

Charon: A Hydra-based Solution for Digital Humanities Workflows

Northeastern University Libraries

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Supporting DH Projects at Northeastern

The Northeastern University Libraries Digital Scholarship Group (DSG) works with many project teams to help support their digital humanities (DH) research. We are in the process of designing a Hydra-based repository that supports what we have identified as the most common tasks in the DH workspace: annotating, cataloging, text encoding, proofreading, transcribing, translating, and publishing. The end result will be a contributory and collaborative repository environment for many types of users, which ideally will encourage community engagement with digital objects.



Integrating External Editing Tools

Charon aims to provide scholars with an interface for managing and performing a variety of tasks including annotating, cataloging, encoding, proofreading, transcribing, and translating. Since there are existing tools developed and maintained by other institutions for many of these tasks, we hope to integrate external tools as opposed to trying to replicate features. Using existing tools will allow us to focus on other components of the application and collaborate with other partners. Some tools we're exploring for potential integration are T-Pen (St. Louis University) for transcription and CWRC-Writer (Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory) for encoding.

Transcribe "Object 5"

My Name

Text Pane

Cha 'n eil ach duin' ainneamh
am measg nan Gàidheal
nach cuala bheag no mhór
mu Choinneach Odhar, ach

Transcription Pane

I only ever rarely ...

Transcription notes: Translated from Gaelic (Scottish).

Mark complete ☐

Building a Collaborative Workspace

The central focus of this new Hydra head will be the editorial and content interfaces, each of which will include features that support collaborative project work. The editorial interfaces will allow users to plan work from a dashboard, submit files, and manage workflows. The content interfaces will enable editing of submitted documents, including encoding and transcribing work. The end result will be collaboratively edited project materials that can be published on the web.

{ Configure }



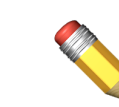
- Configure projects
- Manage accounts
- Create templates
- Design workflows

{ Submit }



- Submit files: PDF, TIFF, JPG, XML, XSLT, plain text, audio, video
- Approve deposit
- Process approved files: Split, sequence, OCR, TEI

{ Edit }



- Annotate
- Catalog
- Encode
- Proofread
- Transcribe
- Translate

{ Publish }



- Expose materials via API
- Design user experience
- Build custom website

This portion of Charon has already been implemented for our existing repository:
<http://dsg.neu.edu/ceres/>

Why Hydra?

Hydra provides the basis of Charon for several reasons:

- Preserves and stores objects long-term in Fedora, potentially in a shared Fedora Repository with our Digital Repository Service
- Ability to build complex object models using PCDM
- Leverage other institutions contributions to the community including Blacklight
- Ability to use existing Rails gems and tools for user and task management
- Potential for sharing content through Fedora 4 and linked data platform



Project Configuration

One of the key features of Charon will be the ability to customize the workspace. Project managers will be able to select the edit panes appropriate for their project, construct metadata templates, set up notifications, create and manage user accounts, as well as the ability to design task pipelines.

My Name
Manage Project

Project Dashboard

✨ New objects to be approved:

- Object 1 (link)
- Object 2 (link)

📝 Objects in process:

- Object 3 (link)
- Object 4 (link)

✅ Tasks assigned to me:

- Encode Object 3 (link)
- Transcribe Object 5 (link)



Get Involved

Charon is a collaborative effort among the DSG, Library Technology Services, and three pilot DH projects. Coding will commence in 2017, and we're always looking for more collaborators. If you're interested in collaborating with us (or are just curious about why we chose the name "Charon"), let us know!

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