Promoting Koha the Open Source Way: the Koha Gruppo Italiano

Members of the Koha Gruppo Italiano

Franziska Wallner
Senior Librarian at The American University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Sebastian Hierl
Director of the Library of the American Academy of Rome, Rome, Italy

Juan Diego Ramírez
Director of the Library of the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Rome, Italy

Stefano Bargioni
Deputy Director of the Library of the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Rome, Italy

Paolo Bizzarri (honorary, 1963-2012)
IT consultant

The logo

Snoopy was drawn at KohaCon12

When the KGI was looking for a logo, we modified his *dream* into the Italian flag

The thinking dog is very Ko-happy to participate in KohaCon16

The prehistory

Starting from 2008, a group met at BiblioStar, an annual meeting of Italian librarians held in Milan around March 15th

   to discuss about Koha

   to present Koha to others

   the promoter was Zeno Tajoli

From 2010, presentations were organized thanks to sponsors, basically for the fee required by the BiblioStar hosting. One of them was Ebsco.

In 2011 the Library of the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce moved to Koha

In 2012 the library of The American University upgraded Koha 2 to Koha 3

In 2012-13 the library of The American Academy in Rome moved to Koha

The foundation - February 20, 2013

Thanks to Koha, four library directors became friends

Koha installations in Rome were a little number

The basic idea was to promote Koha in Rome and in Italy

   ensure our choice as robust as possible

   for the powerful of open source in library

   to discuss with other librarians about problems directly related to our work
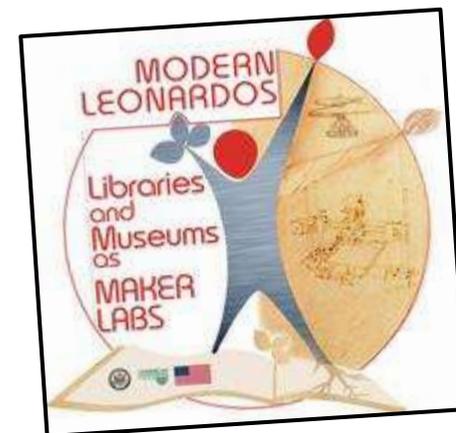
The experience

Franziska has a tradition of library events organized in her University

Conferences

Courses

Spring Events, in collaboration with The American Embassy in Italy

Events: A stand at Spring Event 2013 Rome, May 23, 2013

Events: Featured Creators and Stories
October 1st, 2013

Featured creators and stories:
A facemeeting on open source for libraries

Eoghan Ó Carragáin, National Library of Ireland, **VuFind**

Andrea Bollini, Cineca, **DSpace** committer

Paul Poulain, BibLibre, **Koha** for large libraries

Workshops in parallel: Koha, DSpace, VuFind (with Demian Katz in videochat)

Events: Italian Lectures on Semantic Web and Linked Data (May 7, 2014)

How we met Eric L. Morgan?

He wrote on code4lib about a journey in Rome. We invited him, and he replied: "Thank you for the invitation. I suppose one of you saw one of my messages on the Code4Lib mailing list?"

We were trying to spread the word of Koha

Koha Gruppo Italiano
https://www.facebook.com/KohaGruppoItaliano

Italian lectures on semantic web and linked data:
practical examples for libraries

mercoledì 7 maggio 2014

Events: Italian Lecture on Web and Linked Data (May 7)

Keynote speaker: Eric L. Morgan (nd.edu)

Giovanni Bergamin, BNCF

Silvia Mazzini, experienced in LOD

Stefano Bargioni, about SPARQL and Koha

A discussion panel, in Italian

Programma

Ore 9.00 — Benvenuto
Andrew Thompson, Executive Vice President and Provost AUR

Ore 9.15 — Juan Diego Ramírez, Direttore Biblioteca Pontificia Università della Santa Croce
Eric Lease Morgan, Notre Dame University

Ore 10.00 — "So many opportunities! Which ones to choose?"
Giovanni Bergamin, Biblioteca Nazionale di Firenze
"SKOS, Nuovo Soggettario e Wikidata: appunti per l'evoluzione dei sistemi di gestione dell'informazione bibliografica"

Ore 10.30 — Stefano Bargioni, Biblioteca Pontificia Università della Santa Croce
"Open, Big, and Linked Data"

Ore 11.00 — Bucap Spa
"La digitalizzazione di materiale archivistico e bibliotecario: un ulteriore elemento per valorizzare gli open data"

Ore 11.15 — Coffee break

Ore 11.45 — Silvia Mazzini, Regesta.exe
"xDams RELOADed: Cultural Heritage to the Web of Data"

Ore 12.00 — Discussion Panel: "L'avvento dei linked data e la fine del MARC"
Fabio Di Giammarco, Biblioteca di Storia moderna e contemporanea
Marco Fratoddi e Michele Missikoff, Stati Generali dell'Innovazione
Lucia Panciera, Camera dei Deputati

Ore 13.00 — Conclusione dei lavori

Moderatore: Federico Meschini, Università della Tuscia

regesta.exe

BUCAP DOCUMENT IMAGING SpA

SOS ARCHIVI E BIBLIOTECHE

The American University of Rome - Auriana Auditorium
Via Pietro Roselli, 16 - Roma
Iscrizione per la partecipazione entro 5 Maggio a f.wallner@aur.edu

Events: Beyond MARC, a discussion about Koha, MarcEdit and BIBFRAME (March 15-16, 2016)

Terry Reese

Eric L. Morgan

Joy Nelson

A panel moderated by a top Italian expert on the future of cataloging
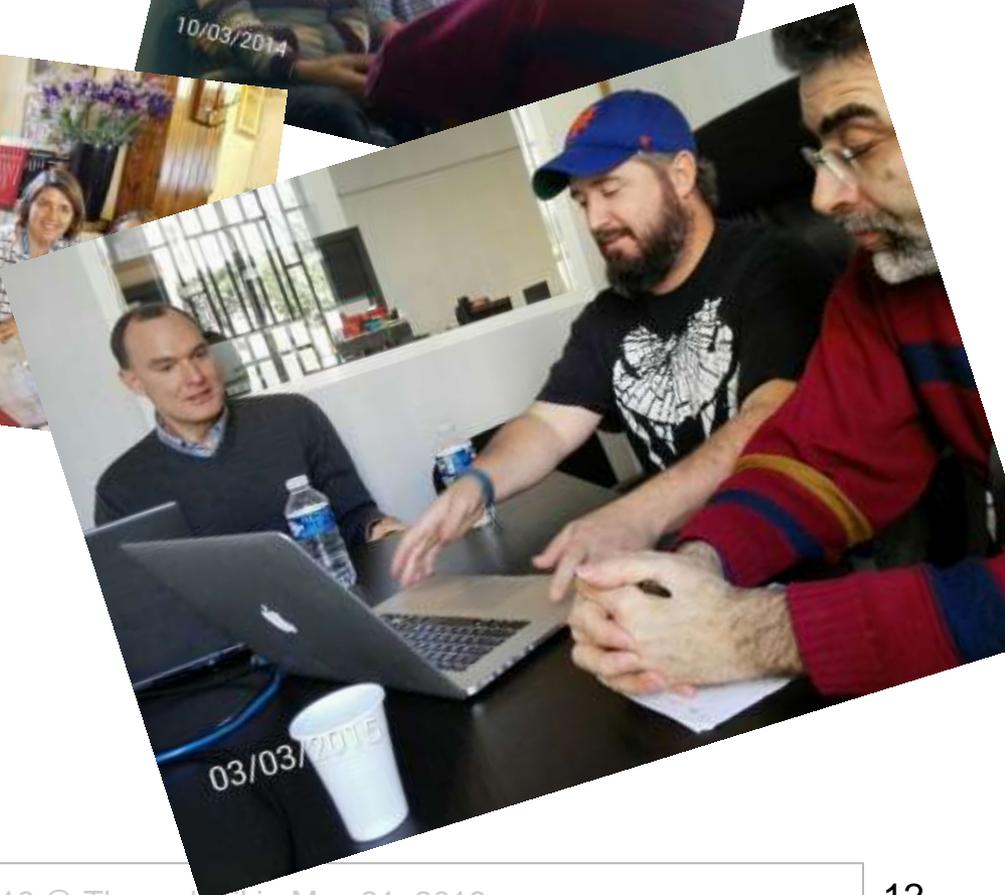
Two workshops

Hackfests

Marseille 2014 (BibLibre): ideas about a new search engine

Milan 2014 (Cineca): Koha translation to Italian

Marseille 2015 (BibLibre): how to manage the grant for replacing Zebra

Actions: The first grant from Ebsco

Zebra is good

   Is a key component of Koha 3

but…

   Its age and technology

   Misses some functionalities

Thanks to Gianluca Di Bella (*), Ebsco decided to award Koha Gruppo Italiano to integrate ElasticSearch into Koha. This powerful no-SQL search engine is highly versatile, allows greater flexibility and provides extensive configuration options.

(*) VP of Sales, EBSCO Information Services - Latin Europe and Israel

13

The Memo Of Understanding signed by Koha Gruppo Italiano and EBSCO

Strategic upgrade of Koha's core full-text search engine technology to ElasticSearch

Increased functionality and accuracy of facets

Development of a browse function (author, title, subject, call number)

MARC to RDF crosswalk enhancing capability of linking to online data repositories (linked data)

Greater flexibility in ingesting metadata schemas beyond MARC21

Improved speed

Full OPAC functionality within EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) User Interface via Koha API for:

Renewals

Holds

The Memo of Understanding signed with ByWater Solutions

Actually, The American University of Rome signed a MOU with ByWater Solutions:

ByWater Solutions coordinated the project

Partial goals were defined

Other companies were involved

The American University of Rome was the best *bridge* to move the grant, from Ebsco to AUR, to ByW, to other companies

Actions: The second grant from Ebsco

Ebsco asked to meet the Koha Gruppo Italiano at February 22, 2016;
Brendan G. virtually participated through a videochat

The big project of the OSLSP was schematically presented us by Ron Burns,
Christopher Spalding and Rui Francisco

They asked us for new goals for Koha, and were identified:

Creation of an Acquisitions API for YBP's Gobi
Complete implementation of EDIFACT ordering and invoicing
Integration of Coral Open Source ERM administration
Plug-in integration to Italy's Indice SBN

MOUs are going to be signed soon

More actions

Jan 10, 2014 - "Carrol Preston Barber Research Grant" requested from ALA
   Unsuccessful

2015 - A grant requested from an important company for the SBN module
   Unsuccessful. Less than one year later, they stopped their library services in
   Italy

Lot of informal meetings with people who work in public institutions, public
   libraries, university libraries, ...

S

Website

The first website: http://kohagruppoitaliano.moonfruit.com

The current website: http://www.kohagruppoitaliano.it

   Will move to a CMS

   Managed by experienced people

Event Topics
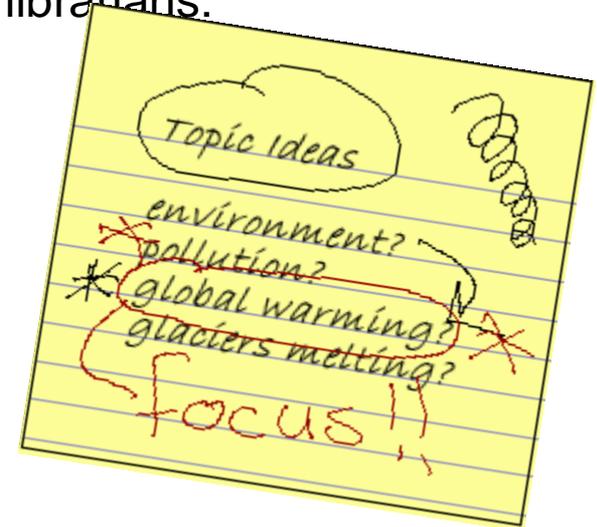
Chosen among cutting-edge subjects of high interest for librarians:

Open source in libraries

Linked Open Data

BIBFRAME

…

Chosen to boost Koha:

Koha is related to other important open source software

With Koha you can increase your library services with a short effort

It is the only ILS you can freely experiment with

Event Speakers

Chosen among famous experts

If from Italy: they can meet and appreciate Koha

Foreign: they can spread the word of Koha, and especially its community

Try to stay in touch

Event Sponsors

How do we choose sponsors for Koha events?

Companies involved in libraries:

Open source products and services

Commercial high level products, like Ebsco

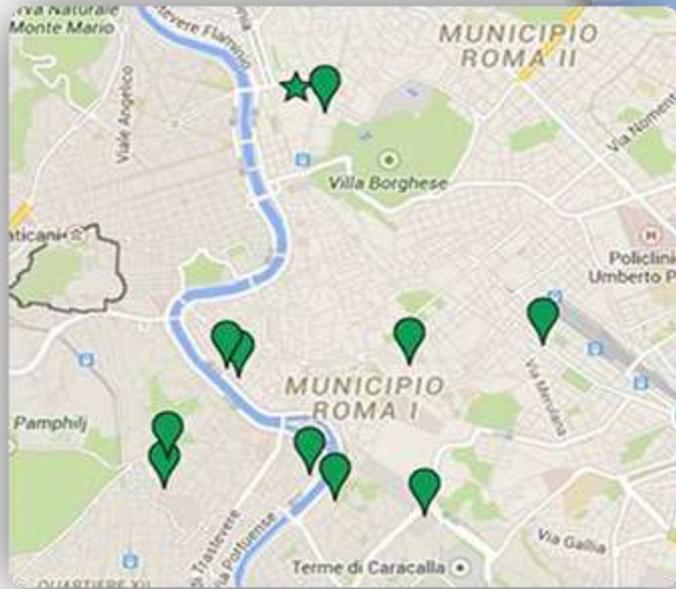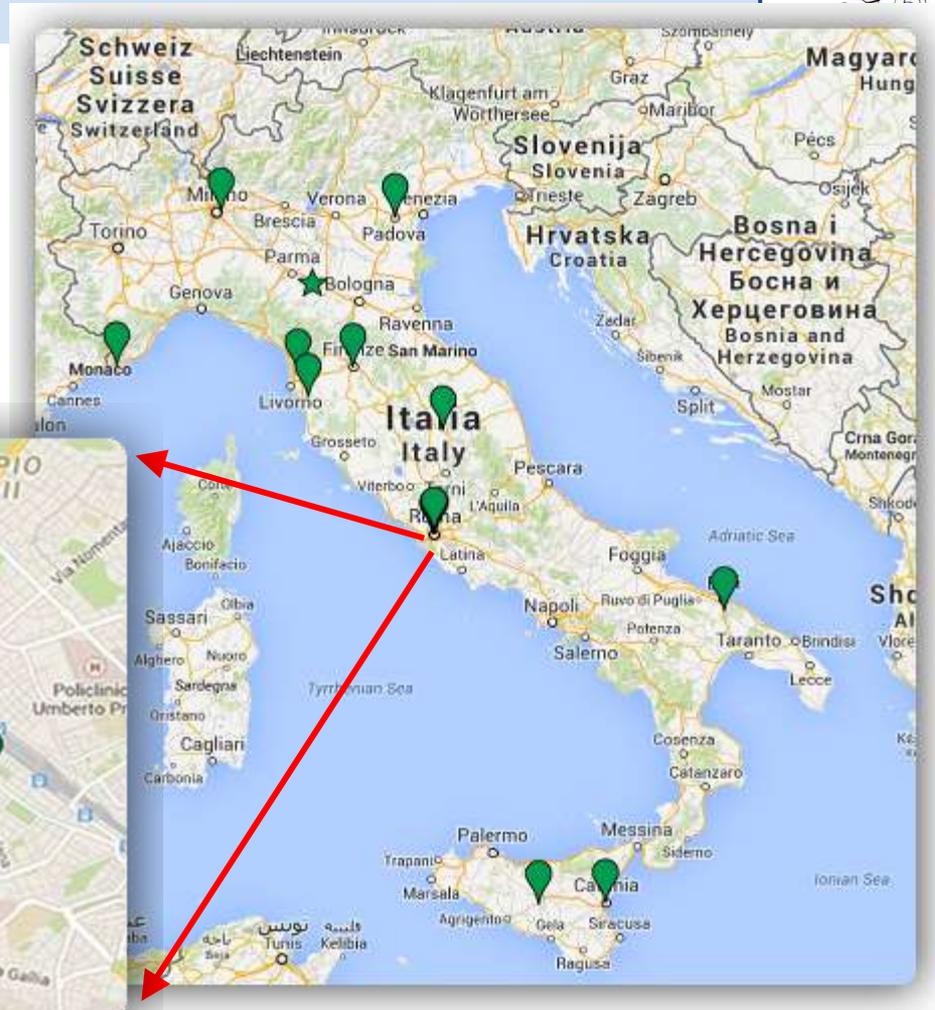Hardware products (scanners, RFID, labels, shelves…)

High cost services

Sponsor's contributions are requested only to cover the costs of the events. They are entitled to distribute company material, have their logos on the event invitations, and time slots for speaking.

Koha in Italy

More than 20 known installations, 2 consortia

Most installations in Rome started with the help of Koha Gruppo Italiano

Koha Users Groups in Europe

A number of KUG in Europe contacted us during last months:

Swedish http://koha.se

Spanish https://www.tabakalera.eu/es/kohaference-encuentro-software-libre-koha-bibliotecas

French KohaLa

Greek

The Open Source Way

Why we say "the open source way"?

Even without a statute, the steering committee is composed by independent Koha users.

Is this necessary? No.

Is it important? We think so. In Italy, especially.

We discussed about including vendors.

The Koha Funding Committee

Franziska Wallner belongs to the KFC

More independent members in the KFC

Is the International Koha Fund of Te Horowhenua Trust a good tool for managing grants Koha Gruppo Italiano was awarded?

Gadgets
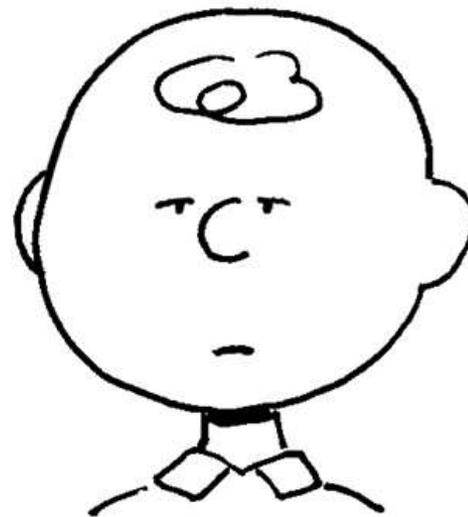
Roll-ups

T-shirts

Pens

Thank you very much

Follow Peanuts Reloaded at http://www.flickr.com/photos/steveb59/