

Comparison between Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version and Koha 19.1.03 Application

This article is published by Easylib. An attempt to keep the comparison as rational as possible and as fair as possible has been made here in this article.

1. Background of development

Easylib is a fully home grown made in India software product for the libraries. It is developed with inputs from Library Science Professors and Practicing Librarians across Universities, Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges, Special Libraries, Public Libraries and many more. Much of the earnings from Easylib sales have been fed back into the development work. As of middle of 2021, over 600 libraries use Easylib. Over 10,000 professionals are trained in Easylib so far.

On the other hand, Koha was originally funded by a New Zealand Library and subsequently made open source. The adoption has so far been good, especially in the developed countries.

Koha goes very deep in Cataloguing module within library management in terms of functionality. On the other hand, Easylib keeps holistic library operations in mind and tries to bring in a balance in the context where it is being deployed.

Koha focuses defined functions of a library. On the other hand, Easylib keeps holistic educational environment in mind. As a result, Easylib has many additional modules traditionally not part of library operations earlier.

2. Software User Profile

Koha expects users are familiar with library terminologies. It assumes each is a Master of Library Science graduate. On the other hand, Easylib expects that only Chief Librarian can be Master of Library Science graduate or higher where as rest of the staff can be qualified much less. Even non professionals also can operate Easylib software.

This assumption of user base plays very important role in design of the software. As a result, **adoption to Easylib is less than one week activity** for a new staff where as it could go for months if not years for a staff. Here are a few practical examples we have observed.

- **Case Study 1** – Easylib 4.4.2 is still primary application at over eight colleges even after their move to Koha. The organization since then did additional evaluation and has now given three orders for new colleges for Easylib 6.2a or Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version.

- Case study 2 - Set of three colleges. Used Easylib earlier. Went to Koha in 2014. Did not renew AMC for Easylib.

Then after three years, they came back to Easylib with a fresh import of the data. After a few weeks of operations in Easylib, they shared with us their Koha experience. Now a staunch supporter of Easylib.

- College 3 - Started with Koha. Deployed software, used for a year or so. Found that number of changes required in Koha were not justifiable with respect to the spend they have to incur. Upgraded to Easylib in middle of 2020.

Any amount of changes can be done in Koha. However the question is whether you would wish Library to focus on using the software in the current form to the fullest extent to benefit the students or spend time and effort on developing the software and then use it.

3. Functional Comparison – Requisition and Acquisition

Requisition module deals with ability of the students in requesting items they require. Acquisition modules deal with the purchasing process.

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	Koha 19.11.03
1	Library users can request books directly and you see easy list by dept	Yes	Custom development
2	Request for Proposal and Quotation Comparison	Yes	Custom development
3	Direct Purchase Order Creation from Easylib easily	Yes	Custom development
4	Book seller Login to Quote Prices to help you save money	Yes	Custom development
5	Cost benefit analysis to see how much of what you purchased is being utilized	Yes	Custom development

4. Functional Comparison – Library Website

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Basic Website for your Library with information on library collection, staff. search box etc.	Yes	Yes
2	Customizable Library Homepage by only Library staff without help of any IT staff	Yes	Custom development
3	Integrated view of the Library website with coverage subscriptions, new arrivals, survey form, digital library etc.	Yes	Custom development

5. Functional Comparison – Cataloguing Module

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Cataloguing as per library standards.	Yes	Yes
2	Cataloguing Books on one single page instead of going to multiple pages	Yes	Custom development
3.	Full fledged stock verification and Reports	Yes	Custom development
4	Union Catalogue Connectivity directly to accession register	Yes	Custom development
5	Linking Digital Books to Physical Books	Yes	Custom development

6. Functional Comparison – Digital Library (Institutional Repository)

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Digital Library eBooks Management	Yes	No, expects that you have separate software
2	Digital Subscriptions Management	Yes	No, expects that you have separate software
3	Interlinking of physical library material with digital library material and vice versa	Yes	No, Custom development
4	Library usage across physical library and digital library	Yes	Manual work expected

7. Functional Comparison – Student Data Management

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Student data Management	Yes	Yes
2	Fields suited to Indian education system	Yes	Custom Development
3	Library Visitor Management Module	Yes	Custom Development
4	OPAC Usage Logs and Necessary Reports by department, course, branch etc.	Yes	Custom Development

8. Functional Comparison – Circulation Module

Seq.	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Basic Circulation Module	Yes	Yes
2	Built in Circulation Usage Statistics and Analysis	Yes	Custom Development
3	Built in SMS and Email Gateway	Yes	Custom Development

9. Functional Comparison – Periodical Module

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Basic Periodical Module	Yes	Yes
2	Periodical Volume and Issues Auto Generation based on subscription	Yes	Custom Development
3	Vendor Reminder Generation	Yes	Custom Development

10. Functional Comparison – Barcode and Id Cards Module

Seq	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Barcode Printing directly on A4 Sheet of Paper with options to print member details, book details, journal details etc.	Yes	No
2	Design and Print of Id Cards in various formats in Vertical, Landscape size etc.	Yes	No

11. Functional Comparison – Other Features

Seq.	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
1	Easylib prebuilt customized reports as per Indian Education System	Yes	Custom Development
2	Key Performance Indicators - Dashboard Management	Yes	Custom Development
3	User Communication Module with ability form groups, send students information, stay in regular touch etc.	Yes	Custom Development
4	Data Quality Management to aid in identifying wrong data in your system, do correction in bulk etc.	Yes	Custom Development
5	Display Board Kiosk Management to run a few display boards across your campus	Yes	Custom Development
6	Easylib Batch Jobs to schedule various things as needed to run in background	Yes	Custom Development
7	Design and Manage Feedback Forms	Yes	Google Forms
8	Multi-level Security	Yes	Yes
9	Reports for your library	Yes	Yes
10	Customized Reports	Yes	Custom Development
11	Prebuilt Email Gateway	Yes	Custom Development
12	Prebuilt SMS Gateway	Yes	Custom Development
13	Prebuilt Payment Gateway	Yes	Custom Development

Seq.	Feature	Easylib 6.4a	In Koha 19.11.03
14	Campus Automation Connection	Yes	Custom Development
15	Form Union Catalogue of University even when colleges use different software	Yes	Custom Development
16	Personal Digital Library Module to let your Professors upload their digital material to library website	Yes	Custom Development
17	Android and iOS App Gateway	Yes	Custom

12. Software Pricing

Easylib has one standard pricing based on number of staff in the library. Through the study of the requirements of hundreds of libraries in educational segment, much of the changes required by the libraries are accomplished through configuration alone. Custom development is rarely needed in Easylib due to the depth already achieved.

Still many enhancements are going on in Easylib to further improve the things.

13. Upgrade Schedule

a. To Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version from Easylib 4.4.2

1. Day 1 - Issue purchase order. Let Easylib take backup before 4 PM.
2. Day 2 - Start using Easylib 6.4a Application with basic data next day morning.
3. Day 3 - Start using in full fledged mode. Further configuration changes may continue.

b. To Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version from some other application

1. Day 1 - Issue purchase order and give data to Easylib before 4 PM in Excel format
2. Day 2 - Start using Easylib 6.4a Application with basic data next day morning.
3. Day 5 - Start using the full application. Subject to quality of the data provided. Further configuration changes may continue.

c. To Koha

1. Depends on vendor readiness.
2. All data needs to be converted onto Marc 21 format and then imported to Koha
3. Overall time duration - A few weeks

d. To Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version when having no data in any form

1. Day 1 - Issue purchase order
2. Day 1 + 60 Minutes - Start using Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version

14. Family of Products

Koha Application	Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version
<p>Below products talk to each other without need of any additional development work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koha application 	<p>Below products talk to each other without need of any additional development work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easylib 7.2a Campus ERP Cloud for Campus Administration • Easylib 6.4a Cloud Version for Libraries • Easylib 4.4.2 Desktop Version for smaller libraries • Easylib Learning Management System • Easylib Power Alumni for Alumni Relationship Management • Vidyanidhi Scholarships Platform • Prosper Aid Platform for Trusts to Raise Funds • Barcode Printing Software to print barcodes on A4 size • Id Card Design and Printing • Institutional Repository (Digital Library) • Easylib Union Catalogue to connect multiple libraries of yours • Survey Management • Communication Module to communicate to students • Campaign, Sales and Customer Relationship Management. • Ticket (Service) Management System • Event Registration Platform to conduct events with 10,000+ attendees • Many more coming up

Easylib – Bringing you innovative products

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