CurateND

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME | HESBURGH LIBRARIES

Hydra Connect 2: From Asheville to Cleveland

Rick Johnson

Publication Date

09-12-2023

License

This work is made available under a Exclusive rights in copyrighted work license and should only be used in accordance with that license.

Citation for this work (American Psychological Association 7th edition)

Johnson, R. (2014). *Hydra Connect 2: From Asheville to Cleveland* (Version 1). University of Notre Dame. https://doi.org/10.7274/R0JS9NC3

This work was downloaded from CurateND, the University of Notre Dame's institutional repository.

For more information about this work, to report or an issue, or to preserve and share your original work, please contact the CurateND team for assistance at curate@nd.edu.

Hydra Connect 2: From Asheville to Cleveland

By Rick Johnson

Road Trip

On September 29, 2014, eight of us from the Hesburgh Libraries hopped in a minivan from the Notre Dame motor pool and headed to Cleveland for a week to attend Hydra Connect 2. This conference may prove to be the most significant meeting of the year for the development team that works on CurateND. Why was the meeting so important?

Hydra Connect 2 Attendees at Case Western Reserve University

Background

We first heard about Project Hydra in 2010 while attending the Code4Lib conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Connections made there offered us an opportunity to join with a broad group of like-minded higher education developers to create a robust "repository solution … used by institutions worldwide to provide access to their digital content." (http://projecthydra.org/) The original partners understood that they could not succeed without relying on each other, with a nod to Ben Franklin, "we must hang together, or surely we will hang apart". We traveled to Stanford to learn more about the group. The philosophical alignment and generous welcome from some of the brightest minds made it clear Hydra was for us. This community was going places together!

Hydra Connect 2

Since then, the Hydra community has been at the core of our efforts to build and sustain a digital repository and deliver the digital technology to make the content accessible. This is critical to keep pace with rapidly evolving needs on campus. Fueled by its collaborative spirit, Hydra has grown from a handful of institutions in 2010 to 47 different institutions attending Hydra Connect 2 this year at Case Western Reserve University. With 163 attendees hailing from cities across North America and Europe, this was the largest

Jeremy Friesen presenting future work for CurateND

gathering of Hydra partners and adopters to date. Attendees included managers, developers, librarians, and archivists.

Notre Dame and Hydra

Notre Dame's leadership in the Hydra community was especially clear as we participated in the Hydra Connect 2 program committee, led and participated in panel discussions, presented posters, gave lightning talks, led workshops, and gave presentations.

Hesburgh Libraries was represented by Rajesh Balekai, Don Brower, Dan Brubaker Horst, Chris DeLuca, Jeremy Friesen, Rick Johnson, Banu Lakshminarayanan, and Matthew Sisk.

Banu Lakshminarayanan and Rajesh Balekai at a poster session.

Where We Are Headed

Much of the meeting discussion centered on the need to balance new tool development with the ability to leverage out-of-the-box solutions for economies of scale. As expected, the tension between limited resources and the need to customize led us to a verdict that a combination of the two is best.

Dan Brubaker Horst speaking during a panel discussion. Jeremy Friesen is at right.

Historically, the community has excelled at creating solutions (like our own Seaside Research Portal) that push the boundaries of what is possible. However, it has been very hard to reuse those solutions cross-institutionally. This has already started to change with CurateND and our reuse of parts originally developed at Penn State University. To further realize the vision of Hydra, we joined with a group of partners at the meeting in a bold strategy to align even more around common components. Jeremy Friesen's work is pivotal in this effort to make Hydra solutions more reusable and will undoubtedly have long-range impact on Project Hydra's success.