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Abstract:

Title: From Hydra to Samvera: evolution of an open source repository community

The Hydra Project started in 2008 through a partnership between the University of Hull, University of Virginia, Stanford University and Fedora Commons (now DuraSpace) to create tools that support use of the Fedora digital repository and enable the creation of repository solutions to meet different digital content management needs. Key to setting out on this path was the recognition that building a community around the ideas would be key to the sustainability of the technical implementations undertaken. The role of Partner was developed to foster active engagement of adopters and facilitate ongoing community leadership: the community now has 35 formal Partners and over 70 known adopters internationally. In June 2017 Hydra changed its name to Samvera, Icelandic for 'being together', to recognise the value gained from multiple institutions working together to create the underlying common basis upon which multiple different repository solutions have been implemented. This talk will review the evolution of Samvera and highlight the key activities and milestones that have led Samvera to be where it is today. The talk will also draw on the guidance generated through the It Takes a Village project carried out by Lyrasis in 2017 to which Samvera contributed.

Bio:

Chris Awre is Head of Information Services within the Brynmor Jones Library of the University of Hull in the UK. He was previously a systems librarian at Imperial College, London, and a Programme Manager for the Jisc, working on projects related to portals, information presentation, and the sharing of institutional resources. In 2008 he was a founder partner in the Hydra Project, a community driven open source development to create tools that could be used to meet evolving digital repository needs. The Hydra Project itself evolved into the Samvera Community in 2017, emphasising the importance of collaborative working in producing Samvera solutions, and Chris continues to sit on the Steering Group. He is currently a member of the UK Government's Open Research Data Task Force, looking at ways of stimulating uptake and provision of open data. Institutionally, Chris has responsibility and interests in repository services, open access, research data management, and digital preservation, and how these relate to existing print-based acquisition and collection management activities.