



**Samvera Community
Annual Report**

2019

samvera™

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from the community

To reflect back on 2019 now, while a global pandemic is in full effect, is a stark reminder that our world is dynamic and there are many forces of change. As we collectively modify our social behaviors and patterns to effectively slow the virus infection rate, the impact of community-based action is plainly demonstrated. Samvera originated with a firm belief in the incredible strength that results from people working together in a concerted, committed fashion. In that spirit, we open with thanks to the many people, institutions, and other organizations who make the Samvera community what it is today.

2019 was the Samvera Community's first full year under its new governance structure. Work has continued to bring to fruition the Community vision that the new structures will allow. During the summer, Samvera held the second round of elections to the Steering Group moving it closer to being a fully elected body: we welcomed Hannah Frost, from Stanford University, and Simeon Warner, from Cornell University, to the Group, whilst thanking Mike Giarlo and Richard Green for their many years' work on Steering. 2020 will see elections that complete the transition. The new governance model envisages the hiring of central Samvera staff and so a working group developed a contribution model that would provide an annual income sufficient to support the salary costs. There are more details about this governance work and the associated transitional arrangements on page 10.



Samvera Connect brought together some 150 participants—most of them pictured here!

Our technical groups have been working steadily to advance the capabilities of Samvera’s software offerings. There are detailed reports on this work beginning on page 10. In particular, after we reported in 2018 that “Hyku is now a genuine option for institutions looking for a Samvera solution”, it has been gratifying to see a lot of development, some substantially grant-funded, around this solution bundle.

Samvera’s Interest and Working Groups continue to flourish with a healthy cycle of some being “sunsetting” whilst new ones are formed. These Groups are an essential part of the Community’s development work and we much appreciate the amount of time and effort that goes into their work.



The opening session at Samvera Connect 2019 in St Louis

The Samvera Community benefits greatly from periodic meetings, conferences (both face-to-face and on-line) and training events. 2019 saw a number of these: regional meetings, Partner Meetings, virtual and physical conferences, and training camps. More details can be found on page 14. The two conference events deserve particular note: Samvera Virtual Connect took place on-line in April and involved more than 200 participants; Samvera Connect was held during October at Washington University in St Louis and brought together some 150 participants. All such events take a great deal of organization and we offer our grateful thanks to the teams of volunteers who arranged them.

A community-wide visioning exercise was kicked off at the Spring 2019 Partner Meeting. Working through the summer with the input from over forty people representing all facets of our community’s profile, a vision statement was unveiled at Samvera Connect in October:

Samvera is a vibrant and welcoming community of information and technology professionals who share challenges, build expertise, and create sustainable, best-in-class solutions, making the world’s digital collections accessible now and into the future.

This exercise stimulated lively discussions about where to focus our collaborative energy and collective technical talent to fully achieve the vision. In a similar vein, during the fall, the Steering Group assessed the Community’s development using the framework set out in the LYRASIS publication, *It Takes a Village*: “a practical reference source to help open source software programs serving cultural and scientific heritage organizations plan for long-term sustainability.” It was encouraging to see how far the Community has come since it was formed in terms of governance, technology, resources, and community engagement; at the same time, the assessment helped to highlight and frame the important work remaining before us. Steering plans to enlist the whole Community to further this evaluation and goal setting in 2020.

While the year ahead is uncertain, Samvera’s plans and great potential for ongoing advancement persist. We look forward to advancing into the future with you!

community & partners



2019 saw two new organizations join the list of Samvera’s formal Partners. Ubiquity Press and Notch8 are both service providers working with, amongst others, a number of organizations in the Samvera Community. At the time of writing Samvera has 36 formal Partners:

- ◆ Boston Public Library
- ◆ Columbia University
- ◆ Cornell University
- ◆ CoSector, University of London
- ◆ Data Curation Experts
- ◆ The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)
- ◆ The Digital Repository of Ireland
- ◆ Duke University
- ◆ DuraSpace
- ◆ Emory University
- ◆ Indiana University
- ◆ Lafayette College
- ◆ The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- ◆ Northwestern University
- ◆ Notch8
- ◆ Oregon State University
- ◆ Penn State University
- ◆ Princeton University
- ◆ Stanford University
- ◆ Tufts University
- ◆ Ubiquity Press
- ◆ University of Alberta
- ◆ University of California Santa Barbara
- ◆ University of California San Diego
- ◆ University of Cincinnati
- ◆ University of Houston
- ◆ University of Hull
- ◆ University of Michigan
- ◆ University of Notre Dame
- ◆ University of Oregon
- ◆ University of Virginia
- ◆ University of York
- ◆ Virginia Tech
- ◆ Washington University in St Louis (WUSTL)
- ◆ WGBH, Boston
- ◆ Yale University

We are grateful for the many kinds of support that we get, not only from our formal Partners and their staffs, but also from many other organizations in our Community. At the time of this Report we held contributor license agreements (CLAs) for almost 80 organizations and some 360 individuals.

partner profiles:



atla



Established in 1946 as the American Theological Library Association, Atla is a membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology. The membership includes more than 800 individuals and libraries at academic institutions from diverse religious traditions and backgrounds.

In 2015, after an in depth survey of digitization, preservation, and access needs of its membership, Atla determined a need to develop a collaborative subject-focused approach to collection care and access for small theological and religious studies libraries. That same year DPLA's strategic plan established the goal of increasing access to all digital collections in the U.S. and ensuring that a diversity of topics were represented through its regional hub network. This inspired Atla to look at how it could help ensure that the subjects of religion and theology as well as its member libraries were represented in this endeavor.

Atla knew that many of its members would be unable to participate in the DPLA geographic based system. Therefore, Atla proposed creating a religion-based hub. However, DPLA proceeded to focus solely on geographically based hubs so the [Atla Digital Library](#) was created to provide a central portal for searching across the religious studies and theology digital collections of Atla's member libraries.

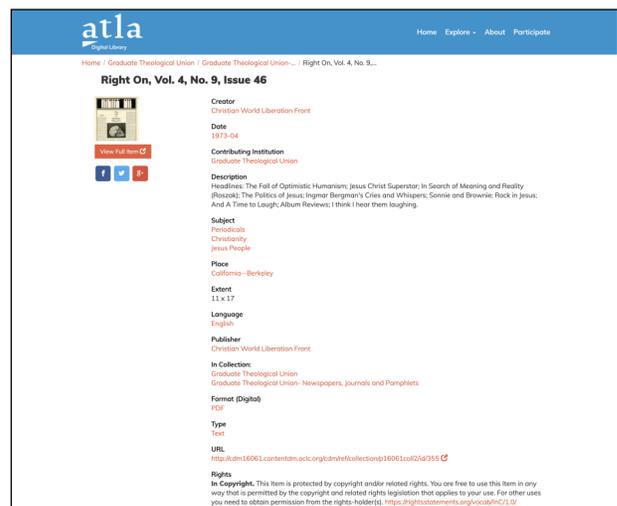
To create the Digital Library, Atla looked for a sustainable platform solution with an eye toward open source and strong

community investment in funding, development, and support. Samvera, then Hydra, checked all those boxes.

In 2017 Atla began working with Samvera and hired Notch8 to help install, configure and customize our Hyrax instance. At that time, a crucial feature need was a user-friendly way to import OAI-PMH metadata records into the system as works and collections. This need resulted in the development of the Bulkxray importer. It allows metadata record imports by collection with a thumbnail image and a link out to the full work online. It also allows the addition of a standardized rights statement to be applied on import when needed. We now can import Qualified and Simple Dublin Core via OAI-PMH and CSV file.

There have also been many visual adjustments to Hyrax to adapt it to the Atla Digital Library's purposes. One important adaptation was configuration of the breadcrumbs to reflect the organization of the way the system is being used, with individual contributing institution's parent collections containing child collections made up of individual works. Other changes include setting up "pretty" URLs for institution and collection pages, adding thumbnail images to represent collections, and modification of the "file download" button to instead link out to the full item online.

Atla appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Samvera community and code base through development of our instance of Hyrax as well as utilizing the work that others in the community have contributed so as to deliver a high quality and user-friendly digital library.



partner profiles:

wgbh

[WGBH](#) is the nationally known public media station in Boston, MA. The WGBH Media Library and Archives (MLA) is responsible for access to and preservation of WGBH's physical media, digital production, and administrative assets. Being a production and broadcast organization, WGBH needs to manage digital production work, broadcast files, and archive materials. The first iteration of a system to do this was a licensed digital system. Customizations were made to accommodate specific needs. The MLA was dependent on the vendor to make changes, and when requested changes fell off the product marketing track, the requests took longer to fulfill. Upgrading and migrations became difficult and costly with the customizations for a system that was still lacking. WGBH looked for other solutions.

The MLA became involved with the Samvera community because it was a community of long standing well-resourced academic libraries that weren't chasing a marketable value. Organizations in the Samvera community need a system to manage large digital libraries (or archives) all with similar features, although most libraries do not have the same volume of media files as WGBH. Indiana University was undergoing a massive digitization of their media holdings, and building a solution called Avalon for access to their large digital library of media, which WGBH thought held a lot of promise.

WGBH has undertaken development of three Samvera related solutions - one for preservation files (Phyto), one for AAPB metadata management (AMS2.0), and one for managing access internally for the WGBH collection. Phydo was a joint project with Indiana University to develop a preservation system using Fedora 4. (Although the project did develop a repository using Fedora 4 to store preservation technical data, it has not yet been fully implemented at either WGBH nor Indiana University.)

The AMS 2.0 is the metadata management system for the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB). The AAPB is a collaborative initiated between WGBH and the Library of Congress seeking to preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media. The collection currently holds more than 100,000 digitized and born digital programs and original material from over 120 public broadcasting stations and organizations. The AMS2.0 is built on a modified version of Avalon using a data model based on PBCore that allows tracking of instantiations which is important to

manage information about multiple copies, potentially different formats, of the same item/title. Since its development in the early 2000s, dozens of organizations have been using PBCore's comprehensive and flexible features for their media archiving needs.

At the end of the AMS2.0 project, WGBH MLA was awarded an NEH Challenge grant to build capacity and infrastructure at WGBH MLA including the digitization and preservation of about 1/3 of the collection that is on obsolete and aging formats, close to 83,000 items. Part of the infrastructure build was to develop a system to manage the created digital files for internal access and use. WGBH MLA decided to use the Samvera solution bundle Avalon, as is, over Hyrax for internal WGBH content. There are a good number of examples of people successfully using Avalon in production, and for WGBH, with very little development required. WGBH MLA successfully mapped WGBH's data model (based on PBCore descriptive fields) onto the Avalon data model, and successfully tested the Avalon Ingest API, which ingests records and points to media stored in a separate system. The MLA is collaborating with WGBH internal IT department on Docker. The IT department runs Rancher to manage Kubernetes clusters of Docker containers. The MLA worked with them to get Avalon running in a production-like environment, for testing ingest speeds. Search is available through facets as well as key words. Once we have installed and are using Avalon in its current form, we plan to begin offering contributions to the community for further enhancements and upgrades. We may even opt for a hosted version of Avalon.



The WGBH studio at the Boston Public Library

partner profiles: the british library

The British Library (BL) is the UK's national library, one of six legal deposit libraries. We are the custodians of one of the largest collections of printed material in the world, containing over 150 million items and featuring almost every known language, not to mention our growing born-digital content. If you were to see five items each day, it would take you over 80,000 years to see the whole of the collection. In addition to the BL's holdings, our colleagues produce research in their respective fields of expertise such as exhibitions, collections, data science, metadata and conservation that we wish to make as accessible as possible.

The BL recently completed a pilot project that developed a Samvera Hyku Research Repository for its own research outputs and those of five other cultural sector Independent Research Organisations (IROs). The service, including six individual institutional repositories and a shared layer that aggregates the combined content, went live in November 2019.

We selected Hyku from a strong field of repository solutions primarily due to its flexible architecture, which appealed to us due to its ability to host multiple tenant repositories on one instance. We worked closely with our development partners, Ubiquity, to develop metadata templates that accommodated our research outputs, including exhibition material, 3D models of our collections and datasets. We have used the repository to help meet deliverables in the EU-funded Freya project exploring



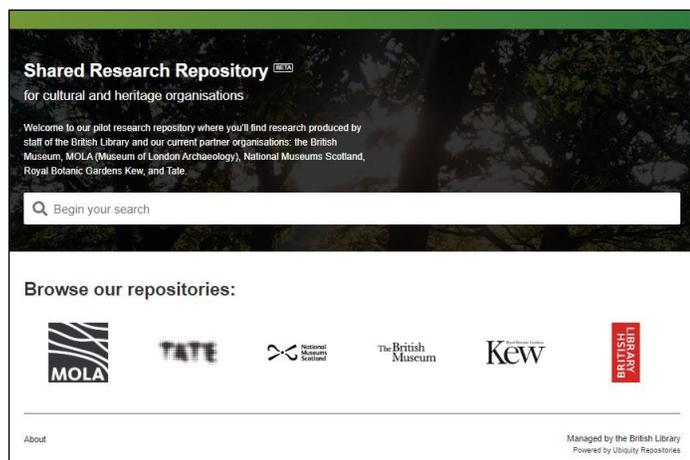
A slightly more traditional 'take' on the British Library!

the use of persistent identifiers, so we have included DataCite integration and nested metadata to incorporate ISNI and ORCIDs. The templates are identical for each tenant, with some customisation for each organisation's DataCite account and their institution name (which appears in the shared search results to denote which repository an output sits in).

One of our partners, National Museums Scotland (NMS), was already running an EPrints repository so we mapped their content to our updated Hyku template and copied it across on a regular basis using Ubiquity's importer tool. We also used this to migrate BL content from other locations, and to import DataCite records for MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology).

As of March 2020, there are 6337 items comprising 40 different resource types across all six tenants and our intention is to grow this organically as we transition from a pilot to full service by autumn, offering repositories to other IROs. The BL is a partner in the Arcadia-funded Advancing Hyku project with the University of Virginia and Ubiquity, which will work with the Samvera community to develop structural improvements and new features to Hyku.

The Shared Repository Service comprises the British Library, the British Museum, MOLA, National Museums Scotland, Tate and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It can be found at: <https://iro.bl.uk>



The shared repository home page

finance & expenditure

Building on the relationship established over the previous few years, Samvera once again signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DuraSpace for fiscal sponsorship in 2019. The merger of DuraSpace and Lyrasis mid-year has meant that Samvera’s accounting year must revert to July-June but, for ease of comparison with last year’s Annual Report, the figures below cover the calendar year 2019. The MoU has effectively been extended to 30 June 2020. Expenditure is up on 2018 largely due to Samvera’s adoption of Circle CI, for continuous integration testing, and an increased sum devoted to promoting our Community at others’ events.

Donations in 2019 were significantly greater than in 2018 comprising some \$144k from 26 Samvera Partners and Adopters and a donation of \$20k from EBSCO. We are grateful to them all. We are also grateful to the many Partners and others who contributed significant amounts of staff time and other resources “in kind” to further our Community’s work.

Accounts

1st January 2019—31 December 2019	Income (\$)	Expenditure (\$)
Fundraising, donations and 2018 invoices paid	181,608	
Bank interest	1,232	
DuraSpace/Lyrasis service costs (financial, accounting work etc; service fee from 1 July)		16,162
Contractors and consulting (legal services, mainly concerning trademarks)		3,589
Sales and marketing (exhibitor fees, advertising materials, website related etc)		4,341
Communication Services (Slack subscription, Circle CI)		5,426
Bank charges and merchant fees		665
DuraSpace affiliation fee to 30 June		1,500
Total	182,840	31,683

Net income from above	\$151,157
Less invoices due to Samvera outstanding at 12/31/2019	(\$7,500)
Plus charges due from Samvera, booked but not yet paid	\$1,800
Cash balance brought forward from 2018*	\$176,044
Cash balance 31 December 2019	\$321,501

* Rounding error corrected from \$176,043 shown last year

Cash balance transferred from DuraSpace to Lyrasis on July 1st: \$275,898

progress on key initiatives

Governance

The Community is making good progress to implement the recommendations made by the Governance Working Group and adopted last year. A key recommendation was that the Samvera Steering Group should become an elected body from Partners: in July, the election of three people to the Steering Group continued that transition and the election in summer 2020 will complete the change. The Governance Working Group further recommended that Samvera should move towards hiring a full-time Community Manager and a full-time Technical Manager: to this end, the Contribution Model Working Group has continued to develop, and consult on, a funding model that would support at least the first of those appointments. Partners will be asked to vote on its recommendations in January 2020. In addition, another Working Group has been managing the Community's fundraising during the year and has been investigating possible sources of revenue from outside the Samvera Community. The election saw Richard Green step down from the Steering Group after 11 years but Partners agreed that he should be employed part-time to retain his experience and knowledge of Samvera until, and in order that, he could undertake the initial training of a Community Manager as and when that appointment is made.

Fiscal sponsor

On behalf of the Samvera Partners, the Steering Group once again negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DuraSpace to act as our fiscal sponsor; the MoU covered the calendar year 2019. In the spring it was announced that DuraSpace would be merging with LYRISIS “a leader in open technologies, hosting, data migration, content licensing, and community supported software programs for libraries, archives, museums and research organizations worldwide” and legal arrangements were made to assign the MoU to them. The LYRISIS financial year runs from July to June and so the MoU was extended *pro rata* until June 30th 2020. The merger has had relatively little impact on Samvera's day-to-day operations so far.

Software



[Avalon Media System](#), a Samvera repository solution bundle for time-based media, added a number of new features in 2019. While the team ultimately paused work on our Hyrax-based Avalon release—formerly referred to as Avalon 7—to implement these features and meet community needs, the team made a significant number of development milestones and continued our goal of creating and supporting community components for AV.

2019 saw a large number of updates within Avalon. Released mid-year, Avalon 6.5 removed Opencast Matterhorn, a large dependency used for media transcoding, replacing it with the ActiveEncode community gem. ActiveEncode provides an interface between Samvera applications and media encoding services and is primarily developed by the Avalon team. This release also introduced the Structural Metadata Editor, a visual, waveform-based editing application that allows for more convenient editing of structural metadata. The Avalon team also continued to work with the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), adding IIIF Presentation 3.0 manifest generation for items within an Avalon instance by default. In addition, work continued on the Avalon IIIF player, a media player component which natively uses IIIF manifests as a data source.

In addition to work done by the core Avalon team, there were many collaborative development efforts in the past year. IIIF Timeliner, a reimplement of the Variations Audio Timeliner tool for creating annotated bubble diagrams of music or other

audio recordings, was developed by Digirati and incorporated natively into Avalon, allowing for the creation of these diagrams from any media item within an Avalon repository. The Avalon team also worked with Notch8 to incorporate Persona, a local user management gem originally developed for Hyku, into Avalon. Persona provides long-requested local user management options, as well as other features useful for troubleshooting user accounts, into a convenient interface accessible within the application.

After nine years, thousands of standup meetings, hundreds of thousands of lines of code, countless updates and seven major releases, Northwestern University Libraries stepped back from its formal partnership with Indiana University Libraries as co-developer of Avalon Media System at the end of 2019. Northwestern continues to be committed to the Avalon community and will continue to work on shared sprints and will continue to run Avalon locally. Indiana University will take over institutional ownership of the product, and the Indiana University Libraries remain committed to developing and supporting Avalon going forward. It has been a tremendous opportunity to work on this project together; we have all valued the relationships and opportunities that have come from this collaboration, and we look forward to continuing to work together, in a slightly different form, moving forward.

In 2020, work will continue on a full solution bundle release of Hyrax-based Avalon, as well as on Samvera and IIF community components for AV. Another point release also is expected for Avalon 7 (release in January 2020) to add transcript and supplemental file support. The team will continue to work actively in the year ahead in the Samvera community and with the Avalon user base in general.



Hyrax has continued to make small, but significant progress over the last year.

The big news is that in 2019 Steve van Tuyl stepped down as the Hyrax Product Owner. Steve made a huge contribution to Hyrax in so many ways, not least his spearheading of resourcing 'asks' and his work on keeping the Hyrax issues in GitHub organised and understandable. Steve left to take a new position as Community Coordinator at the Academic Data Science Alliance and we wish him all the best.

Losing Steve, we did some navel gazing in the community, asking ourselves what we could, and indeed should, reasonably ask of a volunteer role. We realised that we had to scale back what we were aiming for both in terms of features for Hyrax this year, and also in terms of what we were asking of the Product Owner. That led to re-imagining SIGAHR, the interest group Steve had set up to look after the Hyrax Roadmap. We decided to rename the group as the Hyrax Interest Group to expand the remit of the group beyond the roadmap to looking after the general health of Hyrax, and we also decided to more formally describe the various roles in Hyrax:

- ◆ Product Owner - scaled back from the original scope, the person with chief oversight of the Hyrax roadmap
- ◆ Technical Lead - a role already established and understood, currently being undertaken by Tom Johnson to whom we owe huge thanks
- ◆ Project Lead - a new role for someone lead development sprints and projects, being ably undertaken by Jessica Hilt from UCSD
- ◆ Community Lead - an interim position, to be filled by the Samvera Community Manager once that role is in place.

Throughout the last year, the Hyrax Working Group, now re-named the Hyrax Maintenance Working Group, has continued its vital work in making continual improvements to Hyrax. A small number of maintenance and back-port releases have been made to the

Hyrax 2.x series over the last year. Most effort, however, has gone into Hyrax 3.x, currently available as release candidate 1. Hyrax 3 marks the first major milestone in the transition from ActiveFedora to Valkyrie as Hyrax's persistence middleware (Hyrax on Wings) - a much anticipated feature. But it also includes many other improvements, including an upgrade to the Hyrax IIIF support. More on this release is available the release notes for v3.0.0-rc1: <https://github.com/samvera/hyrax/releases/tag/v3.0.0-rc1>

In January 2020 the University of California San Diego will host the Solar Vortex Samvera Developer Congress, where around 20 Hyrax-focussed developers will come together to work on taking the Wings work forward. Our thanks go to the hosts (Jessica Hilt and Tim Marconi in particular) and again to Tom Johnson for his energy and tireless work on Hyrax.



Hyku, Samvera's multi-tenant solution based on Hyrax, continues to grow as a robust repository solution. 2019 saw the launch of new projects and phases encouraged by substantial grants that will make 2020 an exciting year to follow Hyku development.

The Shared Research Repository for cultural heritage institutions went live in November 2019, a culmination of a two-year development partnership between Ubiquity Press and the British Library. This multi-tenant system includes repositories for the British Library, the British Museum, the Tate galleries, National Museums Scotland, and the Museum of London Archaeology.

Ubiquity has also completed the first bepress migration to the platform for Pacific University, due to go live at the end of March. Ubiquity will also be continuing work on Advancing Hyku throughout 2020, a project funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of philanthropists Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, with project partners University of Virginia Library, Ubiquity Press and the British Library. Advancing Hyku (advancinghyku.io) will add multiple features to the platform including auto-population.

From April the Ubiquity dev team will work on improving the multi-tenancy functionality of Hyku to give individual tenants more flexibility. Following this work it is planned to reconcile the Ubiquity code with the core Hyku code base. From June the number of rollouts to new clients will then be significantly ramped up.

San Diego-based Notch8 prepare to launch a new phase of work on their project with the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium and the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana. Those consortia have joined under an IMLS grant to further work on Hyku for Consortia (www.hykuforconsortia.org). This project takes full advantage of Hyku's multi-tenancy, and seeks to make multi-tenant management more robust through a set of goals that include refining workflows, cross-tenant user permissions, and increased tenant-level theming options. In addition to this work, 2019 saw Notch8 start a major Hyku project with the US Department of Transportation, the National Transportation Library version 3.0.

Notch8 held their first Hyrax & Hyku User Workshop in September. Initially conceived as a hands-on session with a set of project partners who had similar needs, it expanded to a general workshop session with great success. A highlight for attendees was the dialogue between institutions with very different use cases and possibilities for custom feature development. The next Hyrax & Hyku User Workshop is scheduled for August 6 & 7, 2020 (<https://bit.ly/2RcOxh5>).

Bulk import is now offered in Hyku via Bulkcrax, which currently includes support for OAI-PMH, CSV, Bagit, and XML out of the box. It

adds an easy-to-use interface in the Hyku admin dashboard allowing administrators to create, edit, delete, run, and re-run bulk imports. Notch8 will soon be delivering a bulk export ability to Bulkcrax through work on the Oregon Digital project with University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

In 2019, the Bridge2Hyku project team added substantially to the website (bridge2hyku.github.io/), released CDM Bridge and HyBridge out of beta (<https://github.com/Bridge2Hyku>), and offered a number of workshops and presentations nationally and internationally to promote the team's work. The team requested and received from IMLS a grant extension through September 2020 to integrate their Hybridge import tool into the Hyku source code, draft a sustainability outlook report, and continue to share our work and invite feedback.

Hyku hosted service solutions have launched, offering turnkey access to organizations that don't have the IT or administrative resources to stand up their own custom installations. These include HykuUP from Notch8 (www.HykuUP.com) and Ubiquity Repositories from Ubiquity Press (www.u-repo.io).

The past year has seen Hyku inquiries from universities and libraries, as well as fraternal organizations and a personal botanical web collection, representing a growing variety of use cases. As its reputation as a more robust platform grows, the community is seeing Hyku added to the must-list for investigation by a wider breadth of institutions looking for repository solutions. The Hyku Interest Group meets on the last Thursday of each month (8AM Pacific/11AM Eastern) and welcomes anyone who wants to drop in, learn a bit about current Hyku projects, and ask questions.



Valkyrie has seen a lot of growth this year. The project has been promoted to be a core component of the Samvera stack and we released version 2.0 including support for new major versions of a variety of our dependencies. New features include several new queries relating to counting resources, adding the ability to filter by class to a few queries, performance improvements, improved documentation, and support for Fedora 5.1. Hyrax integration has been progressing well – the gem is now a dependency of Hyrax and deeper integration to support alternate adapters is ongoing. We've also been excited to see our second production release of a Valkyrie application in Duke University Library's digital repository. Our list of core contributors continues to grow through efforts such as Valkyrie workshops and collaborative sprints and we look forward to another year of collaboration.



Last year, Connect 2018 in Salt Lake City gave us some beautiful sunsets—Connect 2019 in St Louis wasn't about to be outdone!

past and future training & events

Samvera is extremely fortunate in having many active Interest Groups and Working Groups whose members contribute so much to our Community; like our ‘Virtual Connect’ conference, their work takes place predominantly on-line. Complementing the many conference calls, 2019 also saw a number of face-to-face business and/or training meetings organized involving members of the Samvera Community and more are planned for 2020. We’ve listed some of them below to give an overview of the Community’s wide ranging activities. In addition to its own meetings, Samvera has been promoted at a number of meetings organized by other, related communities.

Samvera Steering Group Winter Retreat

24-25 January 2019 | Emory University

It has become the normal practice for the Samvera Steering Group to meet face-to-face in order to reflect on the Community’s work in the previous year and to plan for implementing Partners’ plans for the one ahead. A significant part of the meeting dealt with plans for securing Samvera’s future and, in particular, plans to hire permanent staff and the work being done to secure the necessary funds.

Samvera European Regional Group

28 March 2019 | University of Oxford

Samvera’s European Regional Group continued its pattern of three meetings each year. This, the first of the 2019 series, saw 12 UK members meet in person with an Irish member joining

remotely. Topics included general updates about participants’ own developments—in particular the Oxford Research Archive—and discussions of wider events and plans in the Samvera Community

Samvera Virtual Connect

23-24 April 2019 | Online

Samvera’s fourth ‘Virtual Connect’ was another great success. The event offers the opportunity for members of our Community to share knowledge and developments covering a wide range of topics of interest at a point approximately mid-way between Samvera’s ‘in person’ Connect conferences. The event, phased over two 3.5 hour sessions on successive days, offered 32 presentations and reports, a mixture of seven-minute ‘lightning talks’ and longer talks. Some 200 people registered for each day of the event.

Samvera Partner meeting

29-30 April 2019 | IUPUI, Indianapolis

The Partners’ annual spring meeting covered a wide range of topics including reports from a number of the Community’s key working groups and planning for Samvera’s future. The latter category included the development of a vision statement and progressing efforts towards funding and hiring staff.

Samvera West Coast Regional Meeting

23 May 2019 | UC San Diego

Samvera’s Community members on the West Coast US met at the UCSD library for a wide-ranging set of unconference sessions.



Part of the beautiful Washington University in St Louis campus



Open Repositories 2019

10-13 June 2019 | Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Samvera took an exhibitor's table at 2019's Open Repositories conference. There was a fair level of interest at the table about Samvera, a mixture of those that knew and didn't know about the Community and/or the software. It was felt that having the table was definitely worthwhile, and provided a useful focus for Samvera folk to get together and chat as well as engage interested others.

Introductory Samvera Camp

9-12 September 2019 | UCLA

Samvera Partner and Service Provider Data Curation Experts (DCE) held another of their valued introductory training camps.

Notch8 Hyrax and Hyku User Workshop

26-27 September 2019 | San Diego, CA

Another Samvera Partner and Service Provider, Notch8, held a training workshop in their 'home' city of San Diego. Rather than being a training event for developers, this workshop was an

opportunity for potential Hyrax or Hyku adopters, new users, folks new to the Samvera community, and anyone else in the community to find out more about Hyrax and Hyku from a user perspective.

Samvera European Regional Group

10 October 2019 | University of Hull

This second meeting of the year for our European group centred on recent developments in the Community and gave attendees the first 'guided tour' of the shared research repository being developed by Ubiquity Press for the British Library, the British Museum, the Museum of London Architecture, Tate, National Museums Scotland and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

2019 DLF Forum

13-17 October 2019 | Tampa, Florida

Samvera took an exhibitor table at the Digital Library Federation's annual conference.

Samvera Partner meeting

21 October 2019 | Washington University in St Louis

Immediately prior to Samvera's annual Connect conference, Partners held their second face-to-face meeting of the year. Topics included feedback from a number of key groups and discussion of the Community's progress implementing the new Governance structure. Arrangements for the imminent conference were discussed, in particular some changes to our Code of Conduct, but also for conferences planned in 2020 .

Samvera Developer Congress

21 October 2019 | Washington University in St Louis

In parallel with the Partner meeting, a group of Samvera's software developers met for a working session to work on a number of tasks and also to welcome developers new to the Community.

Samvera Connect 2019

22-25 October 2019 | Washington University in St Louis

Samvera Connect itself involved almost 150 people from more than 40 institutions. An addition to our regular mix of events was a keynote speech given by someone from outside our immediate community. This was extremely well received and is



The famous 630-foot Gateway Arch in St Louis

likely to become a regular feature of Connect conferences going forward.

CNI Fall Member Meeting

9-10 December 2019 | Washington DC

Samvera gave a short presentation at this meeting to raise awareness of our Community and its work. The presentation very briefly mapped our development over the previous 10 years and then assessed our current level of progress and sustainability against the ‘It Takes a Village’ guidelines published by LYRASIS.

2020 events already in planning

Samvera Steering Group Winter Retreat

27-28 January 2020 | San Diego

The Steering Group will hold their annual retreat to discuss and

map out key topics that they will address in 2020.

Code4Lib 2020

8-11 March 2020 | Westin Hotel, Pittsburgh

Samvera will be taking an exhibitor table at Code4Lib.

Introductory Samvera Camp

14-17 April 2020 | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Samvera Partner meeting

27-28 April 2020 | Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Samvera Virtual Connect 2020

tbd April/May 2020 | Online

Open Repositories 2020

1-4 June 2020 | Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Hyrax & Hyku User Workshop

6-7 August 2020 | Notch8, San Diego, CA

Introductory Samvera Camp

29 September - 2 October 2020 | San Diego

Samvera Developer Congress

26 October 2020 | UC Santa Barbara Library

Samvera Partner meeting

26 October 2020 | UC Santa Barbara Library

Samvera Connect 2020

27-30 October 2020 | Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort, Santa Barbara, CA



The library at ‘WashU’ - the venue for many of the Connect 2019 sessions

contributors & acknowledgements



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Images

Screenshots with the permission of the respective site owners

Connect 2019 group photo—Washington University in St Louis

Opening session —Mollie Webb

WGBH studio—WGBH, Boston

Traditional 'take' - British Library

Sunset in St Louis—Richard Green

Washington University campus—Kevin Kochanski

Statue of St Louis—Esmé Cowles

Gateway Arch and 'WashU' Library—Richard Green

Based on a design by

Karen Hackett (Penn State University) & Michael Tribone (Penn State University)



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