

15 November 2012

Dear Hydra Steering Committee,

LSE Library welcomes the opportunity to join Hydra as Partners and looks forward to becoming a member of a community of shared vision and realistic cooperation of effort towards developing digital content solutions.

Following 10 years of digitisation and a successful and growing institutional repository, LSE Library began its Digital Library programme in 2009 to produce solutions for the collection, preservation, and online dissemination of all material added to Library collections in digital formats for which we have sole preservation responsibility. Scoping requirements and assessing best practice against available repository solutions led to a recommendation to adopt a “flexible, extensible, modular” architecture of components, with Fedora at the core. In 2010/11 dedicated posts were created to support digital library development and in 2011 we adopted Hydra components on top of Fedora in order to build our “digital shelves” and public, open access interfaces which went live in January 2012.

Adoption of Hydra components accelerated our implementation of a working repository solution significantly and they are now a core component of our infrastructure. As we scale our workflows to integrate our existing digital collections and increase our capacity for collecting born-digital material, Hydra and Fedora will become central to a diverse but interoperable ecosystem of digital collection solutions that are already starting to emerge.

We understand and share principles with Hydra, particularly the principles of “one body, many heads”—to support independent collection- and format-specific workflows on top of robust and integrated preservation storage—and “if you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together”—sharing context, use cases, and code to develop reusable approaches to digital content management. Initially, we hope to work with the Hydra community to bring preservation best practices to repository ecosystems, through the development of shared requirements and enhancements to content models and workflows. Over time, our contribution should include sharing use cases and requirements, bug fixes to implemented code and partnership for further development, and evangelism when espousing the benefits of the community and its outputs.

We hope to formalise our partnership on the day we host the first Hydra UK meeting on 22 November 2012 and look forward to sharing experience, use cases, and forward planning with colleagues working in similar contexts to realise the vision of Hydra here in the UK.

e.A. Chapman

Elizabeth Chapman
Director of Library Services



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Cc: Nicola Wright (Deputy Director of Library Services), Ed Fay (Digital Library Manager)