Bridge2Hyku Toolkit Sustainability Outlook

UH Libraries Bridge2Hyku Project Team

2021

Introduction

The University of Houston Libraries (UH Libraries), in partnership and consultation with numerous institutions, was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership/Project Grant to create the Bridge2Hyku (B2H) Toolkit. Content migration from proprietary systems to open source repositories remains a barrier for many institutions due to lack of tools, tutorials, and documentation. The B2H Toolkit (https://bridge2hyku.github.io/), which includes migration strategies, migration tools as well as system requirements for transitioning from CONTENTdm to Hyku, acts as a comprehensive resource to facilitate repository content migration. Providing a path to a community supported open source digital solution, the Bridge2Hyku Toolkits ensures access and expanded use of digital content and collections of libraries and cultural heritage institutions. As the work of the B2H Toolkit grant project concludes, project team members recognize that an ongoing commitment will be required to meet repository migration practitioners' current and future needs. As such, the team has devised strategies to address Toolkit sustainability to better anticipate needs as the B2H Toolkit and Hyku evolve over time.

Maintenance Commitment

University of Houston Libraries will actively maintain the Bridge2Hyku GitHub repository (https://github.com/bridge2hyku) for two years after the grant term expires (calendar years 2022-2023). The Bridge2Hyku Toolkit website (https://bridge2hyku.github.io/) will remain as long as GitHub Pages is supported. As part of active maintenance, we will update software and information to incorporate new developments; and fix errors and outdated content. After that, in response to bug reports, etc. UH Libraries may respond or recommend community contributions. Hybridge is currently part of UH Libraries Digital Collections repository, so this tool will be maintained as long as UH Libraries continues to develop their Hyrax repository.

Future Sustainability Activities:

The Bridge2Hyku Toolkit sustainability considerations and activities address future development, integration and upgrade of the migration tools, maintenance issues of the toolkit website, metadata strategy updates and possible barriers, risks and limitations.

Future development/upgrade of tools as Hyku evolves.

UH Libraries will continue to support future features to Hybridge for as long as the University of Houston Libraries continues to develop their Hyrax repository. All requested features from the Hyrax and Hyku community will be managed through the Hybridge Github repository.

UH Libraries will provide workflow documentation on the B2H website showcasing Hyku's import tool Bulkrax. This documentation will provide the settings and steps within CDM Bridge to create export packages which can be imported into Hyku through Bulkrax.

Maintenance issues

UH Libraries will continue to support issues and bug fixes to Hybridge and the Bridge2Hyku Toolkit for as long as the University of Houston Libraries continues to develop their Hyrax repository. All issues will be reported to the Bridge2Hyku Github repositories through Github's Issues.

Limitations

In early 2021, The B2H team reviewed the HykuDirect Gap Assessment (2017) and the associated issues in GitHub. The issues identified in the gap assessment largely remain. One of the previously unresolved issues was the lack of batch importer in Hyku. In 2021, Bulkrax was released with Hyku 3.0 to fill that need.

Over the course of the grant, the B2H team received feedback on the tools and incorporated much of this into new features. The following are features that we did not complete along with implications. These features were identified by the team and characterized as "nice-to-have," that is, not required for the software to perform its basic functions. Ultimately, after the full initial release of the Bridge2Hyku tools, development resources were reassigned.

Feature	Implications
CDM Bridge: Option to pause and resume CDM Bridge export to free up system resources	Larger exports may take a long time and may be interrupted by computer sleep/power down/update schedules. An interrupted export will be incomplete.
HyBridge: Import file-level CONTENTdm metadata to Hyku filesets, so that I can effectively migrate my file level descriptive metadata	Item level metadata from CONTENTdm is not assigned to filesets in Hyku.
Hybridge: Automatic post-ingest file management	After import, ingest files will need to be managed manually
Hybridge: Preview the objects and metadata in an ingest batch, so that I can identify errors before importing	No preview is available before import. Objects are set to "Private" upon ingest, so users can review in site administration

	if desired.
CDM Bridge: preview all metadata elements for all collections, so field usage can be analysed	Manual analysis of fields used per collection

Updating the metadata migration strategy documentation

UH Libraries will conduct an annual review of migration strategy site content and update when necessary. We may enhance documentation to:

- Incorporate newest developments in the field
- Fix errors or outdated content
- In responses to feedback from metadata experts/practitioners

Keeping toolkit website up and running

UH Libraries will actively maintain the Github repositories for two years after the grant term expires (2022-2023). The Bridge2Hyku toolkit website will update any relevant information to incorporate new developments, fix errors and outdated content. After that, in response to bug reports, etc. UH may respond or recommend community contributions.

Potential barriers, risks, and limitations

Identifying potential risks and limitations in the Bridge2Hyku Toolkit sustainability will allow the project team to proactively address possible changes in relevant software, staffing, and needed expertise. Risks that may create barriers for the future sustainability of the B2H Toolkit include:

- Interdependence of content change and software development
- Major change in development of Hyrax/Hyku
- Loss or lack of expertise among responsible parties

Conclusion

As articulated in this sustainability outlook report, UH Libraries and the B2H Project Team is committed to ensuring future access to the B2H Toolkit. This sustainability plan indicates the multi-pronged approach that the project team will pursue to update the toolkit and respond to user feedback and requests. These efforts will provide the support and documentation needed to assist countless institutions in migration, will bolster and increase the adoption of the Hyrax/Hyku platform, and will advance open source digital repository ecosystem infrastructure.