

Dear Hydra Steering Committee,

The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) is honoured to be invited to join Hydra as a Partner and looks forward to working closely with the other partners to share best practice, contribute to the community, and promote the wider adoption of Hydra particularly in Europe.

DRI is Ireland's national trusted digital repository for Humanities, Social Sciences and Cultural data. The repository links together and preserves both historical and contemporary data held by Irish institutions, providing a central internet access point and interactive multimedia tools. As a national e-infrastructure for the future of education and research in the humanities and social sciences, DRI is available for use by the public, students and scholars.

Our repository, live since June 2015, is a custom Hydra head, based on Fedora 4 and Hydra 10. It has a common data model similar to PCDM that supports multiple metadata standards including Dublin Core, MODS, EAD and MARC and a wide range of file formats. We have integrated with Shibboleth authentication systems to allow access to restricted items from member institutions using their local credentials. Immediate future plans include deploying IIF and migrating our preservation format to use MOAB.

Since 2012, DRI has been active in the Hydra and the wider Open Repositories communities. Team members have attended every Hydra Connect meeting, we facilitated two Hydra Camps in Dublin as well as the inaugural Hydra Europe Symposium in 2014. Most recently we hosted OR2016 in Dublin with many Hydranauts in attendance where we showcased some of DRI's activities in this space.

While DRI has been involved and welcomed in the Hydrasphere for many years now, we feel that the time is right to 'step up' and become Hydra Partners. We look forward to contributing more to the community and helping Hydra grow in Europe and further afield.



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