July 10, 2014

Dear Hydra Steering Committee Members :

Thank you for nominating Tufts University as a Hydra Project Partner. We are writing this letter to officially express our intent to apply for full Partner status.

We have been involved with and supported the goals of the Hydra community for several years, and we welcome the opportunity to formalize our relationship with the Hydra community and our commitment to the success of the Hydra Project.

Tufts Libraries, partnering with Tufts Educational Scholarly Technology Services (ESTS) is committed to using the Fedora Commons Repository Software as the foundation for institutional repository software at Tufts. It has served as the basis of the Tufts Digital Library (TDL) since 2004. We have implemented Hydra as the middleware layer to enable information stewards at Tufts to manage objects and associated metadata into the Fedora-based repository; foster the creation of multiple discovery interfaces in support of teaching, learning, research, and preservation; and to ensure that a robust digital library and repository infrastructure provides for sustainable management of digital assets for the University community.

Two Hydra based development projects, the Tufts Digital Library redesign (2012), and a New Nation Votes election portal (2013) were undertaken to demonstrate how the technology could be used to make digital objects, collections and datasets available to the community, and to develop in-house expertise to pave the way for further integration of Hydra with our Fedora infrastructure.
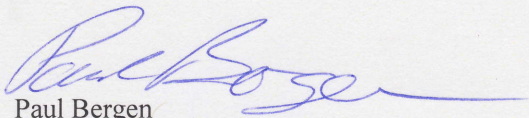
We have partnered with Data Curation Experts (DCE) on additional Hydra development:

- A Hydra-based administrative interface to enable Tufts staff to deposit and manage content and metadata in the Tufts Fedora content repository. In FY14, several enhancements were developed including the addition of a contributor role, functionality for batch and template ingest of digital assets, and an interface for self deposit of faculty and student scholarship.
- The Tufts Digital Image Library (TDIL) interface is based on the functionality available in Northwestern University's Digital Image Library (DIL). The interface will initially support the teaching and research needs of Tufts Art & Art History faculty and students.

We are committed to continued contribution to the Hydra community in helping solve digital repository and workflow challenges by supporting development, and contributing code, documentation and expertise. We look forward to working with the Hydra Steering Committee and Hydra Project Partners to collaboratively develop and sustain this active community.
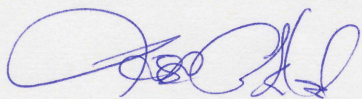
Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Paul Bergen
Director for Educational and Online Learning Technology Services

Eliot Wilczek
Acting Director and University Archivist
Digital Collections and Archives

Laura C. Wood
Director of Tisch Library