

# 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

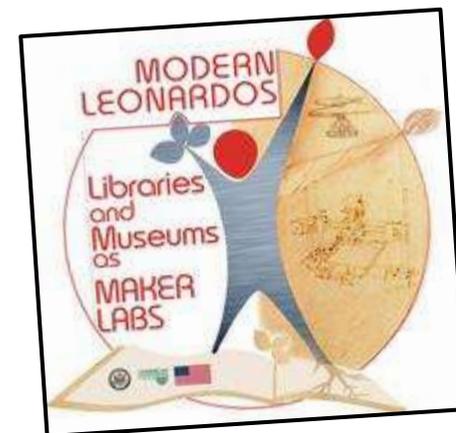


Franziska has a tradition of library events organized in her University

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

**PROGRAM**

**Ore 8.45**  
Registrazione

**Ore 9.15**  
**Saluti e presentazione della giornata**  
**Andrew Thompson**  
The American University of Rome  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
**Juan Diego Ramirez**  
Pontificia Università della Santa Croce  
Direttore della Biblioteca

**Ore 9.45**  
**Eoghan Ó Carragáin**  
National Library of Ireland  
An introduction to VuFind: Community & Code

**Ore 10.30**  
**Saverio Piali**  
Hyperborea s.r.l.  
Hyperborea and Koha:  
An open source-based business model

**Ore 10.45**  
**Frank Epple**  
Zeutschel GmbH  
Digitization of printed originals:  
what you may need and how we can help

**Ore 11.00**  
Coffee Break

**Ore 11.15**  
**Andrea Bollini**  
DSpace Committer, Cineca  
An introduction to DSpace:  
Features, Developments & Community model

**Ore 12.00**  
**Cristina Garetta and Javier Garrido**  
Scanbit  
Open Source experiences in Spain:  
DSpace repositories and Europeana Project,  
VuFind Meta search and Discovery tool for  
hybrid environments

**Ore 12.15**  
**Paul Poulain**  
Biblibre  
Koha: An open source ILS for  
small and large libraries, public and academic

**Ore 13.00**  
Lunch Break

Moderatrice: **Paola Gargiulo**, Cineca  
Language Facilitator: **Rosa Fusco**, AUR

**Ore 14.00**  
**Workshops:**  
DSpace, Koha e VuFind

**Logos:** Rotoclass, BibLibre, ByWater, casalinilibri, SECLAN, BUCAP, Hyperborea, ZEUTSCHEL, S. E. B.

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

# Events: Italian Lecture 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  
Juan Diego Ramírez, Direttore Biblioteca Pontificia Università della Santa Croce

Ore 9.15 Eric Lease Morgan, Notre Dame University  
**"So many opportunities! Which ones to choose?"**

Ore 10.00 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

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

**Koha Gruppo Italiano**  
[facebook.com/KohaGruppoItaliano](https://www.facebook.com/KohaGruppoItaliano)  
organizza

**Beyond MARC**  
A discussion about  
Koha, MarcEdit and BIBFRAME  
15 - 16 Marzo 2016

**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME**

**15 Marzo**

**9.00**  
Registrazione

**9.30**  
Apertura Evento  
Richard Hodges, AJR President  
Stefano Bargioni, Koha Gruppo Italiano  
Gianluca Di Bella, EbSCO VP of Sales, Latin Europe & Israel

**9.50**  
Terry Reese, Head of Digital Initiatives,  
Ohio State University, **"The world beyond MARC:  
let's focus on asking the right questions"**

**10.30**  
Joy Nelson, Director of Migrations, ByWater Solutions,  
**"BIBFRAME: MARC replacement and much more!"**

**11.00**  
Eric Lease Morgan, Digital Initiatives  
Librarian, University of Notre Dame,  
**"Using BIBFRAME for bibliographic description"**

**11.30**  
Fabiano Santini, Consulente Document Imaging,  
**"Biblioteche: un patrimonio da valorizzare. Open  
Data e Linked Open Data per accelerare il processo  
di conoscenza e fruizione"**

**11.45**  
Brunch

**12.45**  
Panel **"Il Futuro della Catalogazione"**  
Eric L. Morgan, Joy Nelson, Tiziana Possemato,  
Paul Poulain, Terry Reese,  
Antonella Trombone (moderatrice)

**16 Marzo**

**9.00** Hands-on "MarcEdit" Workshop  
Terry Reese

**13.00** Lunch

**14.00** Hands-on BIBFRAME Workshop  
Joy Nelson

**Sponsors:** BUCAP DOCUMENT IMAGING, IS NG, SOSARCHIVI ASSOCIAZIONE PER LA TUTELA DEL PATRIMONIO ARCHIVISTICO, EBSCO, a Forgia, BibLibre, biblionova, ByWater SOLUTIONS

The American University of Rome  
Auriana Auditorium  
Via Pietro Roselli 16 - Roma

Per iscriversi:  
<https://beyondmarc.eventbrite.com>



# Hackfests

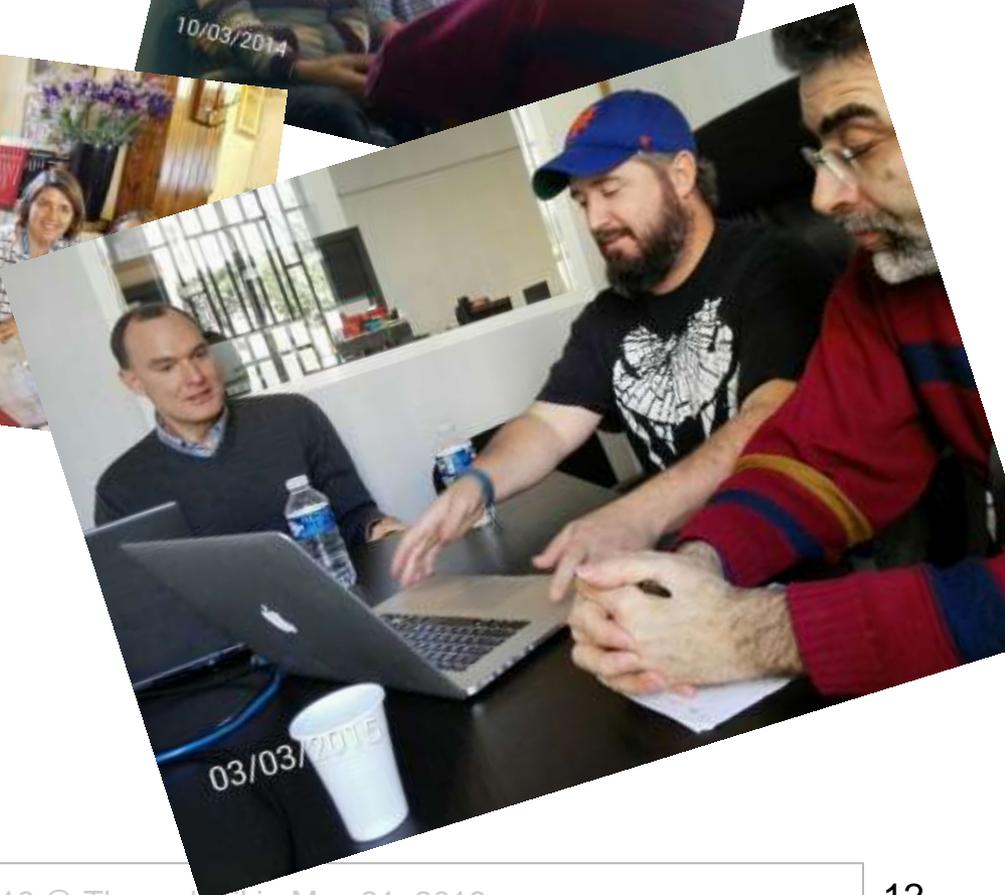
Marseille 2014 (BibLibre): ideas about a new search engine



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

# 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

Koha Gruppo Italiano - KohaCon16 @ Thessaloniki - May 31, 2016

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, ...

5



# 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



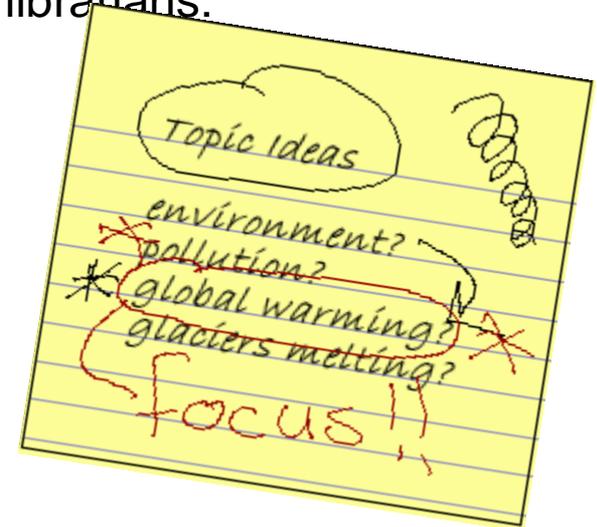
Chosen among cutting-edge subjects of high interest for librarians:

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



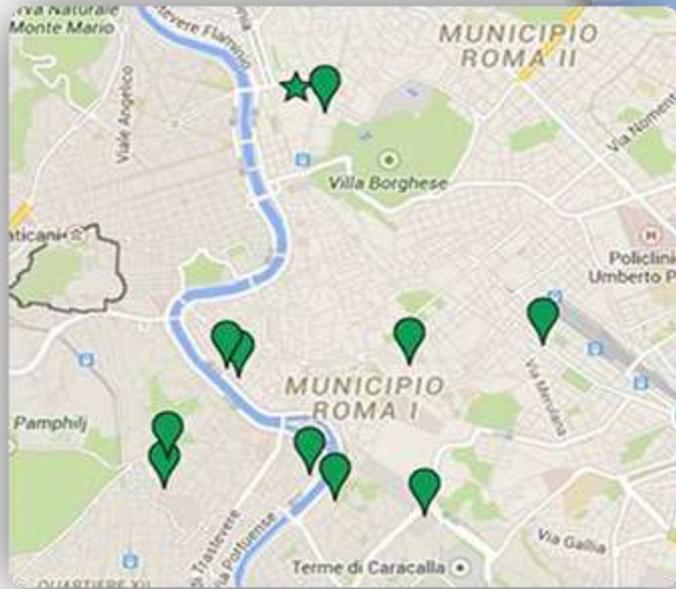
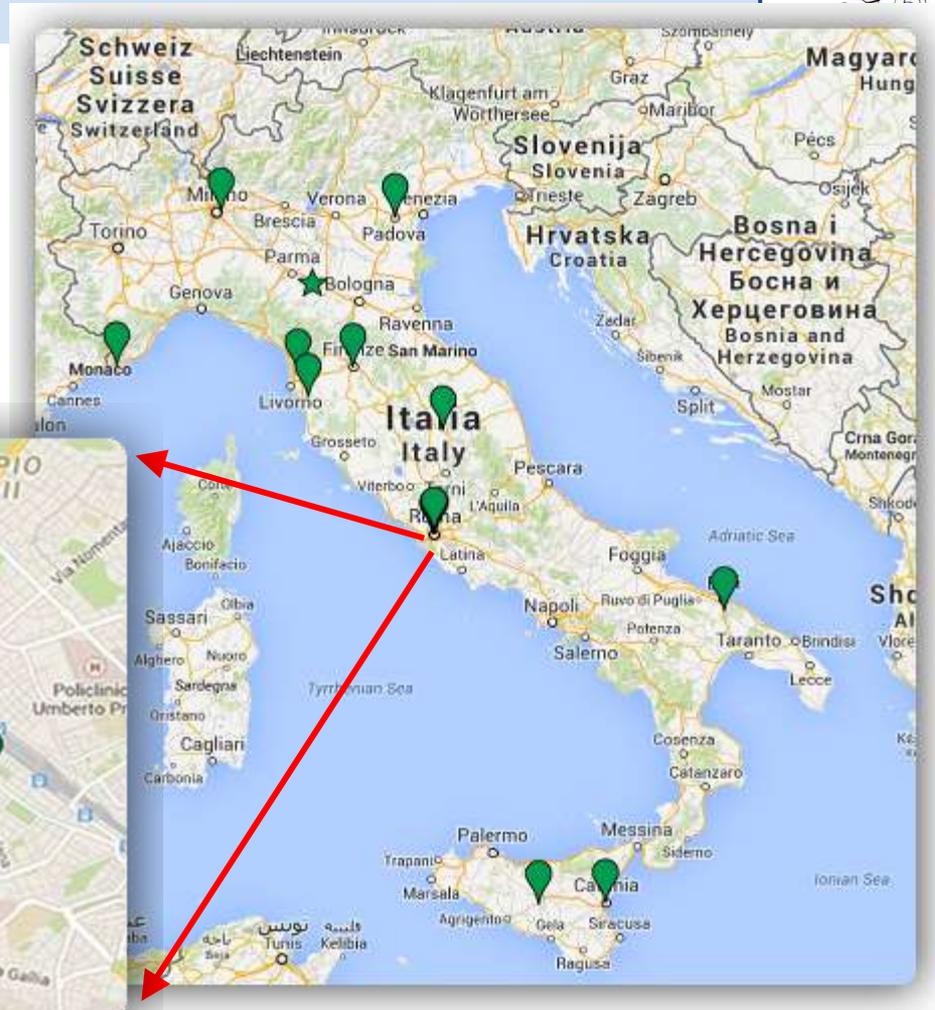
Sponsor's contributions are requested only to cover the costs of the events. They are entitled to distribute company material, have their logos on the event invitations, and time slots for speaking.



# 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



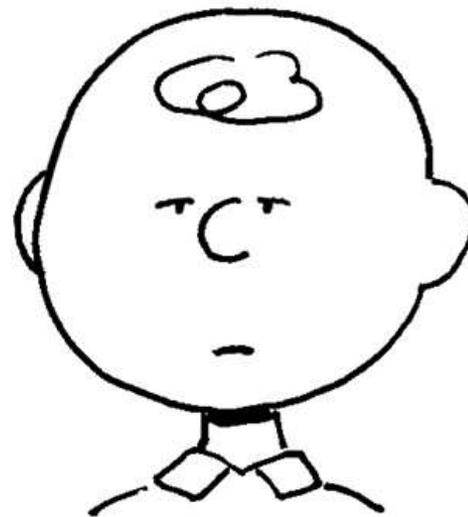


Thank you very much

RDF, BIBFRAME, LINKED DATA...  
LIBRARY CATALOGING COULD  
CHANGE TREMENDOUSLY OVER  
THE NEXT FEW YEARS!



EITHER WE EVOLVE  
OR WE END UP IN  
JURASSIC MARC...



13/14

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