

Missing Regional/Local Language Search Configuration in Koha

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NEP2020 emphasizes the importance of education in regional languages, and the Government of India is actively promoting the translation and writing of books in these languages. This initiative holds great potential for libraries to diversify their collections by incorporating materials in multiple languages. However, the existing Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) search feature in Koha faces a notable challenge due to its limited number of Indian language search filters.

As of version 23.11, Koha's advanced search options provide only 6 or 7 Indian language search filters. This shortfall poses difficulties for users seeking to explore available books in languages such as Oriya, Assamese, Malayalam, Sanskrit, and others. Many libraries have opted to categorize books by language in Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS) like Koha, creating specific book types for each language. While this categorization may appear unconventional, it has been implemented to segregate books by language and generate reports based on language—a practice that may seem illogical.

To address this issue, one of the following step-by-step guide assists Koha ILMS users in configuring or creating languages not available by default. This enables a smoother browsing experience and facilitates the generation of reports on library collections based on language. It's important to note that the current language filter in the advanced search of Koha considers the language code entered in MARC 008 and 041\$a fields, as illustrated in the figure 1.

Step 1

The cataloguer must enter the language code of the book in 008 and/or 041\$a MARC field in order to search the book by its language. The standard language code for every language is available at https://www.loc.gov/marc/languages/language_code.html. In figure 1 language code 'san' is written for Sanskrit book.

The image shows a screenshot of the Koha MARC record editor. It displays several MARC fields with their respective labels and values:

- 008** ? - FIXED-LENGTH DATA ELEMENTS--GENERAL INFORMATION: The value is 240304b followed by a series of vertical bars representing a barcode and the text "00| 0 san d".
- 041** ? - LANGUAGE CODE: The value is "san".
- 045** ? - TIME PERIOD OF CONTENT: This field is currently empty.
- 047** ? - FORM OF MUSICAL COMPOSITION CODE: This field is currently empty.

Figure 1 : MARC fields to be filled with Language code

Step 2

Open the terminal in linux and enter into the mysql database by executing the following commands:

```
root@koha# mysql -uroot -p
Enter password:*****
MariaDB> use koha_library; (Database changed command)
MariaDB [koha_library]>
```

Step 3

Execute the following commnds to inject the language code and other details in concern table

(to insert the data in table **language_descriptions** execute following command)

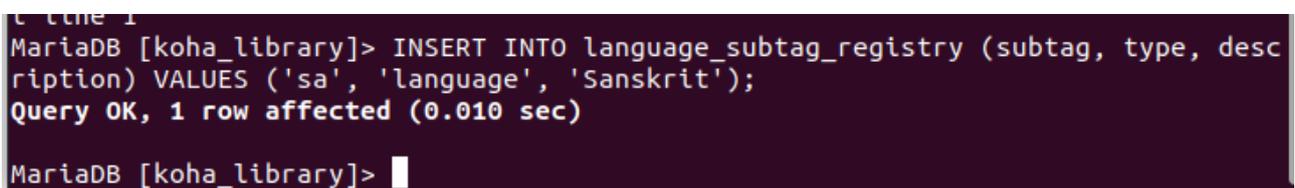
```
MariaDB [koha_library]> INSERT INTO language_descriptions (subtag, type, lang,
description) VALUES ('sa', 'language', 'en', 'Sanskrit');
```

(to insert other language data in table **language_descriptions** execute following command)

```
INSERT INTO language_descriptions (subtag, type, lang, description) VALUES ('sa',
'language', 'sa', 'संस्कृत');
```

(to insert the data in table **language_subtag_registry** execute following command)

```
MariaDB [koha_library]> INSERT INTO language_subtag_registry (subtag,
type,description) VALUES ('sa', 'language', 'Sanskrit');
```



```

MariaDB [koha_library]> INSERT INTO language_subtag_registry (subtag, type, desc
ription) VALUES ('sa', 'language', 'Sanskrit');
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.010 sec)

MariaDB [koha_library]> █
```

Figure 2: Message on succesful execution/Insert of languages descriptions

(to insert the standard code data in table **anguage_rfc4646_to_iso639** execute following command)

```
MariaDB [koha_library]> INSERT INTO language_rfc4646_to_iso639
(rfc4646_subtag,iso639_2_code) VALUES ('sa', 'san');
```

Step 4

Now check the language **Sanskrit** in advance search option under Language filter, it will display the added language as shown in the below figure.

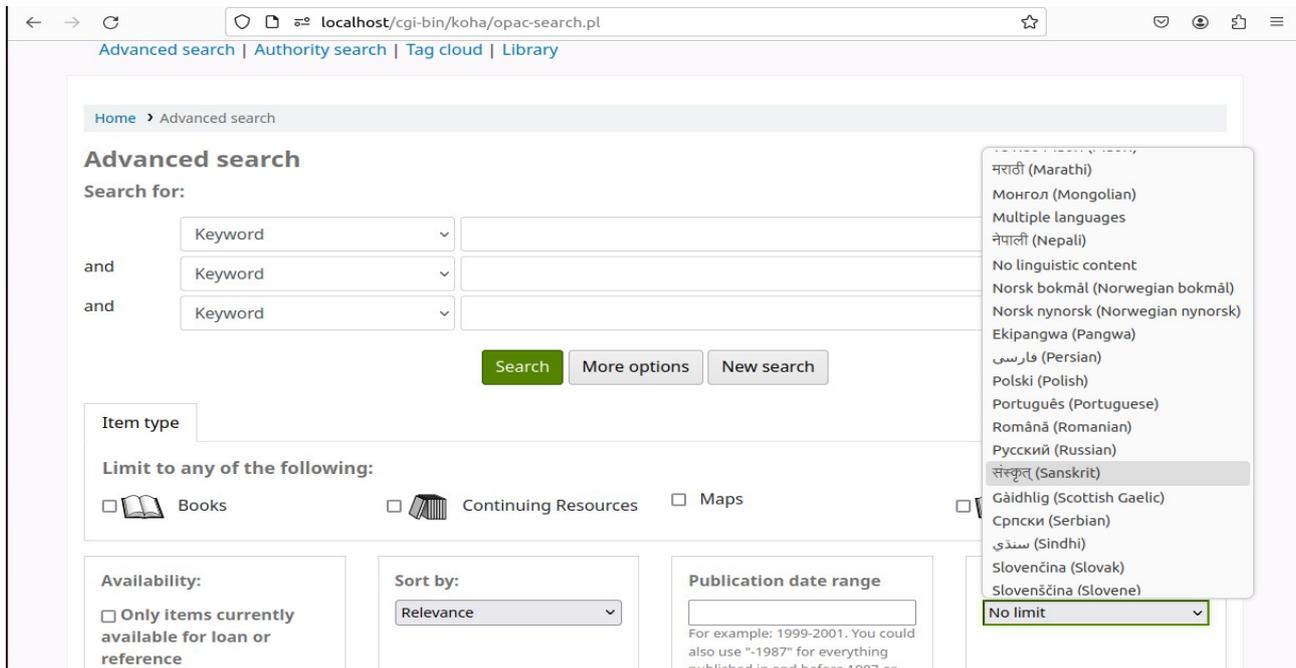
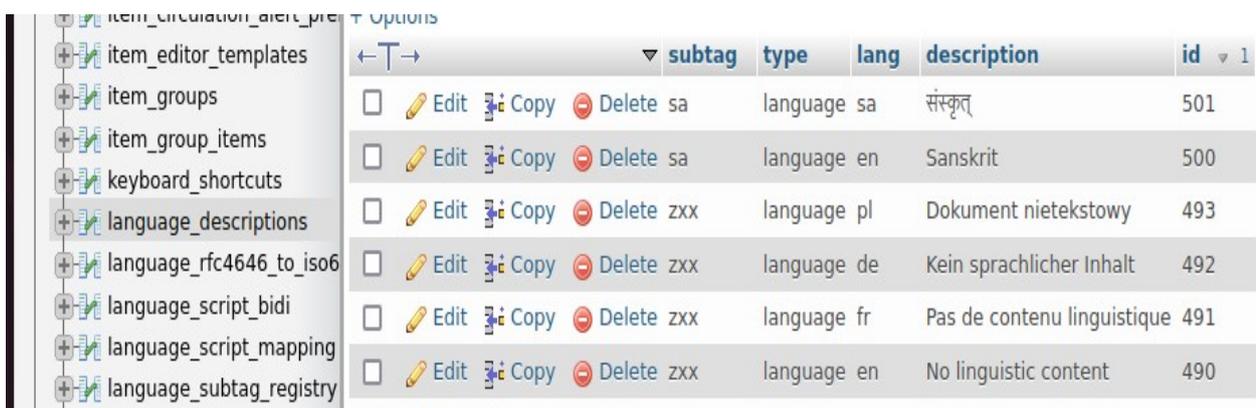


Figure 3: Language filter available in Advance search of Koha OPAC

Now, you and your users have the capability to search for books by language in the library. Librarians can also generate reports and statistics on collections available in regional or local languages.

Configuration of Language with phpMyAdmin

Those familiar with phpMyAdmin can install it and easily incorporate language codes and other descriptions into the table using the Graphical User Interface (GUI), following the commands outlined above.

The image shows a screenshot of the phpMyAdmin interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a tree view of database tables, including 'language_descriptions'. The main area displays the 'language_descriptions' table structure. The table has columns: 'subtag', 'type', 'lang', 'description', and 'id'. The table contains several rows of data, each with a checkbox, an 'Edit' button, a 'Copy' button, and a 'Delete' button. The data is as follows:

	subtag	type	lang	description	id
<input type="checkbox"/>	sa	language	sa	संस्कृत	501
<input type="checkbox"/>	sa	language	en	Sanskrit	500
<input type="checkbox"/>	zxx	language	pl	Dokument nietekstowy	493
<input type="checkbox"/>	zxx	language	de	Kein sprachlicher Inhalt	492
<input type="checkbox"/>	zxx	language	fr	Pas de contenu linguistique	491
<input type="checkbox"/>	zxx	language	en	No linguistic content	490

References:

https://www.loc.gov/marc/languages/language_code.html

<https://www.iana.org/assignments/language-subtag-registry/language-subtag-registry>

<https://bywatersolutions.com/education/koha-tutorial-searching-opac-language>