

Open Library Environment

- Libraries are increasingly realizing the need to extract data, connect with external systems, and implement functionalities that were not included with the delivered systems. This is mainly because libraries that exist in complex environments where many different systems need to interact. As libraries develop their IT infrastructure, it's imperative that their automation systems are able to interoperate and thrive in this growing realm of Web services. This has given rise to the increasing demand that they be able to exploit their systems using APIs, Web services, or other technologies instead of depending on the software

Open System

- Over the last few years, Web services and the service-oriented architecture (SOA) have become dominant themes in IT across many industries. Library automation industry is also responding to these new themes. Both open source and proprietary library automation products increasingly emphasize the ways in which they embrace openness, support application programming interfaces (APIs), or implement Web services.

As a result

- There are intense activities on open source software like Koha, Evergreen;
- At the same time, as part of a more open approach, companies like Ex Libris launched its Open Platform Program. This initiative involves increased delivery of APIs in all of the company's products, following a more consistent structure in those APIs, and providing customer libraries with documentation necessary to exploit the APIs. A repository, called the EL Commons, allows customer libraries to share code they develop.