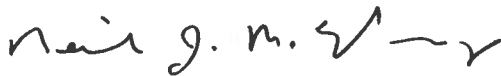May 2, 2016

To the Hydra Steering Committee:

Lafayette College Library would like to thank Princeton University Library for nominating us to become a Project Hydra partner. This letter of intent is meant to confirm our desire to become an official Hydra partner.

Although a small liberal arts school, Lafayette College has been involved with digital repository development for almost a decade. After an early attempt with a turnkey commercial product, we quickly learned that our limited time was better spent collaborating with like-minded peers. Having run production instances of DSpace since 2007 and Fedora since 2013, we are committed to Open Source software development and community governance.

Impressed with Project Hydra's clear momentum and the strength of its development partnership, we made a commitment almost two years ago to Sufia as our new IR, a project that is now nearly complete. Once we started to work with Hydra, we began to participate actively in the Hydra community, attending Hydra events at digital library conferences and joining conference calls. Since then, we have attended Hydra Connect and become involved with the Applied Linked Data Working Group's Metadata Enrichment and Controlled Vocabulary Manager project, which supports our goal to port an existing locally developed metadata creation and management tool to the Hydra framework. We are also an active contributor to the Hydra GIS Data Modeling Working Group's GeoConcerns project, the aims of which align closely with our institutional need to manage new geospatial datasets.

We have now spent over two years working with Hydra, getting to know the community and learning the Hydra way. We are firmly committed to this trajectory and wish now to become more involved, both technically and through project governance. We believe that a strengthened commitment would be of mutual benefit and, moreover, would serve as a compelling example for other liberal arts colleges that we are seeking to interest in shared Open Source development.

Sincerely,

Neil J. McElroy
Dean of Libraries

Eric Luhrs
Director of Digital Scholarship Services