

To Build or to Buy: The Tale of the Library à la Carte™ Project

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- Create and manage course and subject guides
- Add Web 2.0 elements like videos, RSS, chat
- Reuse and copy content
- Collaborate and share guides
- Publish and archive guides with a click
- Browse guides by tags, subjects, or course

Open Source Software Benefits

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|--|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Customization, flexibility and freedom | No vendor lock-in | Participation in development |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|

Open Source Software Costs

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|---|---|--|
| No yearly subscription or licensing fee | Low start-up implementation and upgrade costs | Added training, support, maintenance costs |
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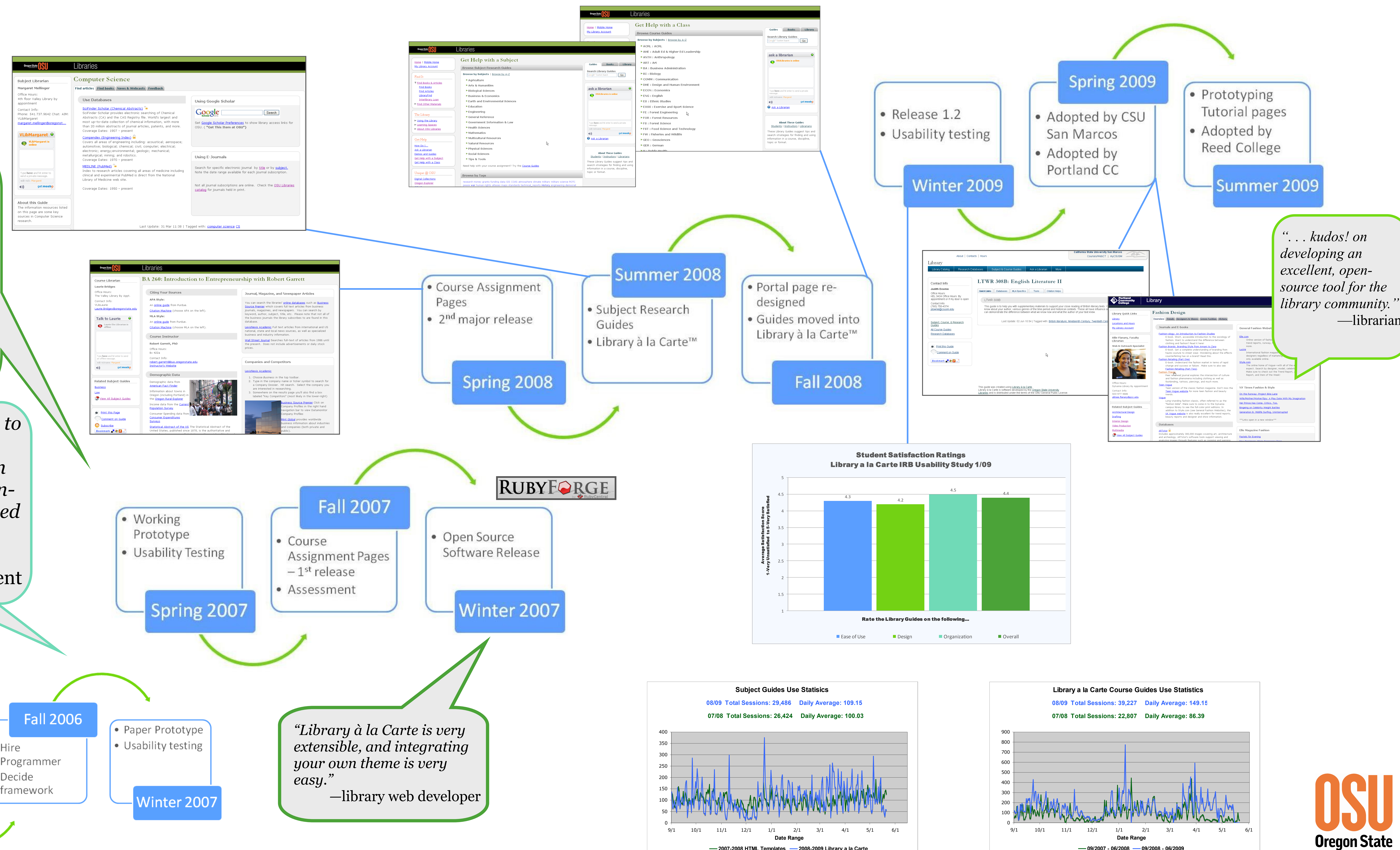
Open Source Software Challenges

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Building community, governance | Hosting and technical knowledge | Level of support and responsibility |
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"Her website has saved me countless precious hours of research due to the organizational effectiveness of the website."
— student

"It was very nice to have one source that I could begin with to find the information I needed to complete my assignment."
—student

"Library à la Carte is very extensible, and integrating your own theme is very easy."
—library web developer



If you build / adopt Open Source Software (OSS), you will:	If you buy or subscribe to vendor software, you will:
Require server access and technical knowledge	Need little technical infrastructure and/or technical skills
Reduce dependence on vendors	Usually have a more stable and mature software
Have access to code	Be restricted in your access to code
Be able to customize and extend the software	Rely on vendor's feature development schedule
Have total control of your own data	Have limited access to data and reuse options
Avoid yearly subscription fees	Have a predictable cost model
Contribute to and influence future development	Depend on vendor's upgrade schedule
Rely on community-driven support and training	Expect that support is covered in fee structure