

28th February 2018

Dear Samvera Steering,

At the University of London, we have been building and hosting repositories for over 15 years, first as ULCC and more recently as CoSector. Our work so far has been largely based on EPrints, an open-source digital repository platform. We currently have over 30 customers using out hosted repositories services, and are active participants in the EPrints community here in the UK. The platform has served us well, but as customer requirements have evolved over time, we have found we needed to expand our range of services beyond the traditional 'research outputs' that EPrints is best suited to support. In 2016, we committed to building a new repository offering based on Samvera. As a repository system we feel Samvera offers more flexibility and is more able to adapt to the new requirements our customers need us to support.

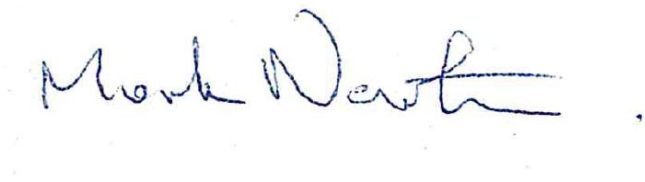
As service providers with a long-term commitment to working with open source solutions, we understand that such software is only ever as good as the community that supports it. This means we also have a long-term commitment to putting as much as we can back into the communities we work within. Our decision to work with Samvera was not based on the technology alone, but also on the strong community that supports it. Since joining that community, we have aimed to be active members, through code contributions, participating in working groups, taking part in tech calls and attending Samvera Connect in November 2017. Our Samvera Lead Developer, Julie Allinson, leads our current participation, and we have plans to expand the team over time. Julie joined us in January 2017, bringing with her several years of experience in working with Samvera. Our plan is to undertake development work for customers, contributing work back to the community whenever it is feasible, a plan we have started to implement as we work with our first customer.

Our first Samvera hosted repository will launch in early 2018 and is a digital archive of scanned publications for the King's Fund, an independent charity working to improve health and care in England. We have hosted their digital archive for several years on the EPrints platform, but EPrints is not a natural fit for their content, and the current solution is somewhat inflexible. The move to Samvera gives the King's Fund increased functionality and will allow them to grow the digital archive with new material. Work on this project has seen us develop two gems that are freely available on GitHub, one for creating and configuring new work types in Hyku and Hyrax applications and another containing importers for EPrints data and files. In addition, we have contributed enhancements to the IIF / Universal Viewer

implementations in Hyku and Hyrax and will shortly be working on IIF Search API support. We are also active in community meetings and discussions, and have joined a number of Working Groups and Interest Groups. For 2018 we will be hosting the Samvera Europe meetings.

In 2018 we will also begin to more actively market our services. We have seen a lot of interest in Samvera and have spoken with a number of potential adopters. We are confident that we will bring new members to the community, helping strengthen and develop the community in the UK and Europe.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Newton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Mark Newton

Managing Director
CoSector, University of London

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Kenworthy". The signature is bold and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave Kenworthy

Head of Software Services
CoSector, University of London