

Title of Proposal

Building a shared repository service using Samvera Hyku

Presenters:

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Abstract

Samvera is an open source repository system with a growing user base. Since its launch, two Samvera flavours have emerged: Hyrax, now with an estimated 50 active repositories; and more recently Hyku, specifically designed to support multiple repositories on a single instance.

By June 2019, the British Library will be reaching the end of a pilot project to develop a shared repository service using Hyku as the central platform for itself and four partners, British Museum, Tate, National Museums Scotland and MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology).

This workshop will cover two areas:

- The Samvera Hyku system, focusing on how Hyku is being developed to meet the expectations of the British Library's project
- The successes and challenges – for our partners, the Library and users - of developing a shared repository service.

The workshop aims to be useful for both business/repository managers and repository system colleagues. We aim to pitch it at a level that makes it accessible for the 'simply interested and not too technical' but with enough detail to provide genuine insight into the potential of Samvera Hyku. After introductory presentations, the audience will divide to focus on the two areas above, with the chance to dig into the detail and throw questions at our expert presenters.

Conference Themes

- Understanding user needs and user experience
- **Discovery, use and impact**
- Repositories - evolution or revolution?
- **Supporting open scholarship and cultural heritage**
- **Open and sustainable**
- Policies, licensing and the law
- How can metadata and standards help our users?
- Repositories and global knowledge

Keywords

Shared repositories; Samvera Hyku; culture & heritage research; museums & galleries; open source technologies; multi-tenant.

Audience

- Repository managers, especially those thinking about alternative platforms
- Repository system managers
- System suppliers
- Cultural heritage organisations.
- Samvera community

Background

This workshop directly addresses the conference themes relating to open scholarship; cultural heritage; and especially discovery, use and impact of research. The British Library and our four pilot partners are all Independent Research Organisations but our research is often undervalued, poorly discovered and underused. Our pilot shared research repository aims to improve access to and use of our research; highlight the wide range of cultural sector research outputs available to users; and increase the impact of that research to society and the wider research landscape.

We are also interested to learn how a multi-tenancy approach with cross-institution search potentially makes the platform more valuable to users by giving them content from multiple organisations. Since Hyku is relatively new, the project will also be looking into user experience and the user's discovery journey to assess future developments required to ensure the platform responds as tightly as possible to users' needs and expectations.

A recent UUK report recommends greater collaboration between repositories and suggests more could be done to reduce the number of very small, isolated repositories. This workshop presents one example of a (pilot) shared repository that has the potential to meet the needs of further heritage organisations as well as research from other sectors in future, based on the latest multi-tenant repository infrastructure

Session content and format

The workshop will address both technical and service audiences.

We plan to provide a detailed overview of both Samvera Hyku as a potential solution for shared repository services, and our experience of developing a shared repository service involving the British Library and four partner organisations. By June 2019, the pilot project will have gathered formal feedback from our partners, users and content authors, and this will also be presented in the workshop.

The 90-minute workshop will be organised thus:

1. Short walkthrough of our shared repository; reflections on developing a shared repository service (presentation, British Library)
2. Description of the Hyku platform and its key features, and how it has been used and developed for the British Library project (presentation, Ubiquity Press)
3. Breakout into two groups, each led by the presenters and/or additional facilitators. A mix of more detailed presentations, Q&A and discussion:
 - Group 1: Developing a shared service
What is our pilot business model? Have we been able to reach a balance between retaining individual institution identity & brand with achieving benefits of scale? Does the multi-

tenancy platform and cross-partner search provide greater value for users by giving them content from multiple organisations? What have been the service/partner-related challenges so far and how have we approached those challenges?

- Group 2: Samvera Hyku as a repository platform

Explore in more detail the features and open source developments contributed by the British Library's suppliers Ubiquity Press to the Hyku community. Suggestions and discussion on further required features, the best way to develop them, and areas causing challenges to date. What are the key elements for effective open source technology and a strong Hyku community?

4. Regroup to summarise and reflect views and discussions.

The workshop is NOT:

- A hands-on tech hack
- A sales pitch!
- All about cultural organisations.

Learning outcomes

- An opportunity to hear about and see Hyku repository software in action (for the first time?)
- An understanding of the potential value of and challenges to shared repository services
- Insight into whether Hyku meets the needs of shared repository services – and what still needs to be achieved
- Opportunity for the Hyku community to hear feedback from a fresh audience
- As a bonus, a greater understanding of the extent and value of cultural heritage research outputs – and the need to improve discovery, use and impact of this research.

Length, format and number of attendees

- *Briefly state the proposed session length: 90 mins, 3 hours or a whole day (6 hours).*

90 mins.

- *Also tell us how many attendees you plan to accommodate in your session.*

Up to 30.

Requirements

1. Breakout space to allow the audience to split into 2 groups – both areas need show & tell space for the facilitators to demo things online.
2. Flipcharts, good internet etc.