

ISSUES AND TRENDS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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Research Management Centre
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



**ISSUES AND TRENDS IN LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCE**

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IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar

Issues and Trends in Library and Information Science

Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar

ISBN: 978-418-004-1

Member of Majlis Pencerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia · MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Cover Design by Naser Sabri

Printed by :

IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.

No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3

Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves

Batu Caves Centre Point

68100 Batu Caves

Selangor Darul Ehsan

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CHAPTER SEVEN

**OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE
IN LIBRARIES**

**YUSHIANA MANSOR
NOMINSHAM AWANG ABU BAKAR**

Introduction

The Open Source Software (OSS) development community has grown enormously over the past decade. The systems are widely accepted and successfully adopted/adapted into many organizations, and some of these systems have been used for mission-critical purposes. Furthermore, there has been an extensive use of OSS by the government of various countries all over the world (Li et al., 2005).

According to the definition given by Open Source Initiative (www.opensource.org), open source software (OSS) allows users to have access to the source code of the software, the freedom to use the software as they see fit, modify the software to create derived work and redistribute the derivative software for free or at a charge. The users of the software could modify or use the software according to their own needs. In addition, the OSS community has legal and pragmatic arrangements to ensure the source code for an OSS development will be generally available. Open source developments usually have a central person or body that selects some subset of the developed code for the