



Hesburgh Libraries
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Hydra Steering Group
Hydra-steering@googlegroups.com

Dear Hydra Steering Group,

I write to offer a letter of commitment from the Hesburgh Libraries at the University of Notre Dame to the Hydra Project. We have found the partnership both valuable and constructive since joining the project some time ago, and I would like to share some of the reasons we find participation in this partnership beneficial.

It is both a challenge and an opportunity to work at a time when the technologies available to curate, manage, and access content are evolving at a rapid pace. Our digital library services team realized early on that isolated efforts would not be the most effective approach to sustainable development. With this recognition in mind, we sought help from already-established players within the Fedora and Blacklight communities.

Three years ago the Hesburgh Libraries at the University of Notre Dame seized the opportunity to join the Hydra community, and found it to be a welcoming and innovative group, truly committed to working together towards a common objective. Because Hydra's fusion of Blacklight and ActiveFedora has created a solution greater than the sum of its parts, it has become the cornerstone of our digital library strategies, allowing us to move more aggressively towards our objectives. We have only scratched the surface of the possibilities, but recognize the great potential that the highly configurable development tools developed through the partnership hold for building our repository and discovery environments.

We passionately believe that a good idea is nothing without a community to foster and sustain it. That is why we are committed to maintaining a focus on our common goals and continue to nurture the collaborative spirit that makes Hydra strong. The Hydra Partnership philosophy that "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," rings very true here at Notre Dame.

Members of the Hydra community become both our friends and colleagues in the course of shared development and vision. We look forward to a long and productive partnership.

Sincerely,

Diane Parr Walker
Edward H. Arnold University Librarian