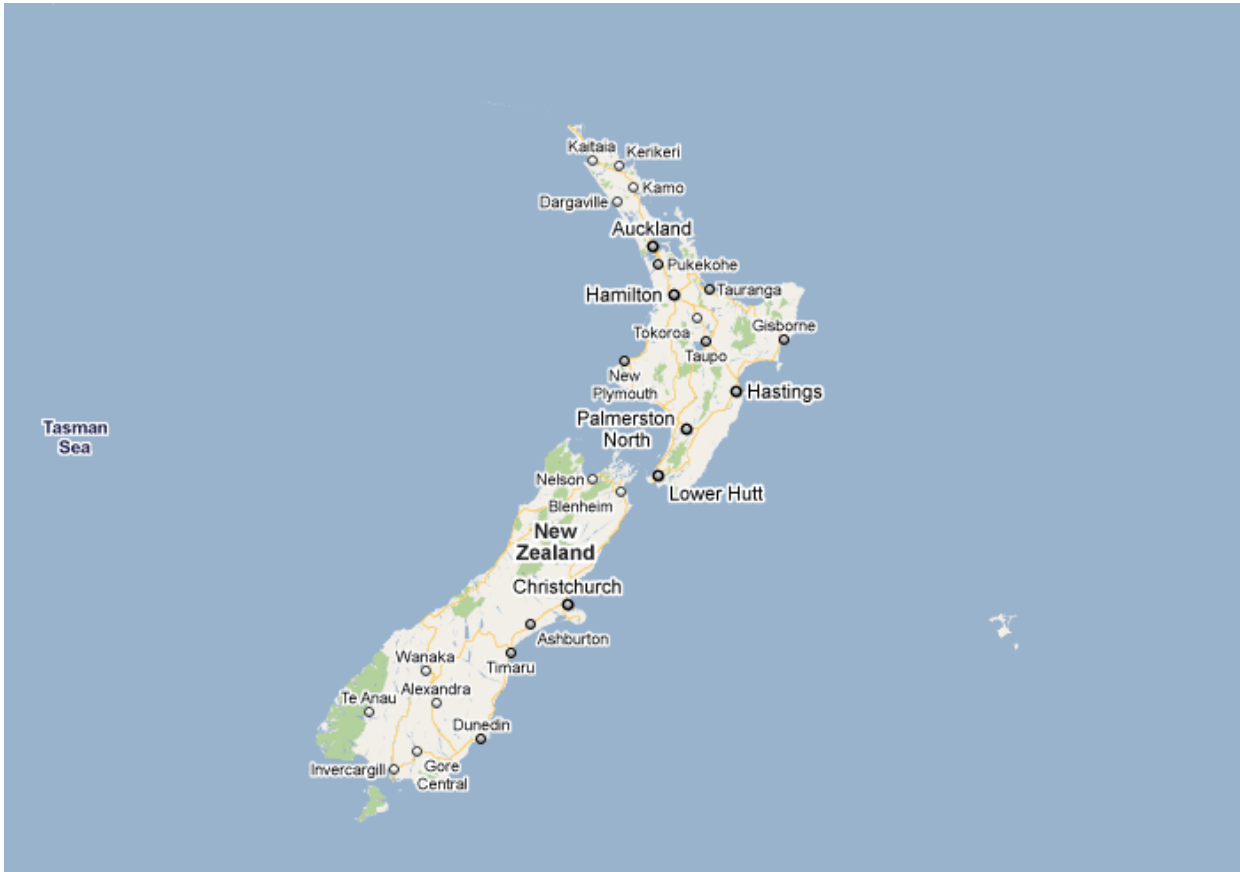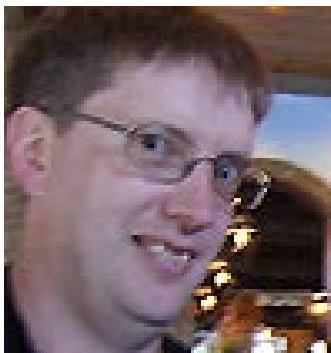The ladies that changed the world.

One upon a time in 1999, at a smallish New Zealand library

two risk-tolerant librarians named Rosalie Blake and Joann Ransom

hired a clever fellow name Chris Cormack

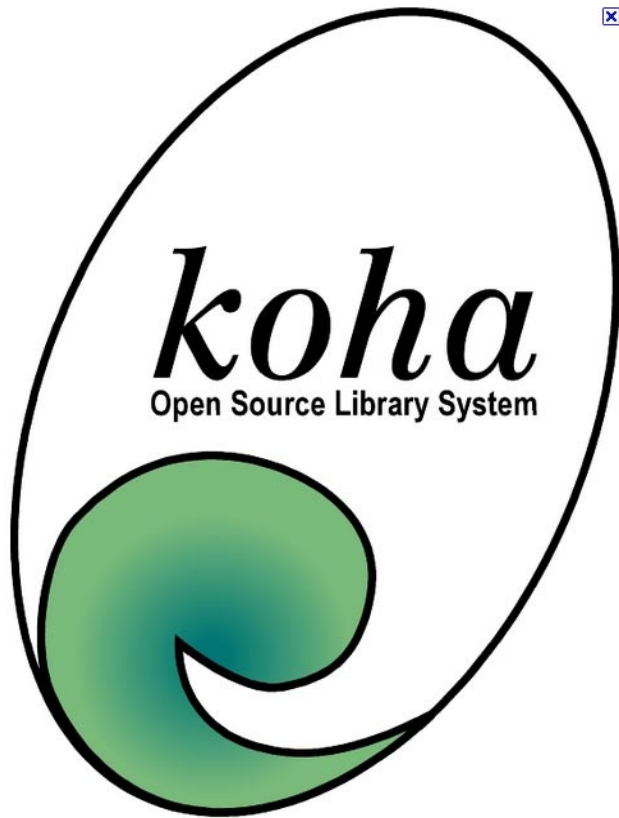to build a new library system that wouldn't blow up on January 1, 2000

Chris and his company, Katipo Communications, faced a very short deadline. There were only a few months of 1999 left.

<katipo>

They tapped out code until their fingers bled.

And, they prevailed.

Koha was launched in time for the new millennium.

No deaths were reported.

The New York Times

1/1/00

Yeltsin Resigns, Shocking Russia; Putin Is Successor

Hostages Are Safe As Hijacking Ends

And, instead of keeping all of that bloody code to themselves….

Chris and Joann (and the gang) gave the gift of "Koha" to the world.

They released it as open source under the GPL license.

It became the first open source ILS on Earth.

Soon, many Earthlings were using and developing Koha.

Eventually another group of clever fellows in the USA decided to try their hands at developing another open source ILS.

Even though they were unable to come up with an equally clever name for their product, they did succeed in making an equally clever product.

The proprietary vendors discounted the cute little efforts of the clever, but youthful, developers.

They were sure it wouldn't catch on.

Afterall, they had loyal and happy customers.

But alas, the proprietary vendors soon discovered that some of their customers were not as loyal as they thought.

So, they spread fear, uncertainty and doubt to sow fear into the hearts of their customers.
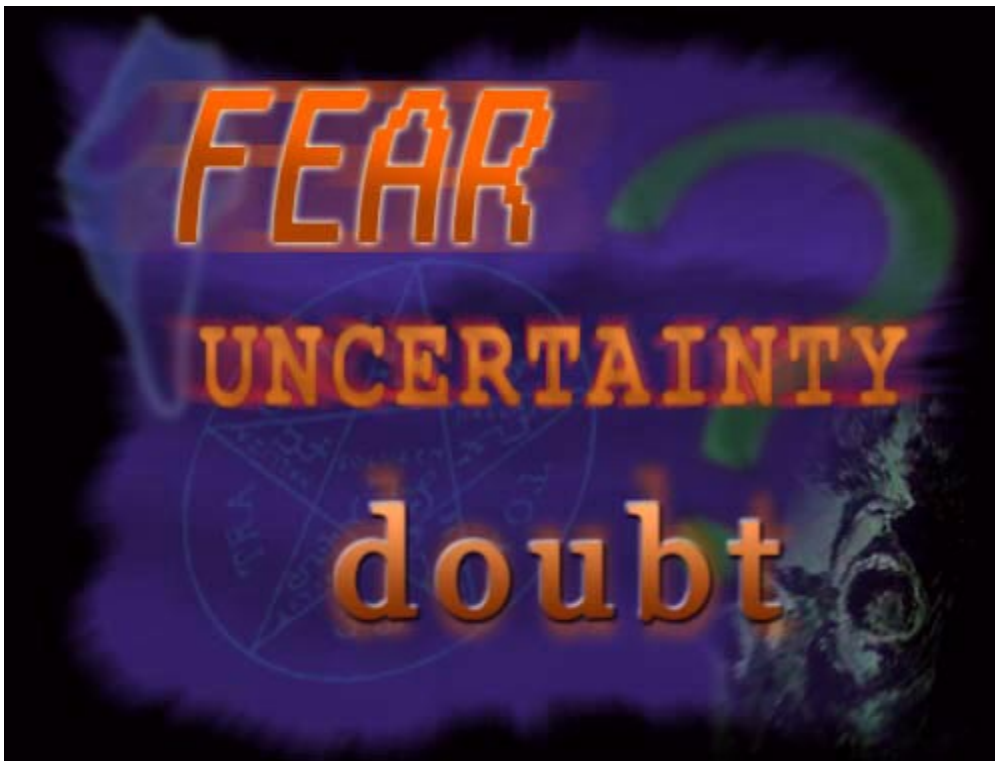
But the librarians were braver than expected.

And soon, many libraries began using Koha and Evergreen.

Even the stuffiest of vendors realized something needed to be done to stem the tide.

So they scrambled to make up new products with natural sounding names like Sierra and they used the word open as many times as possible in their marketing literature.

But the clever librarians were not fooled by these tricks because they now knew that while

"open" is good

"open source" is even better.

Libraries began flexing their software development muscles and were soon adding features fast and furious.

Customers' needs were being satisfied almost before they could escape their lips.
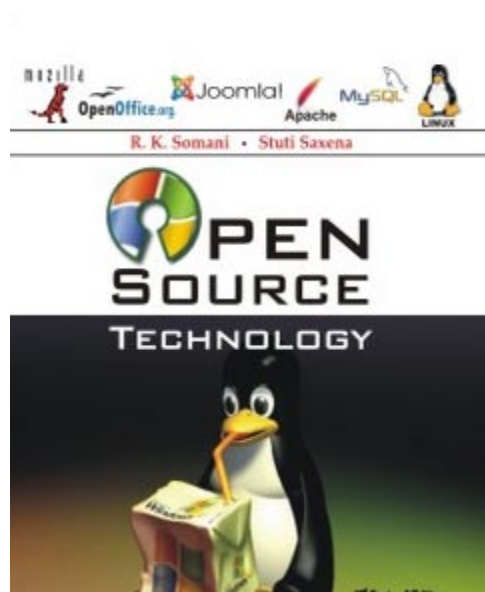
Staff workflows worked like buttah.

Eventually, the word "vendor" was deprecated.

~~VENDOR~~

And every library school's core curriculum included Open Source Technology.

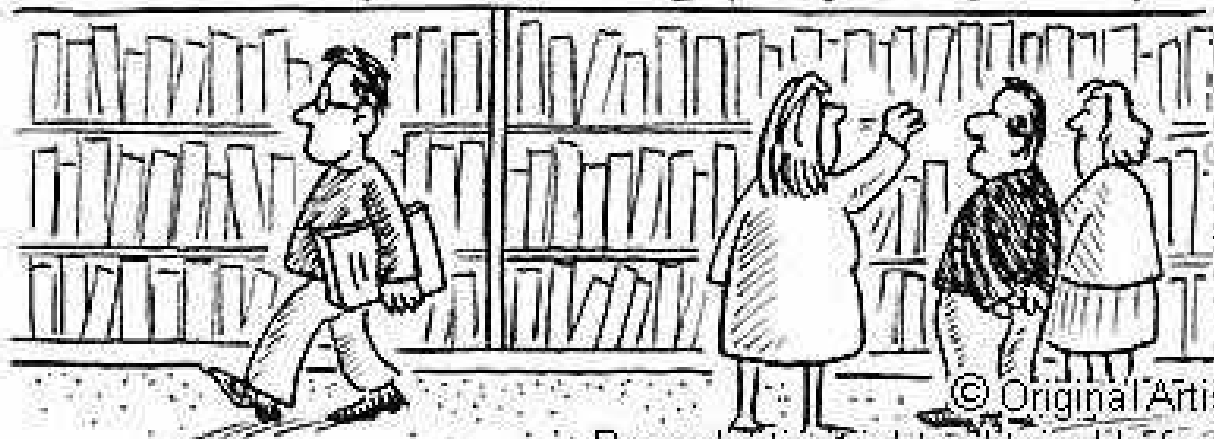Libraries became key components of every community.

There was something for EVERYONE!

**Measure L:
Library Funding**

And library funding was never a problem again.

The Earthlings became smarter and smarter because everyone used their library's resources.

And with their newfound knowledge, they were able to solve all the problems of the world including:

Global warming

Hunger

Poverty

Just Plain Meanness &

DRM.

yay.

Thanks for getting the ball rolling, Rosalie and Joann.

Moral of the story: No one knows what a difference they'll make unless they try.