

April 12, 2013

To the Hydra Project Steering Group:

Thank you for nominating Duke University Libraries as a Hydra Project Partner. We look forward to working with our colleagues on this initiative, which will not only benefit our respective users and our individual institutions, but also demonstrate the importance of working collaboratively to increase access to academic research.

One of Duke University's core principles is "knowledge in the service of society." Interwoven throughout the educational curriculum and research enterprise of the university is a culture of public engagement with real-world issues. One way the Libraries have sought to embody this value is by promoting open access to scholarly research as an institutional priority. We strongly believe that when scholarly research is freely available, it has the potential to reach more people, accelerate new discoveries, and make a bigger impact on the world.

We see the Hydra Project as an opportunity to leverage the substantial investment we and our partner institutions have already made in preserving the knowledge that is generated on our campuses and sharing it with the world.

Two of our library staff members, David Chandek-Stark and Jim Coble, are already active members of the community and have contributed code to the Hydra Project. They have publicly presented their insights and recommendations to our library staff and explained the benefits of being an active partner in the development of an open-source, common infrastructure for digital asset management.

By joining this effort, we hope to demonstrate our commitment to the goals of the Hydra Project, and we are honored to help shape the future of digital repositories.

Sincerely,



Molly Tamarkin
Associate University Librarian for Information Technology
Duke University Libraries



Jim Tuttle
Head, Digital Repository Services
Duke University Libraries