university library and the headquarters for Worcester public libraries services are now housed in one building. Darren Taylor (Worcester University Library) and David Pearson (Worcestershire Libraries) spoke about the integrated front of house team and the print collections of both libraries, which are shelved together. Further information is available from: <http://www.wlhc.org.uk/designandenvironment.htm>

Other useful presentations included Library Impact Data Project (Graham Stone, University of Huddersfield), Collaboratively building 'Web-scale' – imperatives for ensuring the future relevance and use of libraries (Robin Murray (OCLC Global Product Management). Paul

Harwood (JISC Collections) spoke about the future of the e-textbook market and referred to Terry Bucknell's useful presentation at the 2011 UKSG conference – Buying by the Bucketful: A comparative study of eBook packages for the UKSG Conference (<http://prezi.com/hgz12iwuvh/buying-by=the-bucketful-for-uksg>). Paula Keogh, from Capita (formerly Talis) spoke on *The Future of the Library Management System (LMS)* focusing on what the LMS may look like in a time of cloud computing.

This was a very useful conference. The format, with workshops and plenary sessions from practitioners from a wide variety of backgrounds, allowed for the sharing of experience in areas such as statistical analysis and shared catalogues, as well as exploring new developments in Library Management Systems (LMS), textbooks, the latest resource discovery tools, and identifiers such as the ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier). The event also provided useful opportunities to network with publishers and library suppliers.

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