Draft:

Hydra repository project

*** Text struck through is not backed up by the three general references: we need independent verification of it still. ***

Founded in 2008, the Hydra Project is a large, multi-institutional collaboration which has produced a digital repository solution that is being used by institutions around the world to provide access to their digital content. The Project gives these like-minded institutions a mechanism to combine their individual repository development efforts into a collective solution with breadth and depth that exceeds the capacity of any individual institution to create, maintain or enhance on its own. The motto of the project is “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Hydra software is open source, released under the Apache 2 license; it uses a combination of Ruby on Rails, Blacklight, Apache Solr and the Fedora Commons repository software.

The Hydra collaboration supports an active community spanning universities, museums, libraries and public broadcast organisations: there are users, who are deploying the software to meet their own institutional needs, and partners in the Project who not only use the software but have formally committed to help further the collaboration and its aims. Many members of the community contribute to developing Hydra’s code base.

Hydra has a public website and a wiki used for more detailed information. The Project holds a number of meetings each year for users and Partners, and Partners hold a monthly conference call. Between meetings and calls, members of the community make wide use of several mailing lists and an IRC channel. In addition, the Project arranges workshops and training camps each year spanning Europe, North America and, in 2014, South America.

Hydra has been used to create and manage small and large, searchable collections of digital objects. The system is content agnostic, which is to say that any type of digital content can be managed. The software employs flexible access controls: thus, for instance, some material in a repository may be available to the public with no login required, whilst other content may be available only with appropriate credentials. In a single repository it is possible to have publicly available content, content available only to faculty, content available only to faculty and students, content available only to students on particular courses, and so on.

A list of Hydra’s current Ruby gems is maintained on one of its wiki pages and the project’s code and documentation is in a Github repository.

References:


Cramer, T. & Awre, C. (2012): Hydra. COAR Project Briefings (Confederation of Open Access Repositories), Göttingen, Germany

Bibliography

The following bibliography contains references for material that mentions or discusses the Hydra repository project

Journal Articles and Published Conference Proceedings


Presentations


Conrad, A. (2013). From content silos to an integrated digital repository. eBooks on Demand 2013 conference, Prague, Czech Republic

Coughlin, D. and Giarlo, M. (2013). Architecting ScholarSphere: How We Built a Repository App That Doesn't Feel Like Yet Another Janky Old Repository. A presentation given at the 2013 code4lib conference in Chicago, IL, USA


Other


Food and Drug Administration (2013). Fedora/Hydra Developer, FDA Digital Library of Modeling & Simulation, $90k, Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland (in jobs.code4lib.org)


Northwestern University Library (2011). IU and NUL Receive an IMLS Grant to Build an Open Source Video Management System. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

ORCID (2013). Adoption and Integration Program. ORCID, Bethesda, Maryland


Penn State University Libraries (2013). ArchiveSphere FAQs. Penn State University
Developers: The Hydra Project community

Stable release: The latest release information can be found at: Gems and documentation

Operating system: Cross-platform, but in production generally Linux

Type: Digital libraries

License: Apache 2

Website: projecthydra.org

**External links**

Hydra Project official website

Hydra Project wiki