



April 9, 2015

Hydra Project Steering Group
c/o Tom Cramer, Stanford University Libraries
390 Lathrop Library, 518 Memorial Way
Stanford, California 94305-6069

Dear Hydra Steering Group:

I am writing on behalf of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) to formally express formal interest in becoming a Hydra Project Partner. Over the course of the past year, the DPLA leadership team has had several conversations with Tom Cramer regarding this matter. DPLA's executive director Dan Cohen firmly believes that a deeper commitment to the Hydra community will strengthen both DPLA's partnership with its own partners, as well as interactions between DPLA and the Hydra adopters.


DPLA's interest in the Hydra community comes from our focus as a national net-scale platform for access and reuse of digital cultural heritage. Several DPLA partners use Hydra technology stack to great success (e.g. Boston Public Library/Digital Commonwealth and the South Carolina Digital Library). We have contributed to critical areas of work in the Hydra community, such as development and maintenance of ActiveTriples, an object-graph mapper gem, and contributing to the design and modeling of the Portland Common Data Model.

As you may know, our upcoming major Hydra project, generously funded by the IMLS, and in partnership with Stanford University and Duraspace, focuses on developing an improved set of tools for content management, publishing, and aggregation for the network of DPLA Hubs. This, and other projects, will allow us to make contributions to other core components of the Hydra stack, including but not limited to Blacklight, ActiveTriples, and support for protocols like IIIF and ResourceSync. We are also interested in continuing to contribute our metadata expertise to the Hydra community to ensure interoperability across our communities. We will work to engage other national- and international-scale digital libraries, such as Europeana and DigitalNZ, with the Hydra community. In addition to this work, the following current and anticipated projects and contributions may be of interest to the Hydra community:

- our ongoing development of Kri-Kri, a Ruby on Rails-based engine for metadata aggregation, mapping, and enrichment, built with ActiveTriples and Blacklight on a Linked Data Platform implementation;
- improved abstraction of Blacklight to would allow it to integrate with search indexes and APIs other than Solr, which would allow DPLA to prototype new user interfaces using the engine;
- an implementation of Spotlight, to develop a prototype to improve or replace the existing DPLA exhibition infrastructure;
- better support for harvesting and synchronization of metadata between Fedora 4 and Hydra-based repositories and metadata aggregators such as DPLA; and
- improved modules to map metadata from existing schemas to DPLA's Metadata Application Profile.

DPLA greatly admires the success of the Hydra project and wants to contribute the community's future sustainability. DPLA and the Hydra community have a unique opportunity to strengthen the partnership at both a national and international level, and to help it grow along with the DPLA network.

Sincerely,


Mark A. Matienzo
Director of Technology