

Theme: Shanghai library FOLIO project

Time: March 29, 2022 07:00pm (EST) / March 30, 2022 08:00am (GMT+8)

Attendees:

Vincent Bateau (Enterprise Architect, EBSCO)

Gang Zhou (Project manager, Shanghai library)

Lucy Liu (Product Owner, Folio China)

Notes:

1. Do you have any latest updates of Springway? (Gang Zhou)

Vince:

- The status has not changed since last time [we discussed Spring Way].
- Spring Way is active in the sense that it's still a valid way to develop code and we have some teams on folio developing with Spring Way. It's a recommended approach for new module development.
- It is a little bit incomplete as a framework option in the sense that the documentation is not as complete as RMB and it doesn't have any links in the documentation on the folio documentation site. It needs to have a better sample application as well.
- One of the teams was considering taking the RMB sample application and converting it to a Spring Way sample application.

Gang Zhou: What has been the main development method in folio so far?

Vince:

- Historically, manual development of modules has always been an option. But frameworks can be used.
- A framework like RMB or Spring Way makes the development work easier because it will consume your declarations of interfaces and apis. It will consume your schema definitions and create coding stubs for you to fill out.
- That was always the case with RMB. You can do it with RMB or manually. The main issue with using RMB is that it's based on Vert.x. A lot of developers are not familiar with Vert.x. And it requires a different way of thinking. A significant amount of issues came up.
- Back in the day when we first looked at folio, there were two different ways to create declarations of apis: RAML and Swagger. FOLIO chose RAML.
- At this point, RAML lost and Swagger won. And Swagger was renamed to Open API. To use one over the other, you need to have libraries as part of your framework. It's becoming more and more difficult to get libraries supporting RAML for RMB. One of the reasons to use Spring Way is to use Open API to support declarations. It's friendlier to developers who are familiar with Spring Boot and other Spring components.
- So Spring Way is the future; while RMB is the past.

2. Which observability solution does FOLIO tend to use? Prometheus or OpenTelemetry ? (Gang Zhou)

Vince:

- The open source code and the FOLIO project/community doesn't really use any observability because it's simply a project and does not implicitly have any running system and doesn't concern itself with any real production folio installations.

- There are some old legacy hooks that were put into Okapi to do some early experiments with metrics. But I wouldn't rely on those right now. I think there are some observability hooks that have been added recently, but they are not part of the mainstream and are not part of the FOLIO project.
- There has been an interest at various organizations in doing observability with Prometheus and OpenTelemetry. For FOLIO, at this time we are looking into OpenTelemetry at EBSCO.
- If you were to make a choice between the two, it depends on why you are looking for observability because they have different strengths:
 - Prometheus is based on a pull mechanism. It calls apis and collects the data. So it pulls data from FOLIO. Prometheus collects data for monitoring running systems.
 - OpenTelemetry is mostly about pushing data. Normally you will install an OpenTelemetry client for the different modules. And you will have to push data and have the individual modules push data into OpenTelemetry collectors. The purpose for OpenTelemetry is not so much monitoring. It's a new project and is still growing. There are early versions of monitoring capability. But the strength of OpenTelemetry is to do tracing or debugging for analysis and troubleshooting purposes.

Gang Zhou: We are using Prometheus and will keep using it if FOLIO will continue to support Prometheus.

Vince: You can use both if you want to.

3. WOLFcon Conference Updates (Lucy)

Lucy

- [WOLFcon Asia Pacific](#). Welcome to attend. A Zoom link will be shared.
- FOLIO architectural blueprint is listed as a topic for WOLFcon Conference. Access <https://wiki.folio.org/display/CC/FOLIO+at+WOLFcon> to find other proposed topics.