



FOLIO is an open source community project designed to spur innovation through the development of a modern library services platform (LSP). The FOLIO LSP design enables new services to be built while supporting libraries' current resource management needs. What's more, the platform will allow you to manage your library using those applications that best suit your workflows. And you'll be able to host the platform yourself or work with vendors such as EBSCO for hosting, support and services.

The Community

The creation of the FOLIO platform is the result of an unprecedented collaboration between vendors and libraries.

The community includes:

- OLE: Forward-thinking academic libraries, providing development resources, functional expertise (processes and workflows) and community organizing
- Index Data: A boutique software development and services organization with two decades of experience in library open source software, Index Data leads FOLIO's architectural design and initial development efforts.
- EBSCO: A family-owned business dedicated to open source and the principles of choice in library technology, EBSCO will fund the FOLIO platform

And most importantly, the library community at large.

"FOLIO represents a true partnership between libraries and vendors in which we are each making real substantive contributions based on our unique strengths. With FOLIO, the future is open: open to new relationships, open to true collaboration and open to capacities that will enable libraries to achieve our mission of service to users. For the first time, libraries will not only be customers but investors with vendor partners in defining the future of library systems."

David Carlson,
Dean of University Libraries at Texas A&M University

Platform attributes

- Open source: Provided under an Apache 2 license, anyone may download, change or use the software for any purpose — personal, academic or commercial, **free of charge**
- Modern: Cloud-based, multi-tenant, built around an open knowledge base and linked data, the FOLIO platform supports the management of electronic and print resources
- Flexible deployment options: The FOLIO platform may be hosted by services providers, by vendors such as EBSCO, by consortia offices, or run in a locally available infrastructure at any library
- Modular: Snap-in modules (apps) can be contributed by libraries or vendors
- Extensible: Anyone can build on, or extend, the platform into other areas such as research administration, campus ERP, business intelligence and more – either as open source or for a fee
- Community-based: A unique collaboration of the community at large: OLE, libraries and vendors
- Open: Each library has the choice of applications and workflows — never a forced suite of services from a single vendor

Services

The software will be completely free and any library may host and operate the FOLIO platform locally. Yet, given the complexity of a multi-tenant solution, only very large libraries (or consortia) with sophisticated technical resources ultimately decide to deploy with this approach. The FOLIO community encourages and expects a variety of vendors to offer hosting and support services. For example, FOLIO Services by EBSCO offers migration, hosting, implementation and data services to libraries that do not have the resources to do these things on their own.

For the first time,
libraries can have
a “best of breed”
environment with
a single point of
contact for service
and support.

A successful, multi-tenant, next-generation, open source LSP will result in:

- Greatly lowered annual ILS licensing and support costs, freeing up library funds for information resources and/or other library technology
- Improved products through increased library involvement in the development process, and more innovation than exists in the current LSP/ILS marketplace
- More choices for libraries based on their particular needs, challenging existing forced-packaging practices related to ILS and discovery services

Join the community

Help shape the future of the open source LSP project. Join at www.folio.org

