The 2015 activities outlined in this report demonstrate just how much the project has matured in the past nine years. More than 80 individuals have contributed to the code with many others who helped with documentation. Every year, the project sees new people helping to support Evergreen through code and documentation contributions or by providing help when it is most needed. This high level of community support provides assurance to libraries that they can rely on Evergreen and that it will continue to thrive.

Seeing the Forest

Since Evergreen launched in 2006 to provide an Integrated Library System for 252 public libraries in the state of Georgia, the open-source library system has grown into a robust, fully-featured system used by approximately 1,800 libraries around the world.

The 2015 activities outlined in this report demonstrate just how much the project has matured in the past nine years. More than 80 individuals have contributed to the code with many others who helped with documentation. Every year, the project sees new people helping to support Evergreen through code and documentation contributions or by providing help when it is most needed. This high level of community support provides assurance to libraries that they can rely on Evergreen and that it will continue to thrive.

Along with the increasing number of contributors, 2015 shows an ever-growing number of libraries using the software. While most of these libraries are in the United States and Canada, Evergreen is used around the world, including in the Czech Republic, India, the Netherlands, Scotland, Mexico and the Republic of Georgia.

In surveying these libraries, many praised Evergreen for helping their libraries realize goals, for improving the service provided to patrons, and for gaining control over costs. In the end, that’s what all the new code, documentation, and community activities comes down to: enabling libraries to provide excellent service to their communities in a cost-effective manner.
About Evergreen

Evergreen is highly-scalable software for libraries that helps their users find library materials and helps the libraries acquire, manage, catalog, book, and circulate those materials to patrons no matter the size or complexity of the libraries.
With magnificent Mount Hood serving as a backdrop, 125 Evergreeners gathered in Hood River, Oregon in May 2015 for the 7th Annual Evergreen International Conference. After a full day of hacking from dawn to dusk and the documentation team, Joseph Janes, program chair for the MLIS program at the University of Washington’s iSchool, kicked off the event with his keynote address, where he challenged libraries to not just be nice, but to be critical.

What followed the keynote was 2½ days filled with learning, socializing, and petting. Program topics ran the gamut, with enough variety to be of value to end users, technical staff, developers, and administrators. The information sharing didn’t stop when sessions were done for the day. Attendees continued discussing Evergreen while playing games in the hotel lounge, dining in the many Hood River area restaurants, or enjoying banjo music on the final night. Attendees were trouncing the Portland International Airport on Saturday, July 25th, 2015.

Contributors are the lifeblood of our community. Whether they are working for a library, a vendor or committing their own time, software and documentation doesn’t write itself.
2015 Developer Hack-A-Way

Every year the developers of Evergreen gather at an event that travels around the country called the Hack-A-Way. It’s their opportunity to sit in the same room and work out the major issues that face Evergreen’s development over the next year.

Twenty code contributors gathered at the headquarters of the North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE) in November for the annual meetup that allows developers to continue the momentum they develop at the annual conference. During the 2015 hack-a-way, topics included the new web-based client, work on an Android app for Evergreen, feature directions for search, and growing contributors in the Evergreen community.

Community Bug Squashing Days
March 2, June 10, December 10
- 15 new bug fixes submitted for review
- 55 proposed bug fixes tested / reviewed
- 25 bug fixes merged to Evergreen

Documentation Hackfests
March 6 & September 10
- 15 contributions documenting new Evergreen features

Test Writing Day
August 14
- 2 new Quality Assurance tests written

In fact the Hack-A-Way is only one way that the Evergreen community mobilizes itself. Here are a few of the others.

Did you know?
20 new code contributions were merged to Evergreen during the 2015 hack-a-way.

The Evergreen community sponsored its first-ever exhibit at the American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco last June. Community volunteers staffed the booth throughout the four-day conference, demonstrating the software to others in the library community, telling people about the open-source community, and talking to existing Evergreen users about how to get the most out of the community.

The booth was supported through donations and through the expenditure of community funds.

Ron Gagnon, Executive Director of the North of Boston Library Exchange, was one of three panelists on the Open-source: View from the Top panel, where he described the benefits his consortium has seen from using open-source software.

Grace Dunbar, Vice President of Equinox Software, Inc., participated on the LITA Top Tech Trends panel where she identified growth of open-source software and the use of open-access APIs as her two trends.
Evergreen International

60 new locations using Evergreen

Nearly 1,800 locations using Evergreen

Over 50,000,000 service population

In 2016 we did our first annual community survey. That information was used to supply a lot of the information used here. Since Evergreen can be downloaded and used without any central registry it’s impossible to know everyone using it and everywhere it is used. Therefore we know that these numbers are conservative and don’t reflect the true size of the user base.

North America
North America continues to have the largest base of Evergreen installs with a large number of consortiums in the United States and Canada as well as installations in Mexico.

Scotland
Scotland is home to a public library consortium and we hope to see a bit more growth of Evergreen through the United Kingdom.

Europe
The Czech Republic is home to multiple Evergreen installations who have been active community members and translators of Evergreen. Additionally, the International Institute of Social History in the Netherlands uses Evergreen.

India
The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research uses Evergreen. As one of the fastest growing populations in the world we’re thrilled to see Evergreen growing there as well.

Middle East
Although we don’t know of any Evergreen installations in the Middle East yet we have seen several papers come out from the region recommending the move to open-source ILSes.

Republic of Georgia
An academic consortium of Evergreen libraries is active in Tbilisi and includes their own in-house developers.
SPOK, the Czech Evergreen Common Catalog

Photos are of the Jabok Library and many thanks to the library for letting us profile them in this annual report.

BY EVA CERNINAKOVA, LINDA JANSOVA AND VACLAJ JANSA

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011 (by the way, it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five). Back then Evergreen replaced the outdated ILS which would automated prior to joining SPOK in 2015. Automation was difficult to achieve with limited funds. In 2015 the Catholic Youth Hostel Library opened a branch in the city of Jabok. Jabok Library has 2.5 FTE and all of its employees are professional librarians, the Catholic Youth Hostel Library has currently 0.33 FTE and no professional librarian.

From a legal point of view, SPOK is a Czech acronym standing for Common Catalog (SPOolecny Katalog). It went live on September 10th, 2015. So far it is probably one of the smallest of Evergreen common catalogs (or consortia in Evergreen parlance). SPOK currently involves two libraries – Jabok Library (http://knihovna.jabok.cuni.cz/, in Czech only) and the Catholic Youth Hostel Library (http://lada.cz/op/knihovna, in Czech only). SPOK provides access to about 36 thousand holdings. Over 85 percent of them belong to Jabok Library and the rest of them are housed in the Catholic Youth Hostel Library. Jabok Library holdings focus on areas such as social work, pedagogy, psychology, ethics of theme. Catholic Youth Hostel Library holdings cover mostly general topics and – unlike Jabok Library – about 15 percent fiction.

The two libraries have about eleven hundred patrons. About 66 percent of them are Jabok Library patrons and the remaining 33 percent are the Catholic Youth Hostel Library patrons. Jabok Library has 2.5 FTE and all of its employees are professional librarians, the Catholic Youth Hostel Library has currently 0.33 FTE and no professional librarian.

If asked for the best feature of Evergreen, we would say it is being open-source and available for free. Furthermore, it is the only Evergreen enabled of interlibrary collaboration. Evergreen’s various features to our localization files but also to “translate” directly translate not only words from international Evergreen community.

We try to be as active members in the international Evergreen community as possible. We try to keep the Czech translations as current and accurate as possible, report bugs when we come across them and help our fellow Evergreeners. We also appreciate help from others to come across them and help out fellow Evergreeners. We also appreciate help from other members of the community. We try to cooperate as much as possible.

Experience gained from the creation of SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

As a result, Jabok library submitted a grant proposal asking for funding for the creation of SPOK. In early 2015 the grant was awarded. On September 10th, 2015, SPOK went live. Since then it is available as a viable option for Jabok Library employees and the Catholic Youth Hostel Library employees to communicate, in person, with e-mails and phone calls or the Czech Evergreen DokuWiki, and make decisions necessary for the operation of SPOK.

To conclude, Evergreen is an ILS we are extremely satisfied with. It enables us to automate without any limitations which are so common for the commercial (closed source) LSES. Here where other systems might require us to purchase even more modules which would otherwise have to pay their fines in cash could opt for bringing warm socks instead. These socks were then given to the homeless people as part of the Prague Outdoors Night campaign. Once in a while it is necessary to determine whether all holdings are still in the library. For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelesness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelessness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelessness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelessness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelessness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelessness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.

For this purpose we have successfully used tools from the description of inventory procedures in Jabok’s training manual.

Jabok Library has used Evergreen since 2011. The way it went live on September 5th when Evergreen itself turned five, Jabok then upgraded the outdated ILS, which would have been too costly to upgrade and – more importantly – would not permit the library to be entirely self-sufficient. Evergreen documentation mentions food for homelessness. Moreover, the description of inventory procedures in Sitka’s training manual.

SPOK was shared with fellow librarians at the annual Evergreen seminar held in September 2015 and – in more detail – at the Today’s Libraries conference held in October that year.
Many thanks to the following individuals who helped create the Evergreen 2015 Annual Report

Grace Dunbar, Equinox Software
Ruth Frasur, Hagerstown - Jefferson Township Library
Rogan Hamby, Equinox Software
Kathy Lussier, MassLNC
Christine Morian, Noble
Amy Terlaga, Bibliomation
Eva Cerninakova, Linda Manssova and Vaclav Jansa, Spolecny Katalog

We would also like to recognize those who served on the Evergreen Oversight Board in 2015

Grace Dunbar, Equinox Software
Ruth Frasur, Hagerstown - Jefferson Township Library
Rogan Gagnon, Noble
Rogan Hamby, Equinox Software

Andrea Buntz, Kent County Public Library
Chris Sharp, Georgia Public Library Service
Maduko Montgomery, Sunbury Community Library
Sharon Herbert, British Columbia Libraries Cooperative
Kathy Lussier, MassLNC
Ben Shum, Bibliomation

Credits for photos used:
Rogan Hamby, 2014 Hack-A-Way, pg. 1
Kathy Lussier, ALA, pg. 1 and pg. 8; 2015 Hack-A-Way, pg. 7
Buzzy Nielsen, Dinner at 2015 Conference, pg. 1
Ben Shum, Penguin at 2015 Conference, pg. 1
Tim Spindler, 2014 Conference, pg. 1
Elizabeth Thomsen, Mount Hood, pg. 6
Jabok Library photos provided by staff at SPOK

All clipart used in producing the annual report is in the public domain.

In 2015 work began in earnest on the development of a web accessible application. The underlying websocket work was completed which will allow long-lived connections, reduce network data message size, and reduces the overall amount of messages required for API calls by leveraging streaming API responses. The WebSocket work, while not visible to the user, is a critical infrastructure component to the web rewrite which will ensure the new Evergreen web client is more responsive than ever.

The Cataloging module was also completely rewritten and tested last year. As of all in 2015, in total of 316 separate commits for the web staff client were committed to the master codebase. More information on both of these can be found at the Evergreen community Wiki at http://wiki.evergreen-ils.org/doku.php?id=dev:browser_staff:dev_sprints:1 and http://wiki.evergreen-ils.org/doku.php?id=dev:browser_staff:dev_sprints:2

Work in 2016 will focus on reporting, administration, serials, and acquisitions with the hope that the first version of the full web client will be available for the Spring 2017 timed Evergreen release.

Grace Dunbar, Equinox Software
Ruth Frasur, Hagerstown - Jefferson Township Library
Amy Terlaga, Bibliomation
Rogan Hamby, Equinox Software
Kathy Lussier, MassLNC
Christine Morian, Noble
Amy Terlaga, Bibliomation
Eva Cerninakova, Linda Manssova and Vaclav Jansa, Spolecny Katalog

The development for the two most complex and heavily used areas of the software has been completed and tested. As the first area to be rewritten in the AngularJS framework, the Circulation module underwent rigorous testing and bug fixing in 2015.

The Cataloging module was also completely rewritten and tested last year. As of all in 2015, in total of 316 separate commits for the web staff client were committed to the master codebase. More information on both of these can be found at the Evergreen community Wiki at http://wiki.evergreen-ils.org/doku.php?id=dev:browser_staff:dev_sprints:1 and http://wiki.evergreen-ils.org/doku.php?id=dev:browser_staff:dev_sprints:2

Work in 2016 will focus on reporting, administration, serials, and acquisitions with the hope that the first version of the full web client will be available for the Spring 2017 timed Evergreen release.
“Evergreen has allowed us to provide improved service while controlling costs and given our libraries a voice in development, while knowing no vendor can terminate our use of the software.”
- Ron Gagnon, NOBLE

“The Evergreen ILS continues to serve as a significant tool in realizing our goals of improving resource sharing, reducing subscription costs, and building communities for Indiana libraries.”
- Anna Goben, Evergreen Indiana

“Prospective members continue to be surprised at the functionality Evergreen offers.”
- Scott Thomas, PAILS