Technical Advisory Group Meeting
Notes

Date: 01/27/2022

Attendees:

Advance Regrets: Martin Paul Eve

See agenda doc for full details.

- Introductions
- Director Updates
  - Mellon grant helping to expand team
    - Mike Thicke – full time developer
    - 2 half-time technical employees
      - Infrastructure Developer
      - Identity Management
    - Community Development Manager
    - User Engagement Specialist
  - What forward means? Expansion
    - 7 years ago started MLA Commons
    - 5 years ago Humanities Commons
      - Pilot project designed to be a cooperative space that scholarly societies would support together.
      - Covid has hit budgets of those societies, so we are looking at academic institutions that may need these kinds of services
      - Need to open the platform to more than just Humanities Commons, but the identity matters in that there is a digital space for the humanities
      - Expand the federation by creating STEM and Social Science Commons and will be joined by a central hub to collaborate across disciplines
        - We're developing an extensive technical roadmap
  - Site overview
    - Instructors are using the Commons for courses using groups and group sites
    - Group blogging and the collaborative documents are particularly useful
    - The Learning Space theme by the MLA integrates an event calendar and other functionality helpful for courses
• Roadmap
  ○ Expansion to further organizations, institutions, and to STEM and social science users
  ○ Two more organizations joining the Commons network in 2022

Discussion
• Thinking about new community models, including ways to surface user content and make it easier for users to find community on the site.
• Upgrading the repository by including support for multiple files on upload, more support for datasets and technical documents, and allowing versioning and possible open peer review.
• Encouraging discussion and interaction is an innovation for scientists. We are also in dialog with COAR Notify – communications built on top of repositories to allow, for example, for peer review and overlay journals.
• Opportunities for involvement:
  ○ Closer examination of our code
  ○ Commons integration
  ○ Encouraging open development / community contribution