Cornell University
Library

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Thomas J. Cramer
Chief Technology Strategist
Stanford University Libraries
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Dear Hydra Steering Committee,

The Cornell University Library has a long history of commitment to collaborative approaches for meeting the needs of research libraries, as well as to openly sharing the results of our work. We see the Hydra Project and Community as a critical partner in our own strategic goal to standardize and simplify our digital repositories and workflows. Through our work on the open source VIVO project and its open community, we are already very familiar with the benefits of working collaboratively to develop software tools in support of research, scholarship, and the creative arts. Finally, given that Cornell is the original home of Fedora, a key component of the Hydra Framework, we feel a particular affinity for the Hydra Project, its approaches, and its goals.

We would therefore like to declare our intent to become a full Hydra Partner and to contribute code and effort to support the Hydra Project. We already have a number of projects that use components of the Hydra Framework or that are committed to Hydra-based development:

- The Cornell University Library Archival Repository (CULAR) is implemented using Fedora, and it is the Library's primary digital preservation repository.

- Our new Discovery and Access system (http://search.library.cornell.edu) is based on Blacklight, and we are already openly sharing code that we have developed as part of our Blacklight implementation.

- We are currently implementing a Hydra-based pilot project to replace an existing DLXS-based collection. With the experience gained in that pilot, we plan to migrate other local digital collections to the Hydra Framework.

- As part of the Mellon-funded Linked Data for Libraries project (https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/ld4l/), we plan to work together with the

Stanford University Libraries and the Harvard Library Innovation Lab to create an ActiveTriples Hydra component to allow a triplestore to serve as a repository back-end for the Hydra Framework. As part of the grant, we will hire a full-time developer for the next two years to work on Hydra-related projects.

Our Chief Technology Strategist and Director of IT, Dean B. Krafft, and our head of Repository Development and Services, Simeon Warner, will serve as our primary liaisons to the Hydra project. We anticipate that over time, several of our developers will become Hydra committers.

We look forward to working together with the Hydra Steering Committee and the many other Hydra Project Partners to collaboratively develop open software solutions to the digital repository and workflow challenges that we all share.

Thank you for considering our request to become a Hydra Partner.

Sincerely,

Anne R. Kenney
Carl A. Kroch University Librarian
Cornell University Library