UC San Diego

Brian E. C. Schottlaender
The Audrey Geisel University Librarian

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Tom Cramer, Chair
Hydra Steering Group
<u>**Via email**</u>: **tcramer@Stanford.edu**

Dear Tom:

Please accept this as a letter of commitment to the Hydra Project from the UC San Diego (UCSD) Library.

The UCSD Library has managed its digital assets for many years with a custom application known as the DAMS (Digital Asset Management System). The DAMS manages any kind of digital objects from simple images, audio files, and videos to complex dissertations and research data sets with multiple files and hierarchy by storing the objects' metadata in a linked data model supported by RDF.

The customized nature of the DAMS means that we are inventing the whole digital object management stack ourselves, and we do not see that scaling well over time. The Hydra Project has developed a community of universities and institutions producing highly functional user interfaces that utilize a Ruby development framework and that include Blacklight display and discovery software. The reach of this community helps ensure the ongoing sustainability of Hydra and, thereby, the stability of our own digital library efforts.

Working with the Hydra community has already proven to be fruitful, helping us produce a new DAMS product release that manages simple and complex digital objects, and RDF metadata, reading and writing through Hydra. We believe that adopting Hydra into our stack will continue to save significant development time.

We look forward to becoming Hydra Partners, and to adding our experience to the group and benefitting from that of the other members.

My best,

Brian E. C. Schottlaender
The Audrey Geisel University Librarian

Cc: D. Fleming
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