How the Samvera Community can be part of your digital strategy

**Thursday, October 22nd
Samvera Connect 2020**

Chris Awre, Karen Cariani, Nabeela Jaffer, Alicia Morris

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To cover

- To start with you (10 mins)
- The role and value of repositories and our digital collections for our libraries (10 mins)
- Samvera history and background (15 mins)
- Samvera vision (5 mins)
- Over to you - Strategic drivers and Samvera? (15 mins)
- Meeting needs with Samvera (20 mins)
  - Community engagement and participation
  - Technical platform, product, and toolset
  - Connecting the library's activities and skills
- Takeaways and next steps (5 mins)
- Q&A (10 mins)
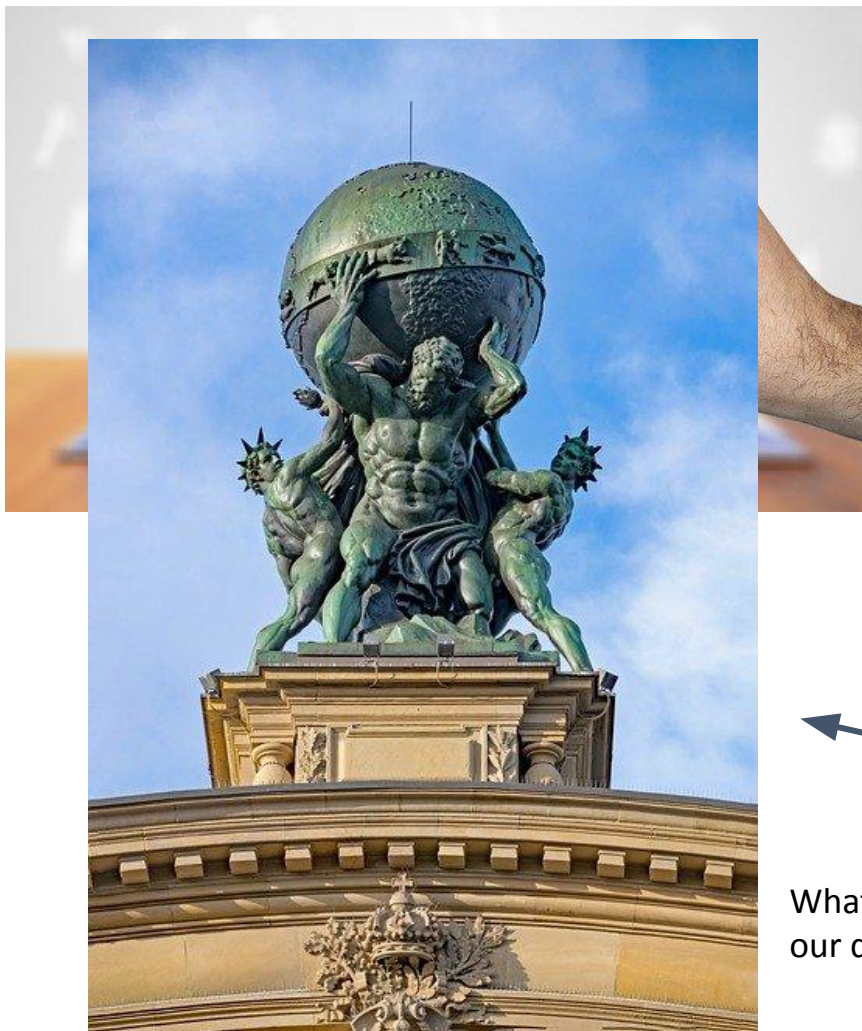
To start with you

Thank you for your input in response to the preparatory questions circulated earlier this week

➢ Please name up to 3 key strategic drivers in relation to digital repositories and the management of digital content collections
➢ Does your institution prefer to use off the shelf solutions or create solutions to fit your local needs in this area? What are the drivers for your choice?
➢ How do available system options match your digital strategy needs? What are the gaps?

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Wordcloud results

The role and value of repositories and digital content collections

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We carefully build structures to house our physical collections

What infrastructure do we need for our digital collections?

Samvera history and background

➢ 2008 - a collaborative project between University of Hull, University of Virginia, Stanford University, Fedora Commons/DuraSpace, working with MediaShelf LLC (now Data Curation Experts)

➢ Unfunded (in itself) - activity was based on identification of a common need

➢ Worked towards a reusable framework for multipurpose, multifunction, multi-institutional repository-enabled solutions

   ○ Hydra - now Samvera

➢ Community first, then technology

   ○ Early recognition - we can only make this work for all our needs through working together

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Samvera timeline

2008 - Community formed (as Hydra Project)

    2010 - First software commit

       2011 - First production rollouts

        2012 - Partnership formed

          2013 - First release of Avalon and Sufia (Hyrax predecessor)

            2014 - First Connect

              2017 - Hydra becomes Samvera, Hyrax and Hyku released

2018-2020 - Maturing of community (ITAV) and products

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See https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.383/ for more background)

Community structure

* Partners (institutional)
  * Formally committed institutional membership
* Steering Group (elected by partners)
  * Stewards of the project - individual membership
  * Nine members, serving overlapping 3-year terms
* Roadmaps Alignment Group
  * Oversight of individual components and their roadmaps, to ensure alignment
* Working & Interest Groups
  * Topically aligned groups that span organizations & roles
* Developer community
  * Committers
  * Community adopters

Samvera Partners

SAMVERA PARTNERS

Boston Public Library

Columbia University

Cornell University

CoSector, University of London

Data Curation Experts

Digital Repository of Ireland

Duke University

Emory University

Indiana University

Lafayette College

Northwestern University

Notch8

Oregon State University

Penn State University

Princeton University Library

Stanford University

Tufts University

Ubiquity Press

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 Utah

University of Virginia

University of York
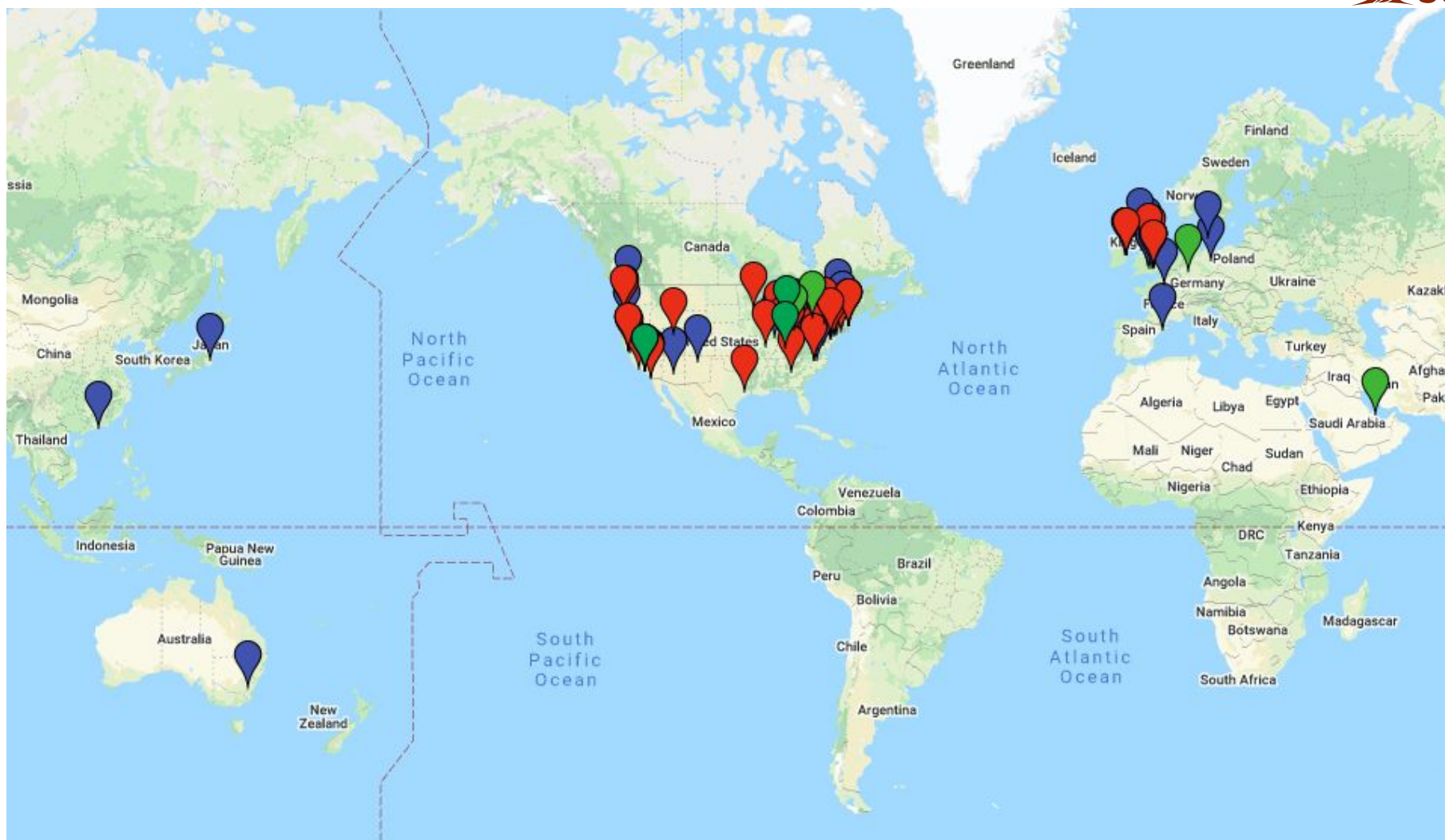
Washington University in St Louis
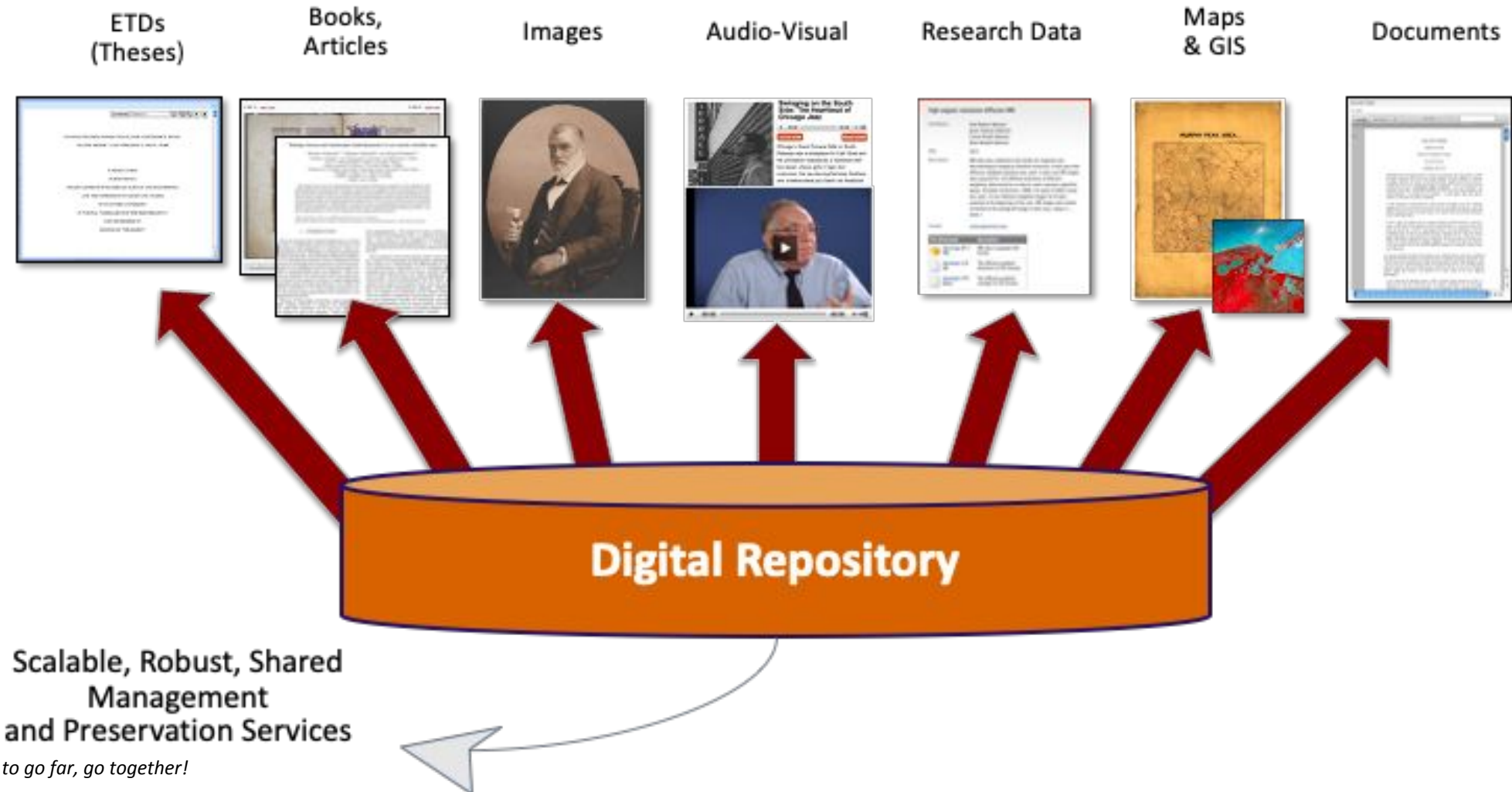
WGBH Boston

Yale University

Adoption far and wide

Multiple use cases (in theory)

ETDs (Theses) — Books, Articles — Images — Audio-Visual — Research Data — Maps & GIS — Documents

Digital Repository

Scalable, Robust, Shared Management and Preservation Services

Multiple use cases (in practice)

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Used by:

- ❖ Large Universities
- ❖ Small Universities
- ❖ Colleges
- ❖ Public Broadcasting
- ❖ Government Ministry
- ❖ National Libraries
- ❖ National Lab
- ❖ Small Research Labs
- ❖ National Digital Repository
- ❖ Statewide Digital Libraries
- ❖ Science History Institute
- ❖ Museum of Performing Arts
- ❖ A Shakespeare Festival

Used for:

- ❖ Self-deposit system
- ❖ Digital Collections System
- ❖ Sheet Music
- ❖ Architectural resources
- ❖ Electronic Theses & Dissertations
- ❖ Digital Image System
- ❖ Media Management
- ❖ Media Preservation System
- ❖ Research Data Management
- ❖ Digitization Workflow System
- ❖ Digital Preservation System
- ❖ Digital Archives System
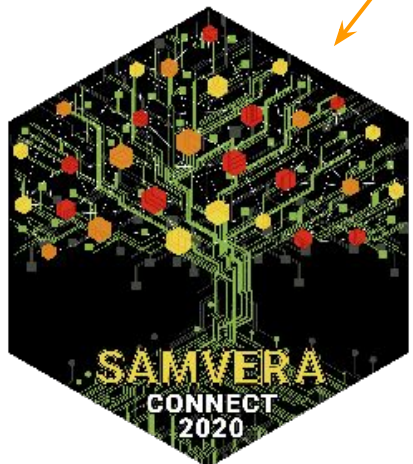- ❖ Library Monograph Acquisitions System
- ❖ And more!

Why did we do this?

➢ Recognised common need across different institutions

➢ Build a platform that allows for localised requirements, standalone or in the cloud

➢ Working together to sustain our solutions

➢ Helping each other to learn about and take advantage of technical innovations

Samvera vision

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**.

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Hyrax
Hyku
Avalon

FAQ /
case studies

Hyrax

hyku

avalon
MEDIA SYSTEM

Over to you

Please name up to
3 **key strategic
drivers** in relation to
digital repositories
and the
**management of
digital content**
collections

Discussion time!

Off the shelf or **custom** created solution.

What are the **drivers for your choice**?

off the shelf if they are affordable and sustainable. custom only when there is nothing that is even close to fitting local need (ideally)

Off the shelf solutions because we have been historically understaffed and/or lacked needed expertise, but we are moving to a hybrid of slightly customized off the shelf solutions

Off the shelf where possible but VERY complex metadata requirements can be a problem

Off the shelf, lack of technical staff to customize.

We tended toward many small custom solutions in the past but have found this unsustainable. We now look for areas of commonality and community based solutions

We prefer to use open source solutions whenever possible and sometimes participate in their development. Open source paired with meeting our needs are the main drivers for our decisions.

a mix of both depending on the technology solution and staffing available for the work.

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Discussion time!

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How do available system options **match your digital strategy needs**?

What are the **gaps**?

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Gap: corporate philosophy of open. Match - BePress usage - stats, support, Journal publishing, author profiles all in one.

I would like to use more of the Samvera stack for digitized content management and to better integrate with other services (ingest workflow, catalog and preservation).

Gap: Big data

For performance and maintainability we want Samvera over Postgres (now available via Valkyrie).

Gap: Ease of ingest (diss/Thesis),

They match up somewhat well, but still require expertise that takes time to build

I'm curious whether Hyrax is worthwhile or whether we'd be better just adopting components

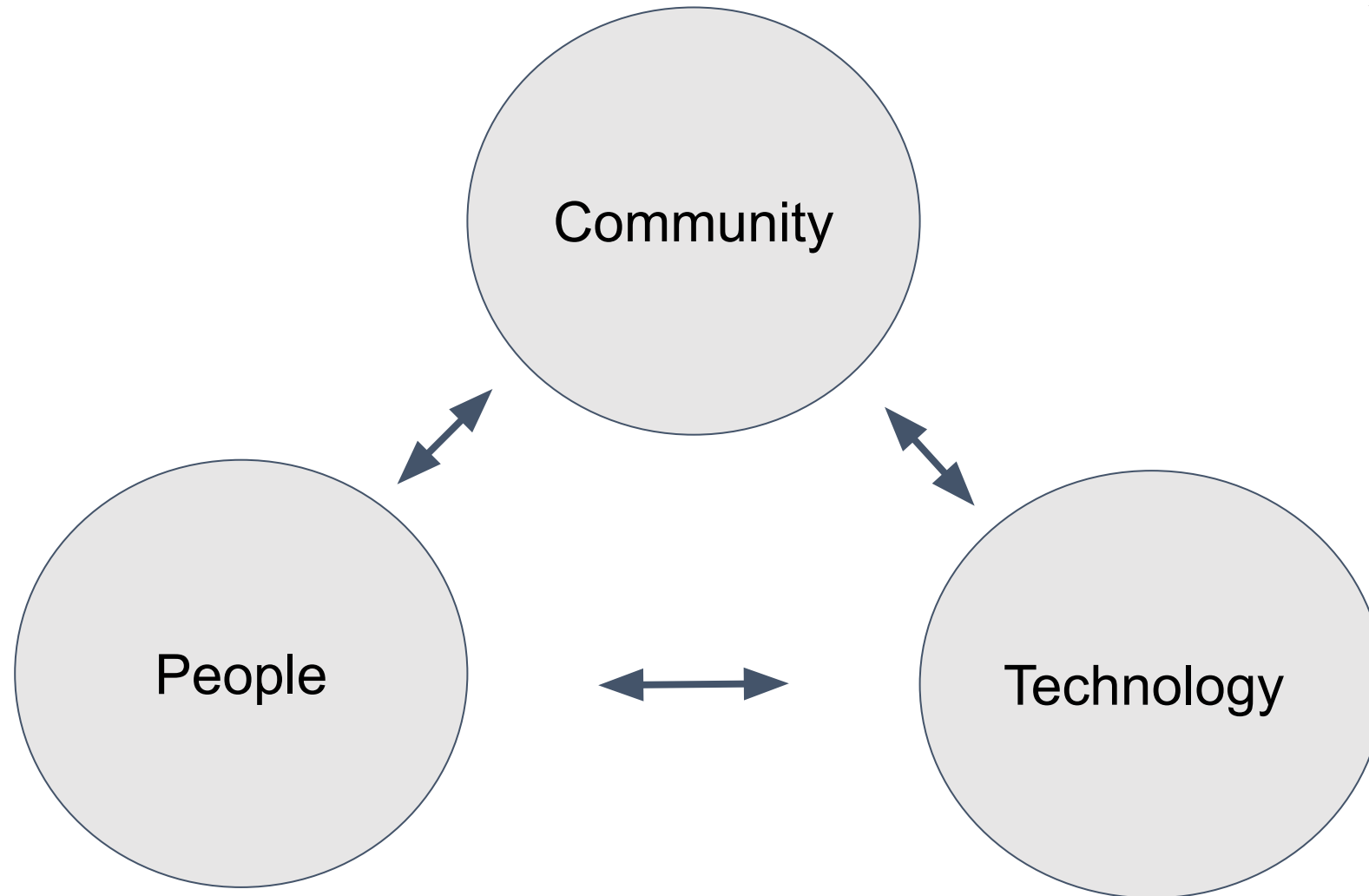Fedora4 and 5 have major digital preservation weaknesses

Over to you 2

Where do you see alignment between your strategic drivers and Samvera?

Where do you see a mismatch?

Discussion Document

Meeting needs with Samvera

Community engagement

❏ Many open source initiatives are based around a community - that is what gives them their strength
  ❏ Samvera's starting point was the community, not the technology
❏ Communities thrive through shared commitment
  ❏ Partner model - 32 current organisations, including vendors, committed to supporting each other in the continuing development of Samvera
  ❏ Contribution model - Community contribution based on size of organisation
  ❏ Samvera becomes greater than the sum of its parts
❏ Regular communication - online and, where we can, face-to-face
  ❏ https://samvera.org/getting-started/communication/

It Takes a Village

Lyrasis project to help communities identify their development and next steps - https://www.lyrasis.org/programs/Pages/IMLS-OSS.aspx

Samvera analysis, 2019

- ❏ https://www.cni.org/topics/repositories/it-took-a-village-the-evolution-of-samvera

Governance	Technology	Resources	Community engagement
Phase 2 - Growing	Phase 3 - Stable but not static	Phase 2 - Growing	Phase 2 - Growing

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Supporting skills sets

❏ Engagement with the technical outputs from Samvera does require specific technical skills - this enables local flexibility
  ❏ Training is available (when we can travel!) - https://curationexperts.com/home/samvera-camp/
❏ Samvera also helps develop skills for library staff
  ❏ Through shared engagement on common problems to identify solutions
  ❏ Through learning about different areas of digital curation
  ❏ Through seeing how technical solutions can apply to curation challenges
❏ Opportunities (such as Connect) to showcase local skills with others
  ❏ Professional reputation

Connecting the library's activities

- Samvera develops open source technologies, but it also takes a broader picture about involving and supporting staff working with the management of digital content. For example,
    - Repository Managers Interest Group
    - Metadata Interest Group
    - User Experience/UI Interest Group
    - Archivists/Digital Preservation groups (now ended)
- Samvera touches on discovery, support for teaching & learning, support for research, publishing
- Highlighting the ways in which repositories and digital collections can be one of a Library's USPs

Technical platform, tools, products and services

❏ Key to the technical solutions that Samvera has produced has been common endeavour and practice
  ❏ https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Samvera+Community+Principles
  ❏ Learning from general distributed software development practice
❏ What level do you want to engage at technically? A range of options
  ❏ Platform and Toolset - Use the components in Github to build your own solution
  ❏ Product - Start with an established solution you can adapt and build on

  ❏ Services - Work with a vendor on a hosted solution or create what you need for local use

Takeaways

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➤ Samvera is a well-established and mature community, with clear sight of how the Community can develop further

➤ Samvera provides a place for organisations to collaborate to meet the digital content strategy needs that arise within our organisations

➤ Samvera provides a range of technical solutions and routes through which those solutions can be put in place through working together

The Community drives its strength and resourcing from its members and their varied contributions - could you bring something to the table?

You can adopt freely, but there is added value from participation and Partnership

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Next steps

- **Website -** for the managers

https://samvera.org

https://samvera.org/samvera-community-sourced-software/faq/

- **Wiki -** for the doers

https://samvera.org/wiki

- **Github -** for the makers

https://github.com/samvera / https://github.com/samvera-labs

https://samvera.github.io/

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Get in touch

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For all matters related to use and operation

samvera-community@googlegroups.com

For all matters technical

samvera-tech@googlegroups.com

...and enjoy the rest of Connect 2020!

Thank you

Chris Awre - c.awre@hull.ac.uk

Karen Cariani - karen_cariani@wgbh.org

Nabeela Jaffer - njaffer@umich.edu

Alicia Morris - alicia.morris@tufts.edu

Questions…?

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