

You Are the Power Behind Community Supported Open Source: Support the Release of DSpace 7

The extended DSpace community eagerly awaits the release of DSpace 7 which has been in development for several years promising a single, modern user interface and REST API and integrates current technological standards and best practices. This new architecture combines with the existing core backend of DSpace 6, resulting in a lean, responsive, next-generation repository. The campaign raises funds to support the continued advancement of DSpace open source software projects. While LYRASIS, the organizational home of DSpace, proudly collaborates with the DSpace community to provide DSpace for free for anyone to use, the DSpace program relies on membership fees to pay staff who provide technical leadership, direct strategic planning, organize community outreach, and coordinate software releases. The LYRASIS mission reflects our core commitment to being a key collaborator with our community in building and sustaining the research and scholarly ecosystem.

What follows are three important updates that will be of interest to you, our global DSpace community, along with one time-sensitive request where we need your help.

Update 1 - Leadership team: Kristi Park is the new DSpace chairperson of the DSpace Leadership Group. As Executive Director of the Texas Digital Library, she brings a decade of experience hosting DSpace repositories for 24 member institutions and working with DSpace users locally and within the global DSpace community. Robert Miller, LYRASIS CEO, has partnered with Ms. Park in this effort, bringing his expertise of providing an organizational home for 9 other Community Supported Programs fiscally supported by 1,733 institutions such as yours. Together, they are committed to advancing the position of DSpace as a competitive repository platform, converting more of the vast global user base of DSpace to contributing members to the DSpace Project, and building an engaged and sustainable open source community.

Update 2 - Technology road map: Since July 1, 2019, governance has strategized about how to expedite our DSpace 7 release goals. It has truly been a team effort towards development of a [staged beta release program](#) of key features requested by institutions such as yours. The new year kicked off with this plan focusing renewed energy and organization to speed up software releases. The timeline for these goals may shift based on developer availability.

Update 3 - Sustainability: With only 97 fiscal members and over 2,000 users, we are reaching out to make the case for why users should commit time, resources, and yes, funds to ensure that DSpace has the resources to invest back into the program. Our goal is to convert more users into fiscal members who will help support the DSpace program.

Our ask to you: To complete our DSpace technology road map and to make a down payment on building up our financial foundation, we are looking to raise or secure commitments for \$300,000 in the first 9 months of 2020. The use of these funds will go towards contracting with at least 4FTEs to meet the expedited DSpace 7.0 release plan, rather than relying on an all volunteer-based effort. The goal is necessary and has the support of both the Leadership and Steering committees. While ambitious, this is doable.

Who has already pledged: In asking for help we want to acknowledge the generous contributions of Atmire, 4Science, RCAAP ([FCT|FCCN](#) & [Minho University](#)) who are contributing ongoing engineering resources. Texas Digital Library, likewise, will commit additional funds to this effort. LYRASIS has committed \$50,000 toward strategy, membership growth, and fiscal enhancement. LYRASIS has also pledged, should DSpace need it, access to \$100,000 in the form of a line of credit to help provide a bridge during our fund raising drive.

We ask you today to become a LYRASIS member in support of DSpace

We are asking all institutions that use DSpace to become members of LYRASIS so we can speed the release of DSpace 7. You may direct your membership dollars to support DSpace. These funds will allow us to accelerate the technical and strategic development of DSpace 7, as well as coordinate community development efforts. If you are already a member, please consider a special contribution to support DSpace 7 expedited development.