



November 14, 2017

Samvera Steering Committee,

I am writing to formally request consideration for Emory University Libraries to become a partner in the Samvera Project.

In January of 2014, the Emory University Libraries kicked off a Repository Working Group to investigate “the infrastructure needed to develop and maintain the Libraries’ repositories”. The group’s work culminated in the decision in October 2014 to implement a repository based on the Hydra, now Samvera, framework. The Repository Working Group saw the opportunity to leverage the resources the Samvera Community provides to further the library’s mission to deliver and produce useful and distinctive services, information, and content while preserving and promoting our intellectual and cultural heritage.

Since that day in 2014, Emory University Libraries has shown a true commitment to the Samvera Community by:

- Attending Hydra Camp 2015, Hydra Connect 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- Actively engaging on Samvera Working and Interest Groups, including the User Research Interest Group, Distributed User Research Testing (DURT), MODS to RDF subgroup, Digital Preservation Interest Group, Repository Management Interest Group, Hyrax Analytics Working Group.
- Working with Data Curation Experts to stand up one of the first production Hyrax applications: <https://etd.library.emory.edu> .which will eventually host over 6000 ETDs.
- Submitting two proposals to host Samvera Connect, one for 2017 and one for 2018
- Hosting a Samvera Camp in April of 2017 at Emory University.

In the coming years, Emory University Libraries hopes to develop a Samvera ecosystem based on the Hyrax gem. Our goal is to deliver repository functionality and discovery for all types of digital objects a modern research library of Emory’s caliber collects. As we expand our repository’s collections to include content from other parts of the University, we hope to push the Samvera Community to think about all



that might be possible for institutions looking to engage in preserving the world's cultural heritage. Our immediate goals include:

- Sharing the process and results of our comprehensive business and technical requirements gathering effort for a multi-system migration, at Samvera Connect 2018, including lessons learned from the process.
- Implementing Samvera applications based on the Hyrax gem that allow Emory to cross-pollinate its currently siloed content including: time-based media, research data, electronic theses and dissertations, open access collections, disk images, books, manuscripts, etc.
- Migrate over 250K objects and 150 TB to a Samvera based digital library.
- Actualizing standards-oriented preservation policies and activities currently in development.
- Developing a method for performing a gap analysis for on-boarding non-library collections into the digital library, and sharing that method and process with the community.
- Continuing to actively engage in working and interest groups within the Samvera Community.

Over the last 10 years, Emory University Libraries has spent a significant amount of time, money, and energy developing custom applications on top of the Fedora Commons Repository software. While there is much about the Samvera Project that appeals to Emory University Libraries, chief among these is the ability to work with Samvera Partners to go even further than we have been able to in the past. We would therefore like to declare our intent to become full Samvera partners and begin to contribute code and effort in a formal capacity.

Thank you,

Rosalyn Metz
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Emory University Libraries