

## **VC2019: Steering Group update**

### **1. Title slide**

Hello. I'm Richard Green, currently Chair of the Samvera Steering Group and I'm here today to update you on some of the things that Steering has been doing over the last few months. I must start by giving Jon Dunn's apologies: he is Chair-Elect and will take over from me in the summer. We were to do a joint presentation, but Jon is unavoidably busy elsewhere.

### **2. Steering's role**

Steering's role is essentially stewardship and central administration of the Samvera Community and, for the purposes of today's presentation, we can break that down into three parts: carrying out the administrative tasks that come from initiatives agreed by the Partners, annually repeating tasks, and finally occasional tasks that come up. I'll deal with each of those in turn and highlight just some key events.

### **3. Admin tasks for Partners**

Around this time last year, the Samvera Partners voted to adopt the set of recommendations put forward by the Governance Working Group that they had commissioned. These recommendations are changing the make-up of the Steering Group and the way that its members come and go. The changes had implications for the legal documents underpinning the Samvera Community and it has taken some time to get new versions approved by legal counsel and to make the new materials available. That work is only just now complete. The Governance Working Group also recommended the formation of a Roadmap Council. Last fall Steering put in place the Partner vote to ratify its Charter and, at the same time, to approve a new set of By-Laws for the Steering Group. Both were approved unanimously.

A major initiative proposed by the Governance Working Group was that, as a community, we should work towards being able to appoint two full-time staff termed, for the moment at least, a Community Manager and a Technical Manager. This will require that Samvera has a much, much greater annual income than at present. Two Working Groups are addressing means of achieving this - the Fundraising Working Group, who will be presenting shortly, and the Contribution Model Working Group. In conjunction with these groups, members of Steering have also been exploring the possibility of short-term seed funding to help accelerate the hiring of at least one staff position.

### **4. Recurring Annual tasks**

Each year there is a list of annual jobs that the Steering Group take on for the Community. Since our very successful Connect conference last fall, there have been perhaps two of these worthy of mention.

Each year, members of Steering's finance subcommittee negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with our fiscal sponsor, DuraSpace, that sets out the terms of our relationship

with them for the coming twelve months and agrees the charges that we will incur for the service. This year was no exception and we agreed a Memorandum for 2019 on exactly the same terms as for 2018. Many of you will be aware that DuraSpace has recently announced that it is merging with Lyris. We have been reassured that there will be no adverse impact on the relationship that we currently enjoy with them.

The other annual task that I should like to mention is the production of Samvera's third Annual Report. The Report serves both to document our Community's progress - and perhaps more importantly - as something that \*you\* can use to share information about the Samvera Community with colleagues. Senior colleagues, in particular, may find it a useful summary that justifies their organization's involvement with us. The 2018 Report can be downloaded both from the wiki and from the website. Please share it.

## 5. Occasional tasks

Finally, I come to some of those 'occasional' tasks I mentioned.

Two tasks are always a pleasure. Welcoming new people to the Community by receiving and accepting Contributor Licensing Agreements from them, and admitting new Partner organizations.

Over the last few months there has been a steady trickle of CLAs and we now have more than 300 individual CLAs and almost 80 corporate CLAs on file. Even accepting that some of these people and organizations have now become inactive, the numbers are quite impressive.

We have recently signed up two new Partners - the University of Utah, who hosted last year's Connect conference, and Ubiquity Press. Ubiquity is a UK-based vendor which is currently developing a Hyku repository service to include research outputs from the British Library, the British Museum, the Tate galleries, National Museums Scotland and the Museum of London Archaeology.

## 6. Occasional tasks (2)

Steering, in its role as a steward of the community, has been having its own discussions about helping to secure Samvera's future. Members of the group have come up with, and pursued, a number of initiatives of their own, three of which are perhaps worthy of mention here.

First, we have had discussions with the Roadmap Council to put in place a 'turnkey' Docker script for Hyrax, alongside the existing Docker script for Hyku, with improved documentation for new developers wanting to try out these applications

Second, we shall shortly be launching Samvera's own repository instance. This is effectively a marketing tool to showcase what a vanilla version of our software looks like (with the message that it can be enhanced to be much, much more). The contents will be the many

presentations and posters from past Connect conferences. The Marketing Working Group will talk about some more initiatives shortly.

Lastly, Steering felt it was important, as we are in a year of change, to go through a visioning exercise to help set the tone for Samvera's future path. You've likely received emails from Hannah Frost about that.

## 7. Thank you!

Members of the Steering Group take on their role in addition to the other things that they do for the Community. For instance, its members are active in any number of key working and interest groups. As the outgoing Chair I should like to thank each and every one of them for their support and encouragement but, beyond that, for their outstanding contribution to the Community as a whole.

Thank you.