



Open Source and The Library Platform Revolution

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Abstract

Libraries often look at their technology investments through the prism of the Integrated Library System (ILS) or the next-generation Library Services Platform (LSP). The LSP focuses on the ability for libraries to manage both electronic and print resources in a cloud environment. Yet does the LSP represent a platform in the true and modern sense of the word? In today's technology world there is much discussion of a coming platform revolution. Think of companies such as Uber, Airbnb, Amazon and others. The reason for their success? These businesses are built on platforms that derive their value from those communities or partners who partake in the platform.

While library technology has been moving towards the LSP, the LSP as such remains a monolithic system devoid of the platform participants found in other industries. Yet the library industry is ripe for change. When brought to libraries, the platform paradigm would in fact deliver unprecedented innovation and choice. Think of an app ecosystem for example where libraries can choose best of breed applications in a marketplace from different providers – both vendors and libraries alike.

In this session, delegates will learn firsthand about a new project that is underway to redefine library technology at its core. The project – FOLIO – is an initiative to develop an open source library services platform built for innovation. What's more, the project participants include libraries and vendors who are working together to create a rich community and ecosystem of participants. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn about FOLIO and meet the organizations behind the project that is bound to revolutionize the library industry.