Open Source

The sharing of or making publicly available online code, programs, and applications
...allows libraries to build ILS, content management systems, databases, and other customizable programs and tools

FOSS4LIB

Example used: ILS
Open Source Products & Tools

Example IMs: Pidgin, GChat, Library H3lp

Example: Zotero Citation Manager
Strengths & weaknesses

- Customization
- Low set-up costs
- Community support and response (may or may not be more responsive than commercial)
- More portable (user-level vs. institution-level)
- Familiar tools that users already know and use

- Requires programming and developing resources; technical support
- Ensuring retained ownership of records and information
- Early adopter challenges
- Conflict of interests (e.g. citation managers)
- No recourse for technical disruptions, changes in service, etc.
- Risk of false representation
- Privacy risks
The Common Denominator

non-commercial and/or non-proprietary
and
free or not-for-profit pricing
Figure 1: A Spectrum of Non-commercial and Non-proprietary Information Uses

A pictorial representation of non-commercial, non-proprietary information-sharing practices.
Figure 2: Radial Diagram of Open Information Movements and Libraries

Open Source
Create Code To Be Used and Modified Freely

Libraries
Free & Open

Copyleft
Begin with Open and Free Information, Rather Than Restricted Access with Gradual Sharing

Open Access/Fair Use
Make Data and Research Freely Available to Advance Research and Knowledge

A pictorial representation for how open information movements relate to the concept of a free and open library.
Open Information & Libraries

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