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# Toward a Sustainable Future for the ARK Alliance

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**CDL**

California Digital Library

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## Why are we here?

- Changes to CDL advisory group participation
  - Next steps regarding ARK Alliance sustainability
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# Brief History

2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CDL started the discussion with Duraspace</li></ul>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CDL engaged with Duraspace to start the ARKs-in-the-Open (AITO) project</li><li>• Advisory Group first met in July</li></ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical, Sustainability &amp; Outreach Working Group created</li></ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability Working Group retired</li><li>• NAAN Registry Working Group created</li></ul>

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# Our Goal: Sustainability

The genesis of ARKs-in-the-Open project was our concern about 4 issues where CDL and its staff were a single point of failure:

1. Maintenance of the NAAN registry
  2. Maintenance of the ARK specification
  3. Operating a global ARK resolver
  4. ARK community leadership and participation
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# Making progress

## 1. Maintenance of the NAAN registry

- NAAN Registry Working Group members share the responsibility of responding to new NAAN requests and updating existing NAANs

## 2. Maintenance of the ARK specification

- The Technical Working Group is actively creating the next version of the ARK specification
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## Planned Activities

### 3. Operating a global ARK resolver

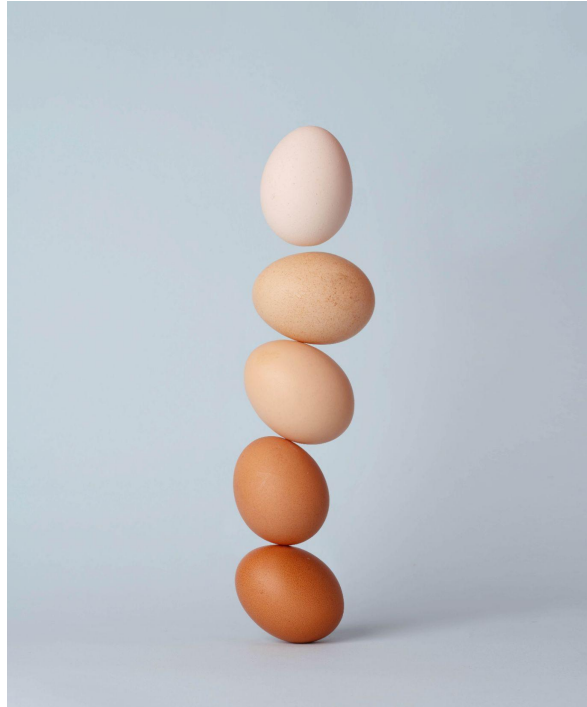
- The ARK user base is not in a position to take on the responsibility of providing a global ARK resolver.
  - CDL is committed to providing a global resolver for the near term, to support the small number of users that rely on this function. CDL is investing over \$200K to build a next-generation ARK resolver that can be replicated by community partners to provide sustainability for this service in the longer term.
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## Remaining Challenge

### 4. ARK community leadership and participation

- CDL staff still chairs or coordinates all Working Groups, responsible for scheduling meetings and creating meeting agendas.
  - CDL staff generate most of the content for the newsletter, manage updates to the website (arks.org), and keep FAQs and documentation updated.
  - CDL staff remain primary representatives of the ARK community at conferences and community gatherings.
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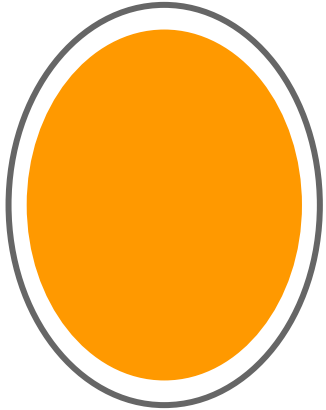




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# ARK Alliance – current situation

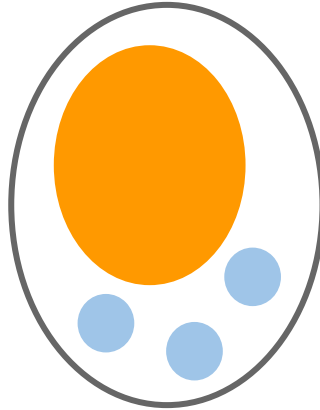
● =CDL      ● = non-CDL



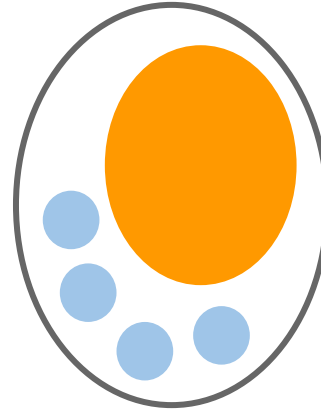
N2T



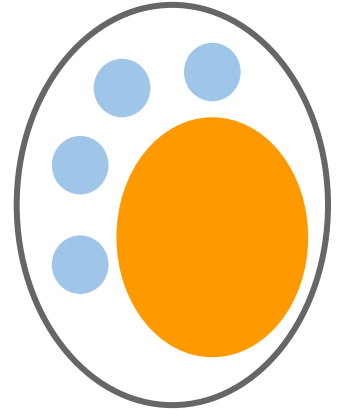
NAAN  
Registry



Advisory  
Group



Technical  
Group



Outreach  
Group

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# Toward a sustainable future

- ARK Alliance can't be 100% dependent on extensive in-kind contributions from one person or one organization
  - Working groups need committed leadership/structures from outside CDL
    - NAAN registry
    - Outreach
    - Technical
    - Advisory
  - ARK Alliance needs a short- and long-term plan for sustainable operations and infrastructure
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## Next steps?

- Review working groups and remits
  - Revisit governance model – role of advisory group
  - Decide on distribution of leadership and coordination of WGs across multiple orgs
  - Determine if we can lead this with our organizations filling in these gaps, or if we will need to fundraise/in-kind to hire paid staff at other orgs
  - Agree on a plan and timeline - finalize in December
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# Thank you!

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