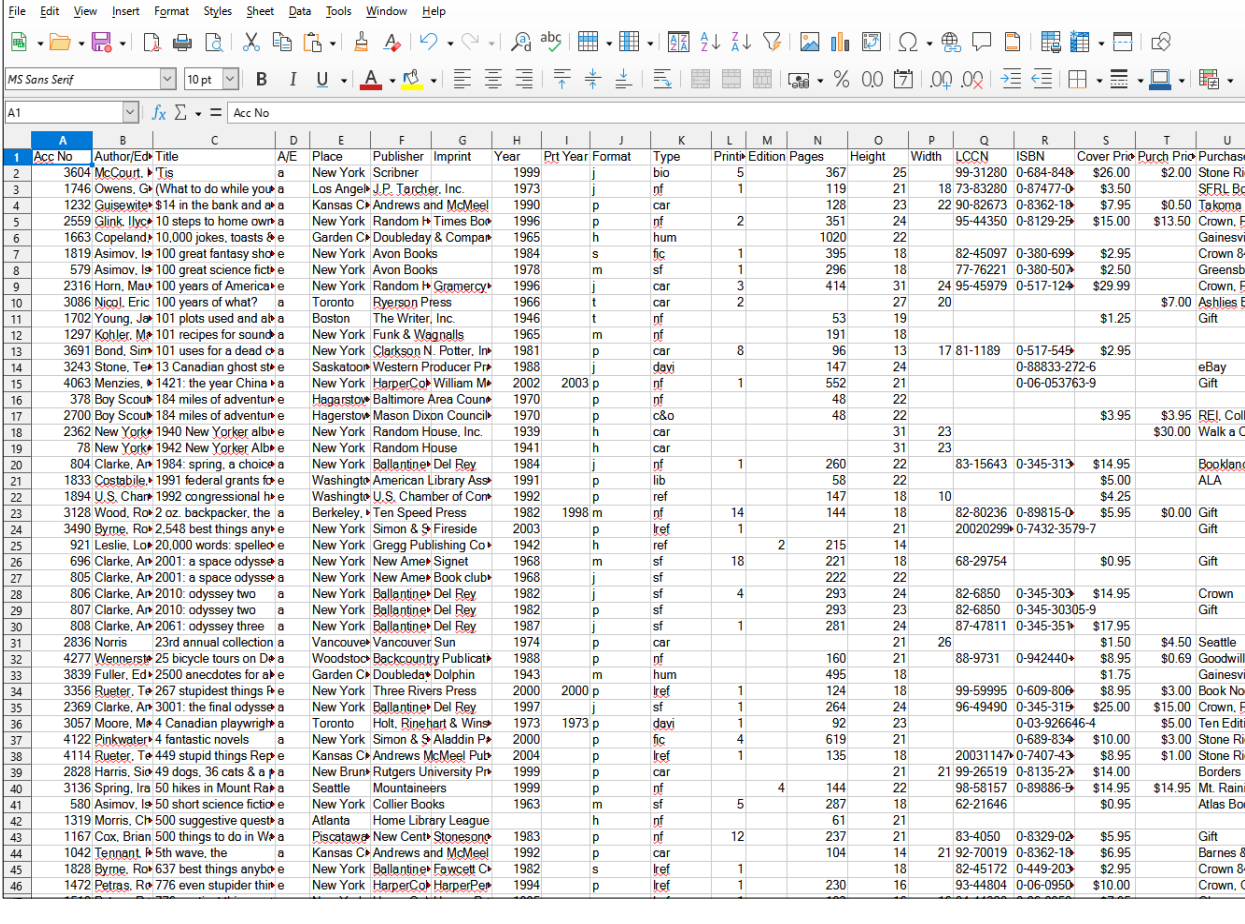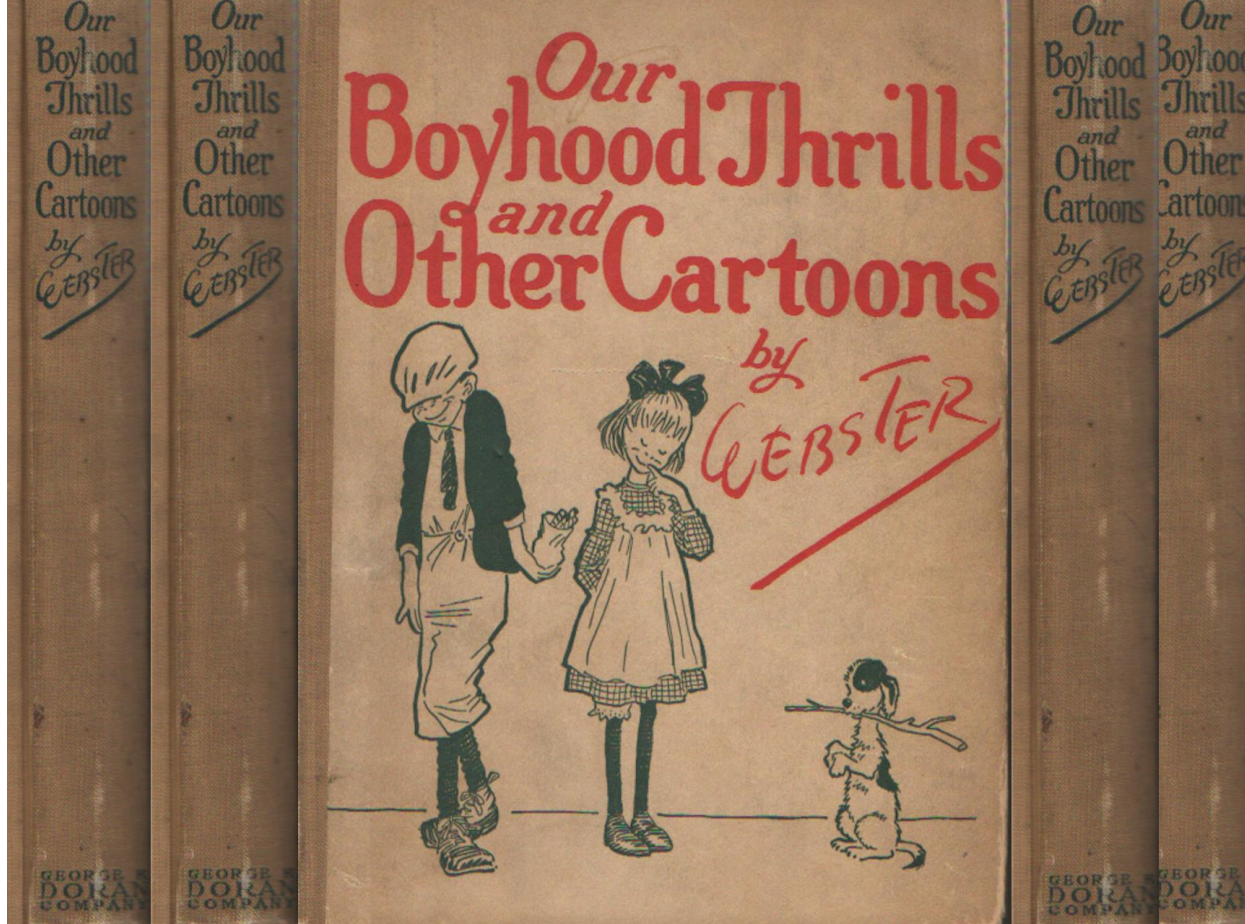# Introducing Koha

The Best Integrated Library System Ever!

okoha

Is your library catalog on a spreadsheet?

Have you accidentally purchased multiple copies? That gets expensive!

Do you "know where things are?"

Can anybody else find them?

Maybe you need an ILS!

Want a look at a barebones work in progress? See http://cheerfulvalleypl.online (not always available)

The library at the Keys Catalog of Library & Archival Materials at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is more advanced. https://keys.bywatersolutions.com/

Why Koha?
- It's free!*
- It's fully functional—comes with all the modules you need. Use one or use them all
- You can go from a Linux command line to a functioning library in an afternoon**
- Koha is used by at least 4000 libraries big and small, all over the world. Maybe 15,000—nobody really knows.
- Koha folks are friendly and helpful. Have a question? You can usually get an answer in a few hours.
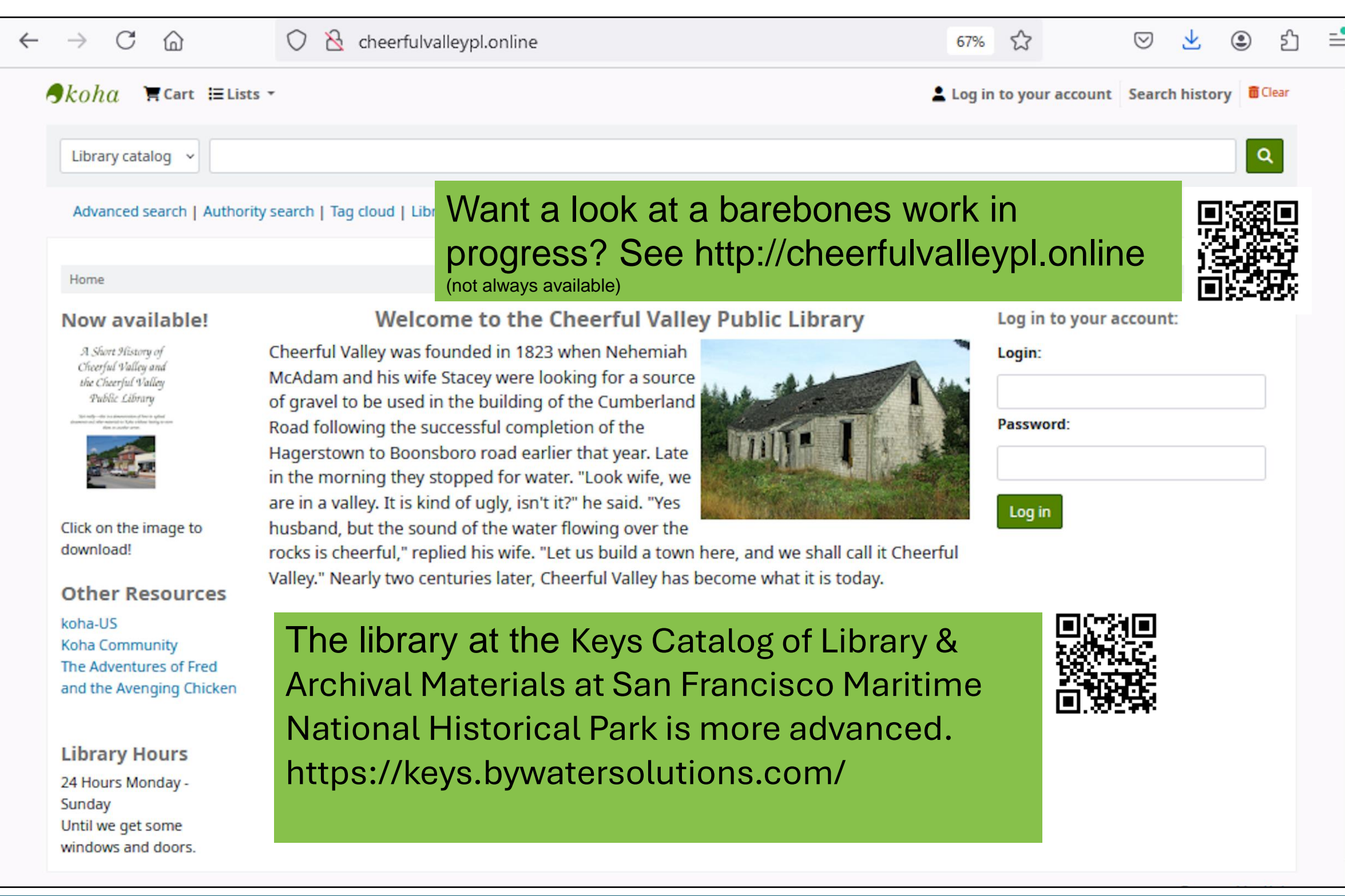
It's Open Source
- No license fee needed—just download and install
- It's secure—maintained by thousands of developers around the world; bugs are quickly found and patched
- Improvements are available to everyone. Want to make changes? Download the source code and experiment.
- If one organization sponsors a feature, everybody gets to use it!

What do you need?
- A server, 4GB RAM, 50GB hard drive for a small library
- You can run it on a cloud server for around $30 USD per month
- Or you can use a spare laptop, desktop--even a Raspberry Pi!
- You need to be comfortable working with computers, including the command line
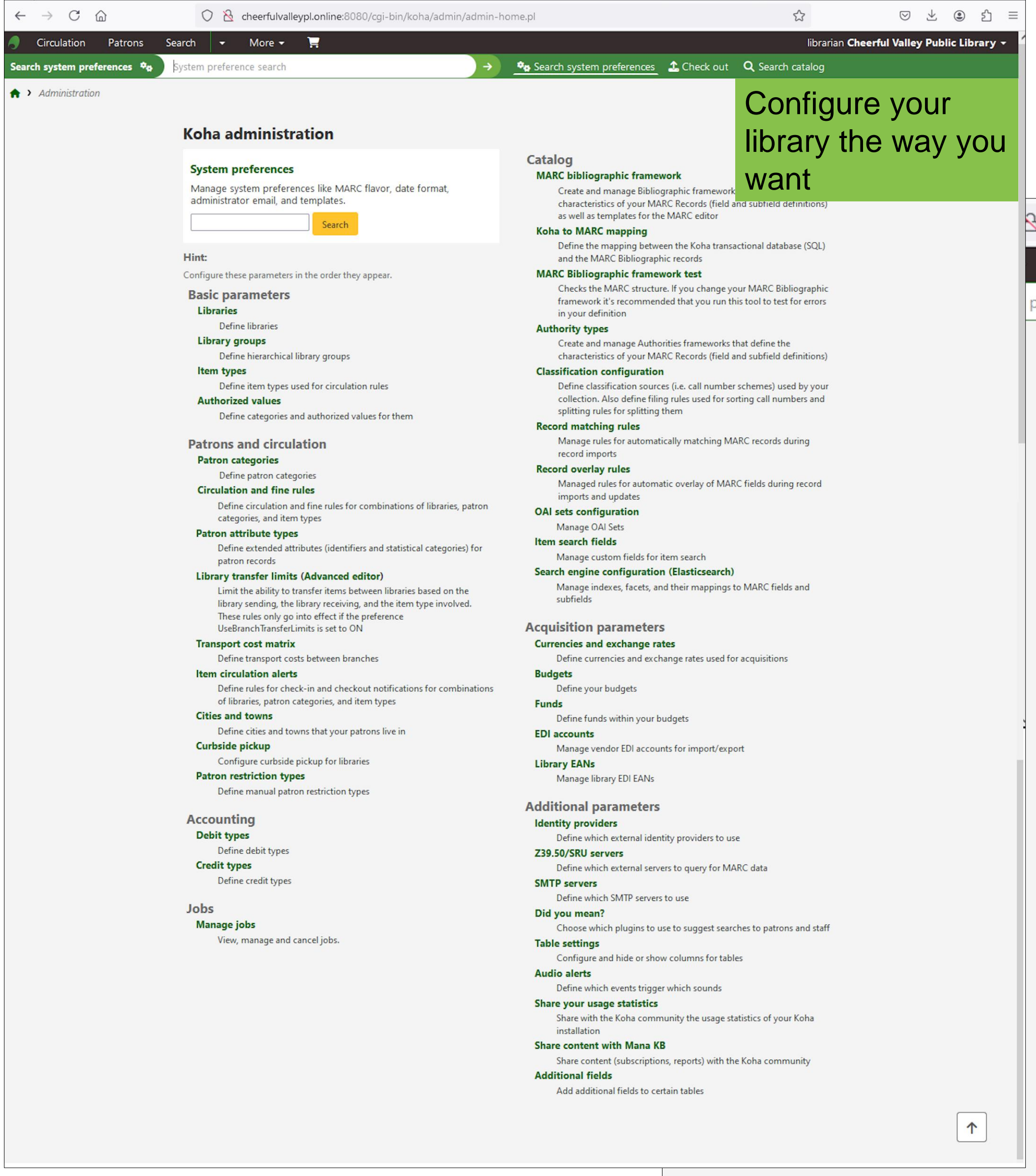- A very basic knowledge of Linux is helpful, but you'll pick it up

This is getting compli-cated. Can I get a vendor to do it for me?
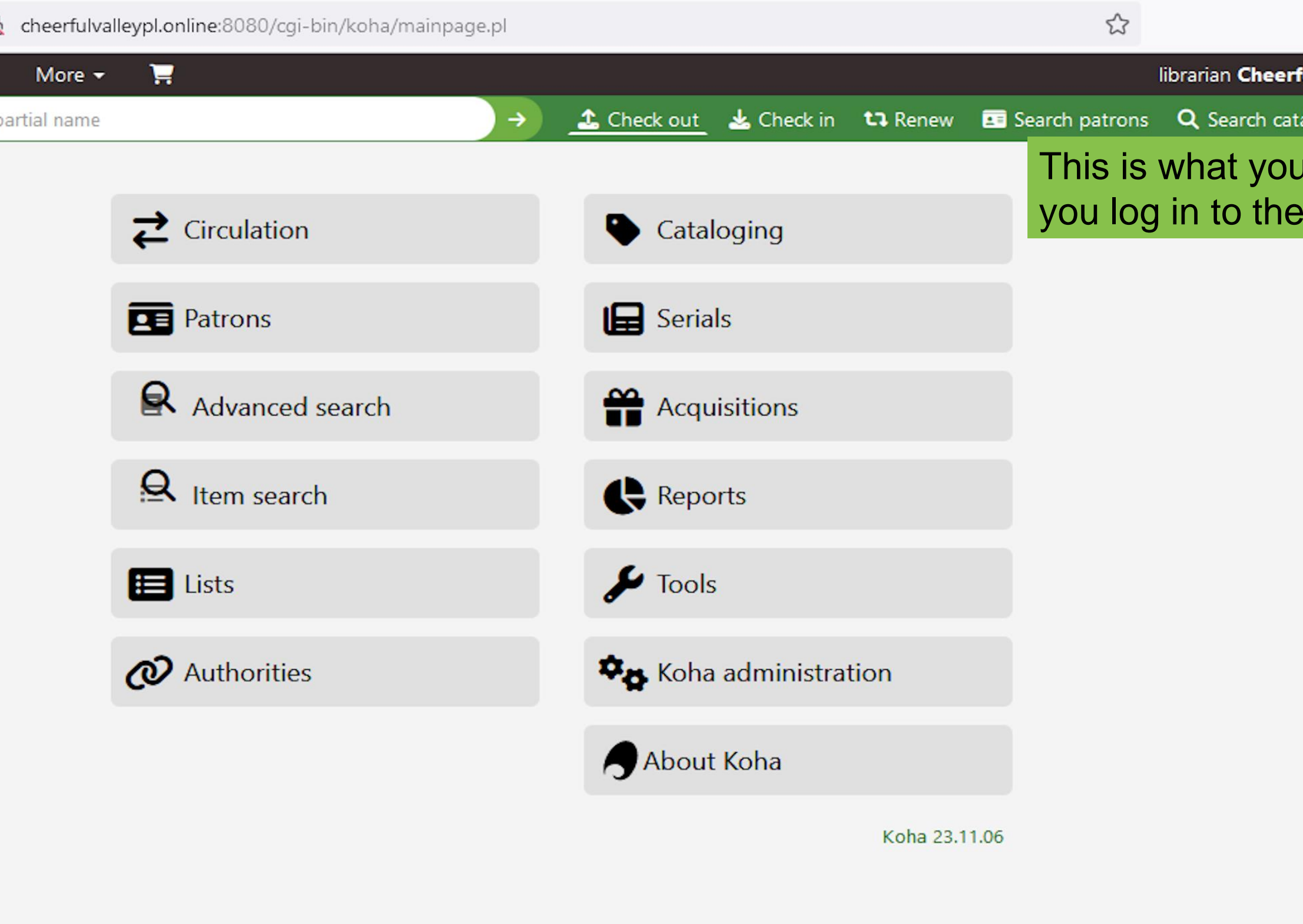- Absolutely! See koha-community.org for a list.

Koha sounds interesting. How can I learn more?
- Koha-Community has installation files, documentation, the Koha wiki, and much more. https://koha-community.org
- koha-US is the users' group for the United States, though everybody is welcome! Go to koha-US for training materials on modules, the Terrific Every-Other-Thursday Training Video series, meetings of the Special Interest Groups and the koha-US general meeting. https://koha-us.org
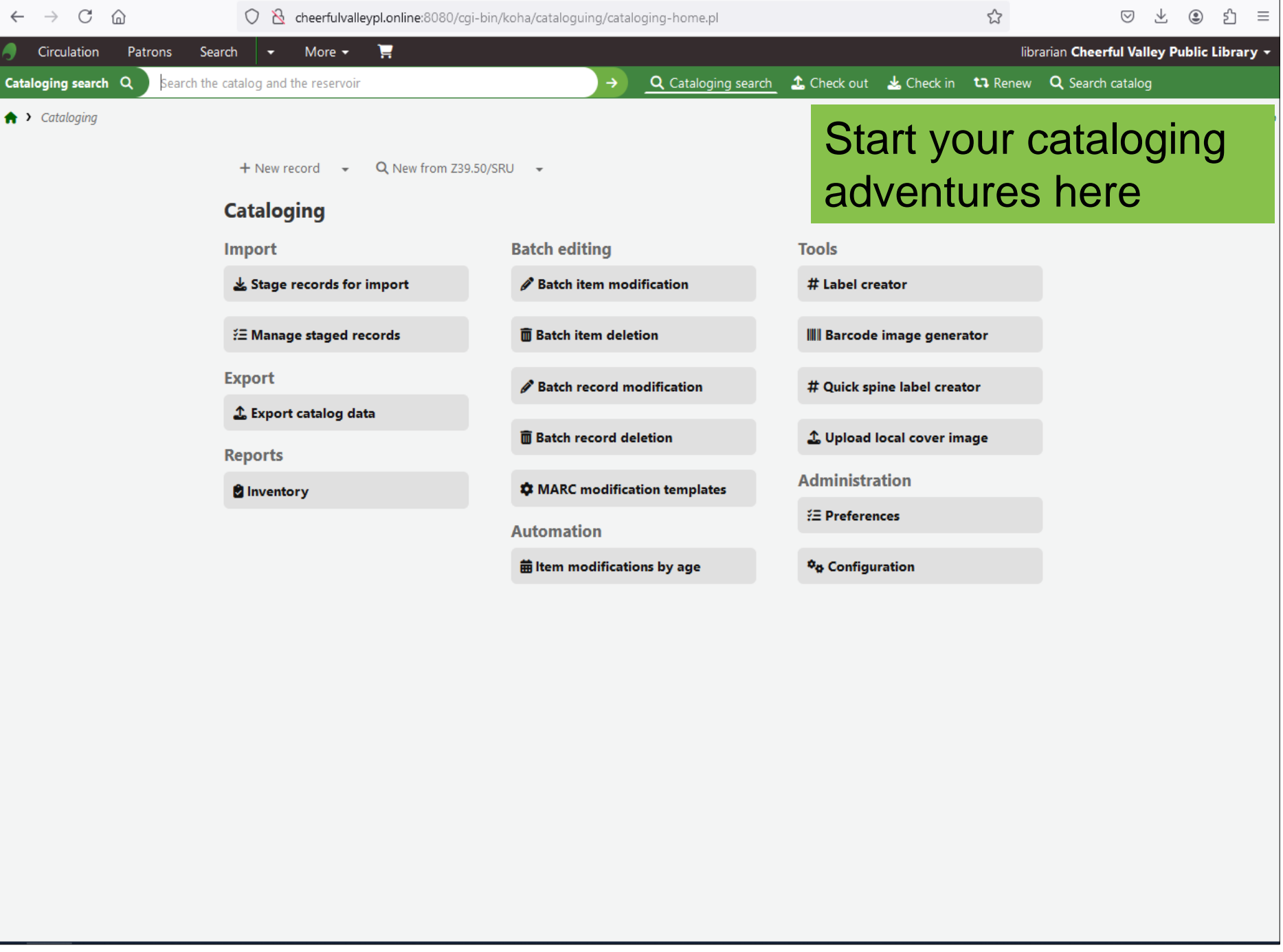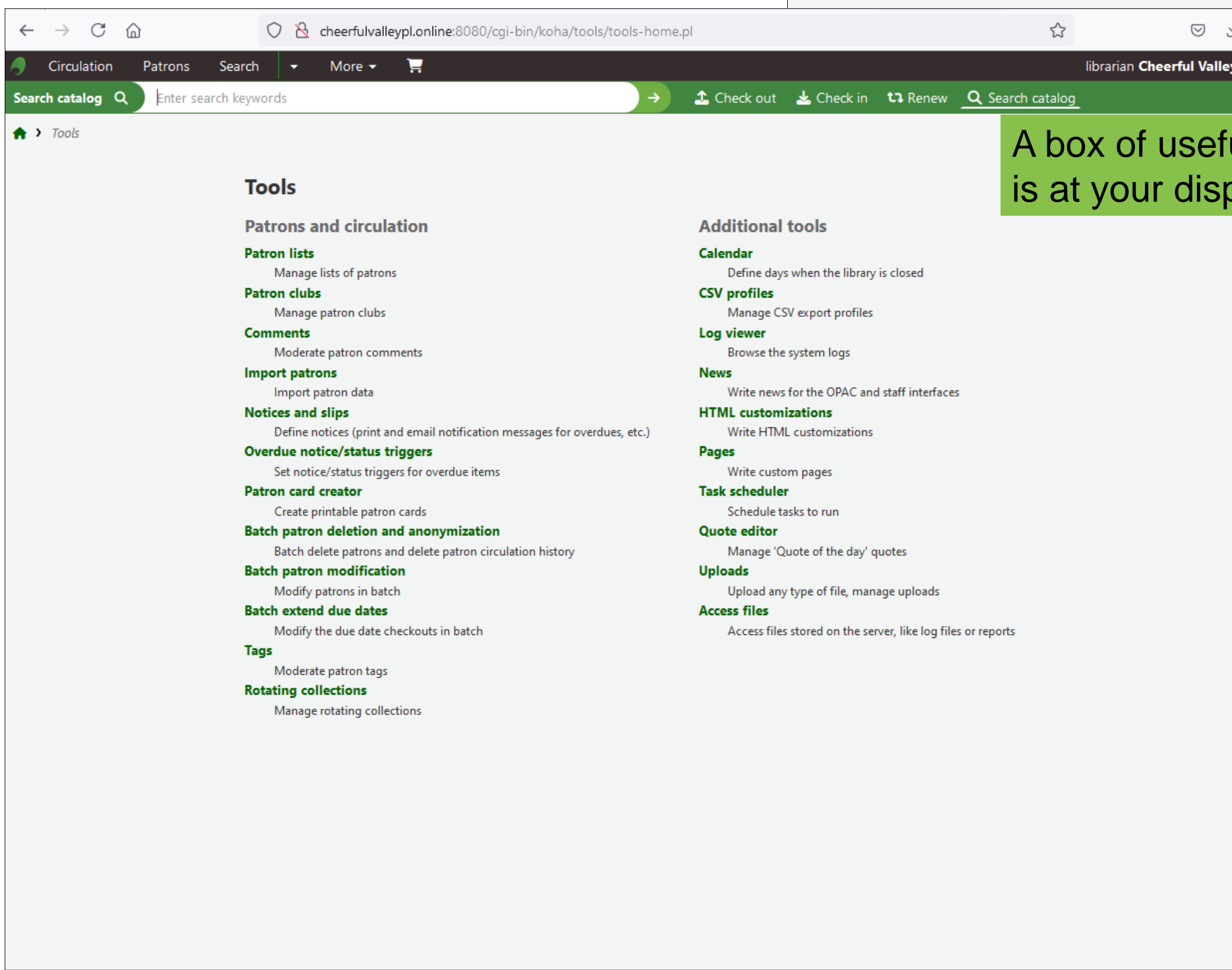

Configure your library the way you want

This is what you'll see when you log in to the staff interface
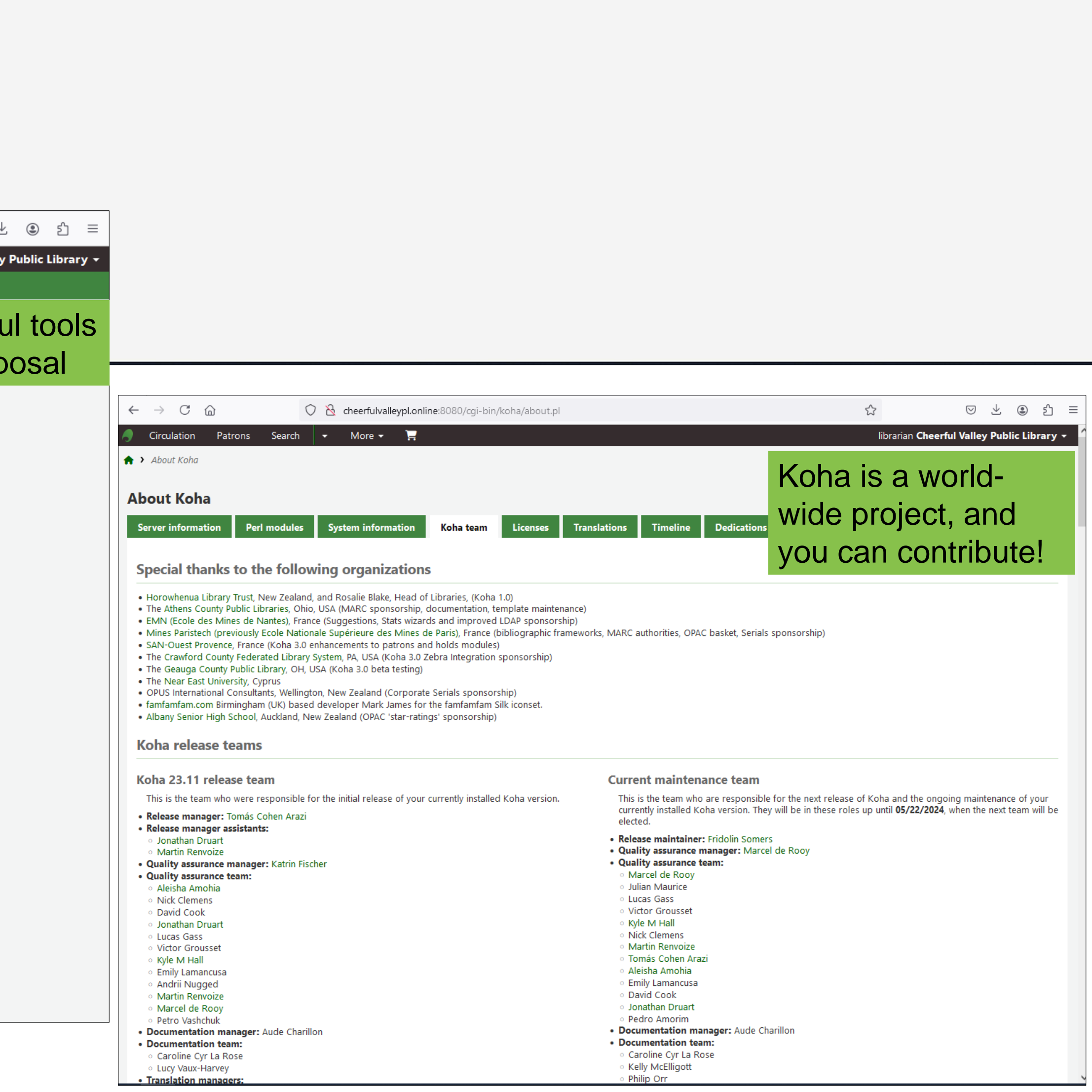
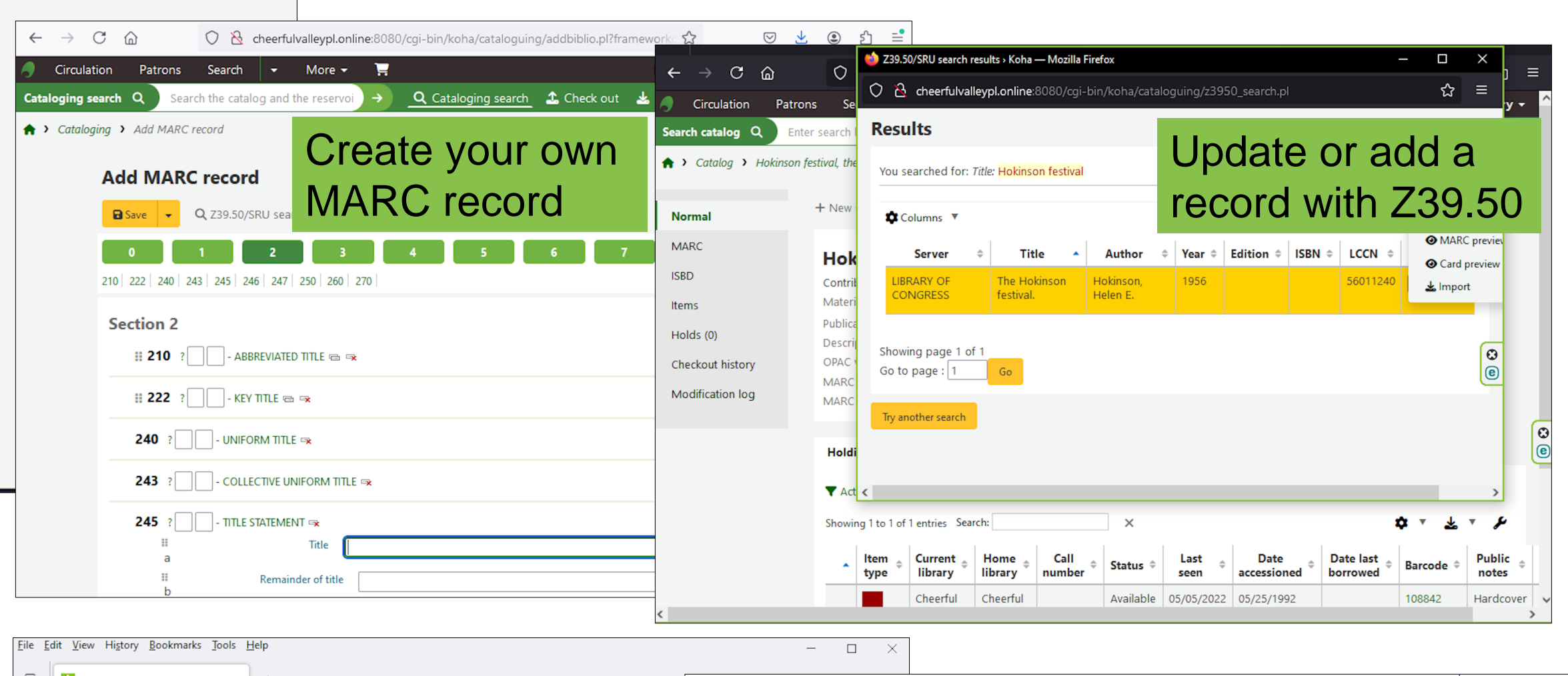## Cataloging: the heart of any ILS

Start your cataloging adventures here
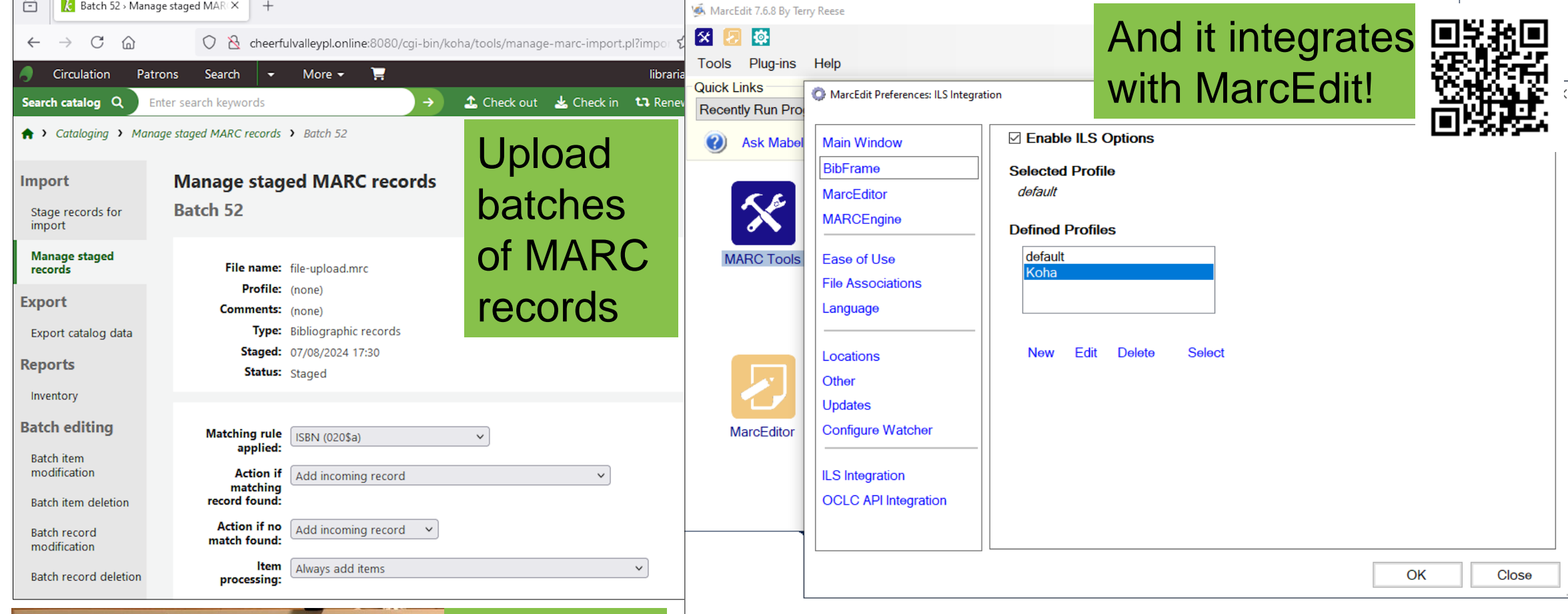

A box of useful tools is at your disposal

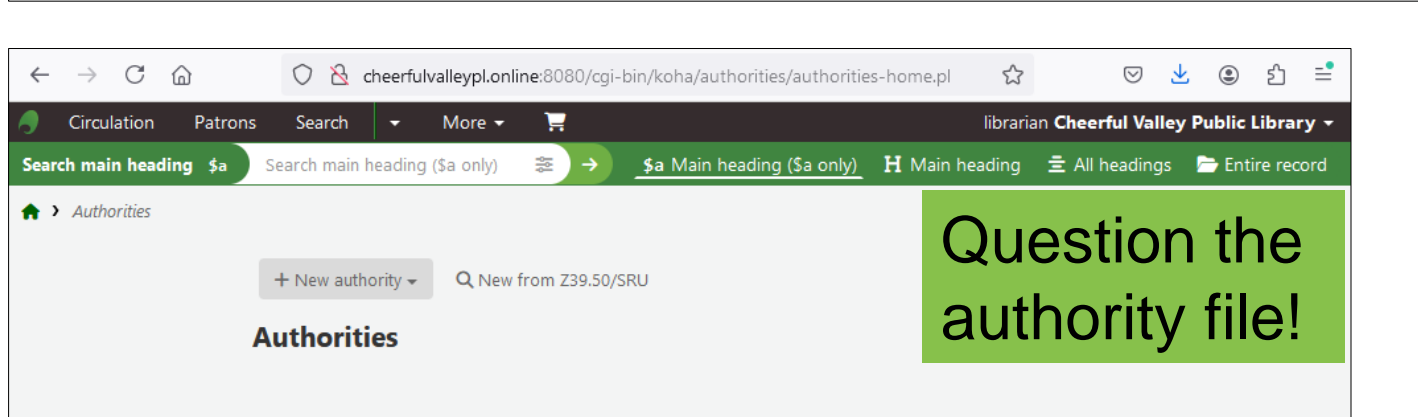Koha is a world-wide project, and you can contribute!

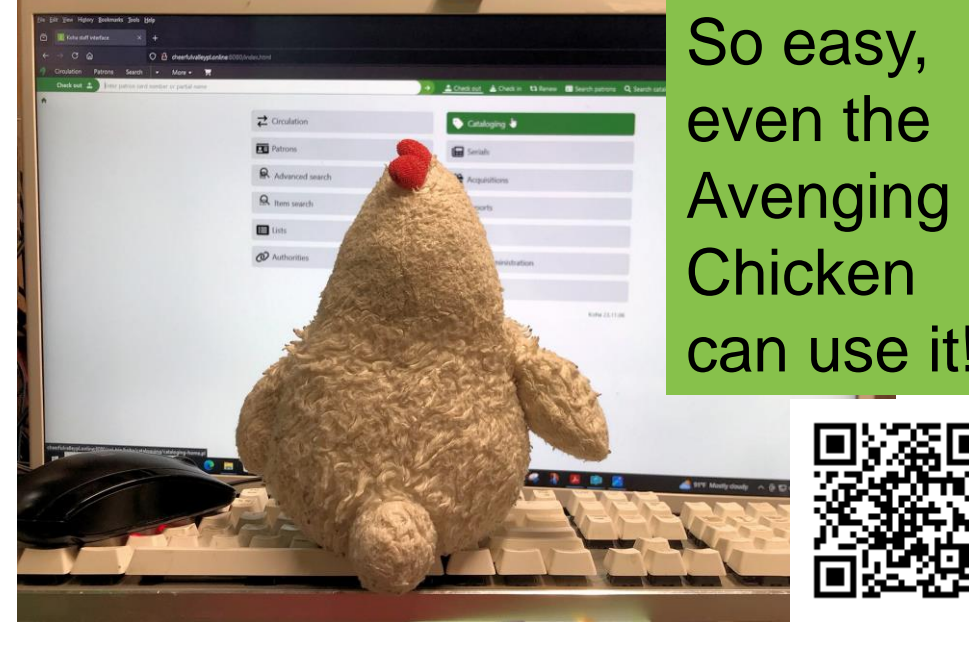Create your own MARC record

Update or add a record with Z39.50

And it integrates with MarcEdit!

Upload batches of MARC records

So easy, even the Avenging Chicken can use it!

Author: Fred King, Medical Librarian, MedStar Washington Hospital Center.
fred.king@medstar.net

Sources: koha-community.org, koha-US.org, librarytechnology.org
* As in free kittens, not free beer.
** With practice. Lots of practice.

Question the authority file!

Koha is infinitely configurable!