

# Searching for Sustainability: Avalon in the Samvera Community

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# Background: What is Avalon?

- Open source software system that enables libraries and archives to provide access to audio and video collections
- ~~Hydra~~ Samvera Solution Bundle
- Goals:
  - Easily installable and configurable
  - Serve a variety of use cases and institutions
  - Create a basis for sustainable development
- Currently in production at 12+ institutions



Fête (Excerpt) - Avalon Media Sys: X

https://pawpaw.dlib.indiana.edu/media\_objects/m326m172d

Sign in>>

avalon  
MEDIA SYSTEM

Browse Search



**Fête (Excerpt)**

**Date**  
2010

**Main contributor**  
Langlais, Jean, 1907-1991

**Summary**  
Recorded on May 2, 2010, Auer Concert Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington.

**Contributor**  
Young, Christopher C. (Christopher Clark)

**Publisher**  
William and Gayle Cook Music Library

**Subject**  
Organ music

**Collection**  
Sample Collection

**Unit**  
University Archives

00:32 01:03

Share

# A grant aimed at sustainability

- US Institute of Museum and library Services (IMLS) grant aimed at finding a sustainable model
- We took two years to focus on what we were doing and how we could improve
- This presentation will try to talk through the challenges of building a sustainable model in a complex environment



The **successful** warrior  
is the **average** man,  
with **laser-like** focus.

*Bruce Lee*



# We focused on three areas of sustainability

- Broaden activity within the core community
- Deepen engagement with new users and new partners
- Widen involvement with new technical communities

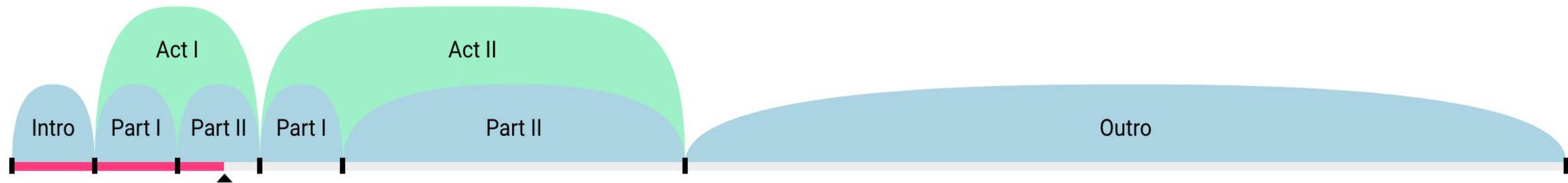


**Absorb** what is useful,  
**discard** what is useless,  
and **add** what is  
specifically **your own**.

- *Bruce Lee*

# Broadening activity within core community

- Avalon 7 (Avalon on Hyrax – under development)
  - Developed a component-based approach
  - Dedicated team members to the core codebase
  - Work closely with Product owners to align roadmaps



00:25 / 03:07



### Annotations

Act I



Part II



Conclusion of Act 1.

Saxophone solo (00:25.63)



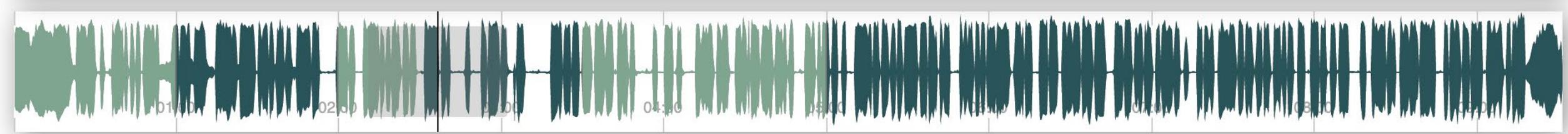
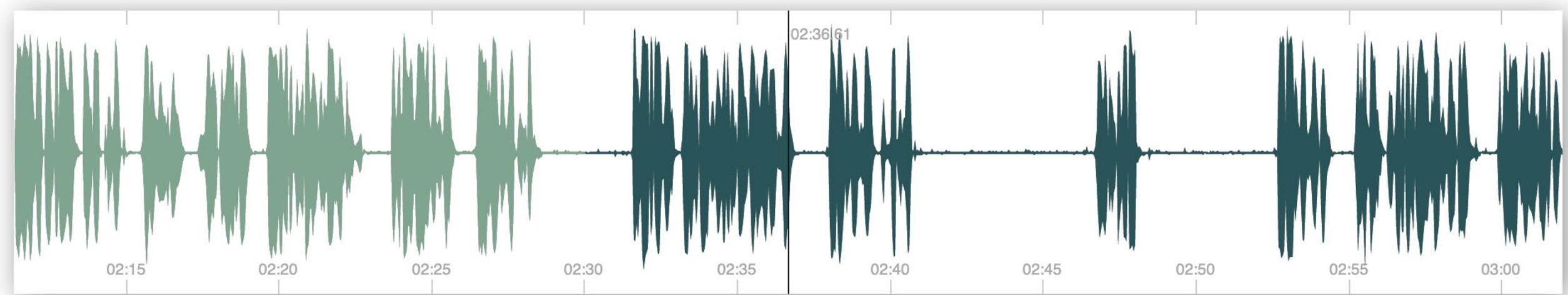
### Timeline information

Jazz - Jazz Performance

Description of timeline



REVERT CHANGES



▶ 2:37 / 9:32

Add a Heading

Add a Timespan

**Lunchroom Manners**

**Introduction**

Part 1 (00:00:00.00 - 00:01:00.00)

# Broadening our activity within the core community

- Dedicate Members to the Core Hyrax Team
  - Dedicated resources to normalize releases
  - Improve quality of the product
  - Create a cohesive team rather than feature requests
- Community Sprints
  - Swappable backends (Hyrax on Wings/Valkyrie)
  - Collections Extensions

# Broadening activity within core community

- Joined, led, and developed core working groups and sprints
  - UI working group
  - Roadmap
  - Community Sprints
  - Governance WG
  - Hyrax working group
  - Permissions working group
  - Tech calls
  - Ad hoc calls with leadership
  - And more...

# Deepening engagement with new adopters, partners, and users

- Develop one-on-one relationships
  - Finding users: current and potential
  - Team-to-team meetings
  - Lots of follow up
  - Learn about our users

# Deepening engagement with new adopters, partners, and users

- Create opportunities for the curious to engage
  - Forums (Mini webinars)
  - Online "Office Hours"
  - Roundtables: users, leaders
  - Email: lists, individual contacts
  - Slack channel within Samvera Slack workgroup

Empty your mind, be  
formless. Shapeless, like  
water.



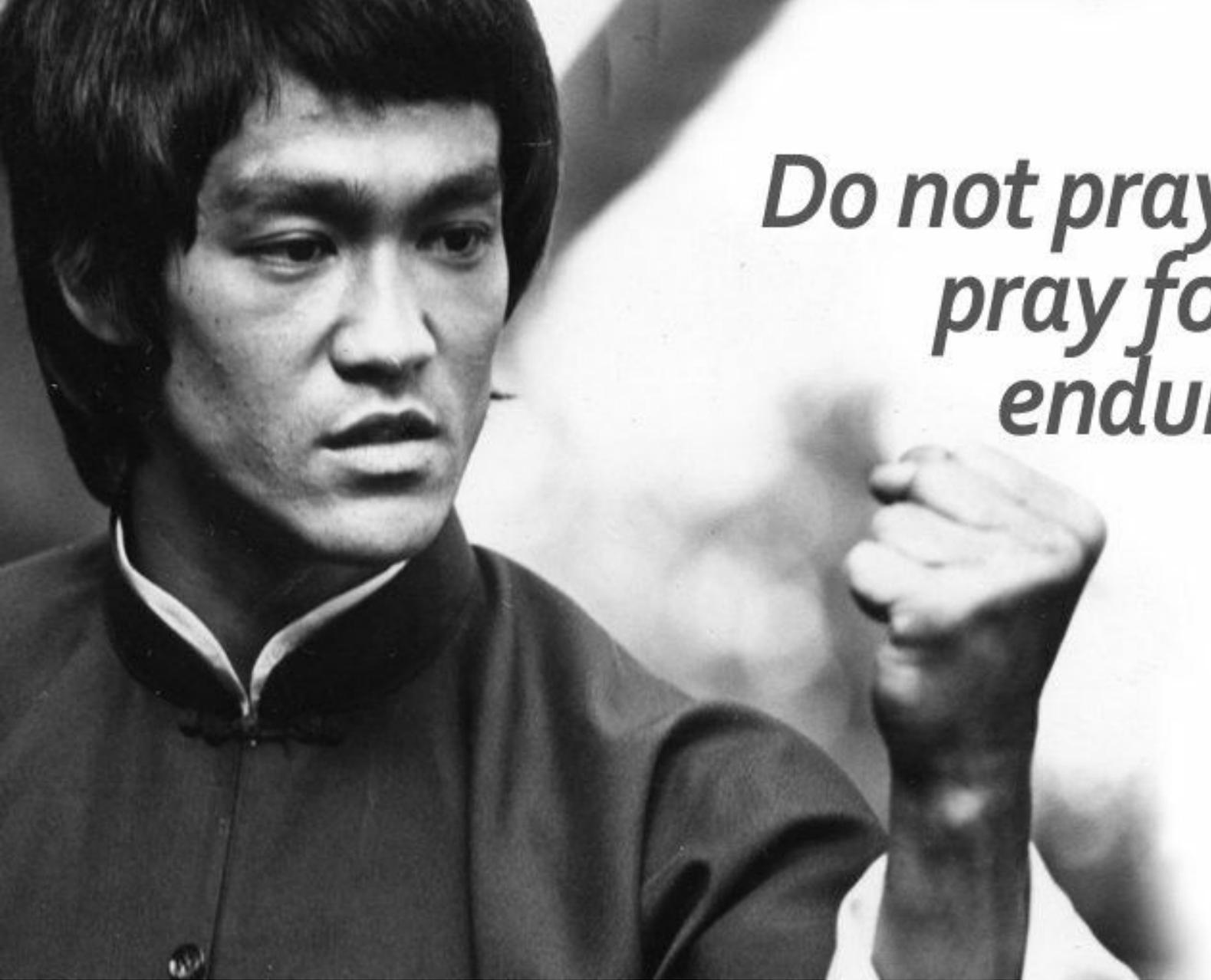
# Widening involvement in other technical communities

- Seeing technological opportunities, e.g. IIF
  - Developer and project management time on IIF Presentation API 2.0 spec, IIF AV Technical Specification Group
  - Developed a standalone “Avalonish” IIF player



# Widening involvement in other technical communities

- Opening doors to new partnerships and vendor relationships
  - WGBH: American Archive of Public Broadcasting
  - AVP: Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), Aviary
  - LYRASIS: Hosted Avalon pilot
- New communities
  - AV archiving (AMIA/IASA)
  - Oral history

A black and white photograph of Bruce Lee. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, high-collared martial arts gi. He has a serious, focused expression and is looking slightly to the right of the camera. His right hand is raised in a fist, with the thumb tucked in, in a classic martial arts stance. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a flag or a banner.

*Do not pray for an easy life,  
pray for the strength to  
endure a difficult one.*

Bruce Lee

# Challenges and Successes

- Time and resources. Dedicated time is critical
- Allowing the team to learn how to contribute, it's a slow process
- “Fail fast” is hard to pull off in open source communities

# Conclusion

- The way to sustainability is to be practiced and disciplined enough to respond to a changing environment while also driving a solution to end users.

# Thank You!



Northwestern



More information available at [avalonmediasystem.org](http://avalonmediasystem.org)