

Open Source Software for the Faint of Heart

The promise of better quality, higher reliability, more flexibility
and end to predatory vendor lock-in.

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Open Source as Alternative Directory www.osalt.com

Directory of open source software alternatives to proprietary or commercial software.

Ubuntu (operating system) www.ubuntu.com

A user friendly flavour of Linux. The open source equivalent of Microsoft Windows.

Ubuntu Forums (<http://www.ubuntuforums.org>)

The Ubuntu community is friendly and supportive toward new users. If you're having trouble, ask for help on this official support forum and someone will try to assist you.

Extend the use of older machines by using them as thin client public workstations for email/internet/OPAC. Watch the 5 minute video "Ubuntu @ the Library" on Youtube to see how easy it is to install.

Firefox (web browser) www.mozilla.com/firefox

A web browser that can be customized and extended in many ways.

Use search shortcuts on the reference desk. For people working on call, load Firefox on a flash drive (portableapps.com) and bring your links and use search shortcuts to whichever reference desk you are working on.

Firefox add-ons addons.mozilla.org/firefox

- **Adblock Plus** (<http://adblockplus.org>)

Removes advertisements from web pages.

- **del.icio.us bookmarks** (<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/3615>)

Integrate your browser with your del.icio.us bookmarks account.

- **Sage** (<http://sage.mozdev.org>)

Read RSS feeds in your browser.

- **Zotero** (<http://www.zotero.org>)

A powerful citation management system (like RefWorks or EndNote, but built right into your browser). Excellent for capturing web pages.

- **LibraryLookup**

(<http://weblog.infoworld.com/udell/stories/2002/12/11/librarylookup.html>)

If a web page URL contains an ISBN, LibraryLookup will run a search for that ISBN in your library catalogue.

Wordpress wordpress.org (Also Scriblio scriblio.net)

An extremely versatile blog publishing system.

It can also be used as a simple content management system (CMS) for quickly building attractive websites. Scriblio, adapted from Wordpress, is both a CMS and OPAC with faceted search functionality.

OpenOffice (word processing, spreadsheet, presentations, etc) www.openoffice.org

The open source equivalent of Microsoft Office. Includes word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, and databases.

Offer these programs on your public workstations if you don't have (or don't want to) spend the money to license MS Office.

Evergreen (integrated library system) open-ils.org

Cataloguing, circulation, reporting and OPAC functionality. Acquisitions coming in Fall 2008.

Currently used by SITKA in British Columbia (sitka.bclibraries.ca)

Pidgin (instant messaging) www.pidgin.im

An instant messaging program that can be used with MSN, AOL, Yahoo!, Google Talk, and other instant messaging networks.

Audacity (recording and editing sounds) audacity.sourceforge.net

Record and edit sound files.

Podcast author readings, record oral histories for local history collection, set up a multimedia station in library where people can create and edit sound, images and video

The GIMP (photo and image editing) www.gimp.org

Photo and image editing. A powerful (and free!) alternative to Photoshop.