Toward a Sustainable Future for the ARK Alliance

Kurt Ewoldsen & John Chodacki
California Digital Library
Why are we here?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>• CDL started the discussion with Duraspace</td>
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| 2018 | • CDL engaged with Duraspace to start the ARKs-in-the-Open (AITO) project  
       |       | • Advisory Group first met in July |
| 2019 | • Technical, Sustainability & Outreach Working Group created |
| 2020 | • Sustainability Working Group retired  
       |       | • NAAN Registry Working Group created |
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
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
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.
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.
ARK Alliance – current situation

- **N2T**
- **NAAN Registry**
- **Advisory Group**
- **Technical Group**
- **Outreach Group**

Orange circles represent CDL, while blue circles represent non-CDL.
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
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
Thank you!

kurt.ewoldsen@ucop.edu

john.chodacki@ucop.edu