Supporting Cultural Heritage Open Source Software Symposium

April 24 and April 25, 2014
4/24 9 am – 5 pm; 4/25 9 am – 12 noon
Georgian Terrace, Atlanta, Georgia

LYRASIS will convene a group of community leaders to identify needs related to long-term support for open source software currently in use or under development within our organizations. This invitational symposium will consider issues that impact open source software support and sustainability, identify successful models and strategies, and explore ways for projects/institutions to work together on sustainability.

The symposium is structured around three panels that will include presentations and discussion under broad topical areas as noted below. This is a working meeting where attendees will contribute to the discussion. LYRASIS will document the outputs of the discussion in a white paper and host a community-wide webinar in follow-up to foster broader discussion of the topic.

Panel Topics:
- Governance Models: What are the existing models? How are decisions made about the direction of the software? How does a project add committers outside the original developers? What are roles and best practices for technical, user, and governing committees?
- Support, Outreach, and Funding for Sustainability: How do we reach out to new users and developers with marketing/promotion and mentoring? How are support and outreach resourced (e.g., staff or volunteers)? What are forms of administrative homes for contracts, intellectual property holding, financial management, etc.? What models exist for funding long-term support? What are the interests of funding agencies that may support the initial development of the software or a local installation of it?
- Adopter Needs: What do users/adopters of open source software need and expect from the community? How much does the reality (or perception) of sustainability affect decisions to adopt an open source software package? How does the need for community sustainability factor into the organization's budget and staff resource allocations? What are the needs and desires for commercial support for open source?

Each panel will consist of three speakers followed by small group discussions, facilitated reporting and large-group discussion. LYRASIS will invite and pay travel expenses for 45 to 50 individuals representing diverse organizations involved with open source software for libraries, archives, and/or museums, including project leaders, adopters of open source software, support organizations, and granting agencies.

This Symposium is sponsored by LYRASIS with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon

Foundation.

About LYRASIS

A non-profit membership organization, LYRASIS was established in April 2009 with a collective history of legacy networks that dates back to 1936. LYRASIS partners with member libraries and cultural heritage organizations to create, access and manage information with an emphasis on digital content, while building and sustaining collaboration, enhancing operations and technology, and increasing buying power. LYRASIS Digital offers libraries, archives and museums, and other cultural heritage organizations an array of digital content services to enrich collections, including open source library software, hosting services, digital repositories, archives management software, software implementation and support, and consulting. With LYRASIS Digital, you can give your users expanded and enhanced access, helping them find content more easily and making your collections the resources they seek. For more information, please visit www.lyrasis.org.