What to do when your repository enters middle age

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Samvera Connect 2020
OUTLINE

- Introductions
- Our repository’s mid-life crisis
  - Refining the scope
  - Focusing our work
  - Centering the repository
- Conclusion
- Q&A
The cutting edge (~2013)
Fedora 3
Solr 4
Sufia (pre Hyrax)
Custom ETD Workflow (Sipity)
Custom Preservation Storage (Bendo)
pre-2012: Idea conceptualized

2013: First code commit

2014: Soft-launch

2015: Oversight team

2016: First PO appointed

2017: PO leaves; another appointed

2019: Don and Mikala become co-POs
Two developers
Two product owners
Innumerable stakeholders
Mid-Life Crisis
● Scholarly materials
  ○ ETDs
  ○ Patents
  ○ Datasets
● Digital Collections
  ○ Lantern slides
  ○ EAD Finding Aids
● Miscellaneous
  ○ “Just put it in Curate”
    ■ E-Resources: e.g. journals, videos
CurateND: jack of all trades

Master of none
• Limited adoption or campus awareness
• Technical debt
• Limited internal buy-in
• Limited outreach
• Organizational upheaval
HOW FORWARD?
Make it useful.
- Refined the scope
- Focused development effort
- Centered the repository
New and improved?
Old and refined
What works well

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What is needed
Usefulness
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Everything else
• Limited staffing
• Paying technical debt
Focused Development
Incremental changes

- Articulated our boundaries
- Projects with a high return on investment
- Paying down technical debt
Easier to use ->
Increased adoption ->
More resources
Centering the repository
• Faculty and graduate students
• Outreach and marketing
• Administrative professionals
• Internal advocates and allies
Meet champions where they are
So what?
• Strong internal advocate(s)
• Mid-life crises can be an opportunity
• Use > Sunk costs
• Marketing 101
THANK YOU, ND FAMILY
Questions?

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