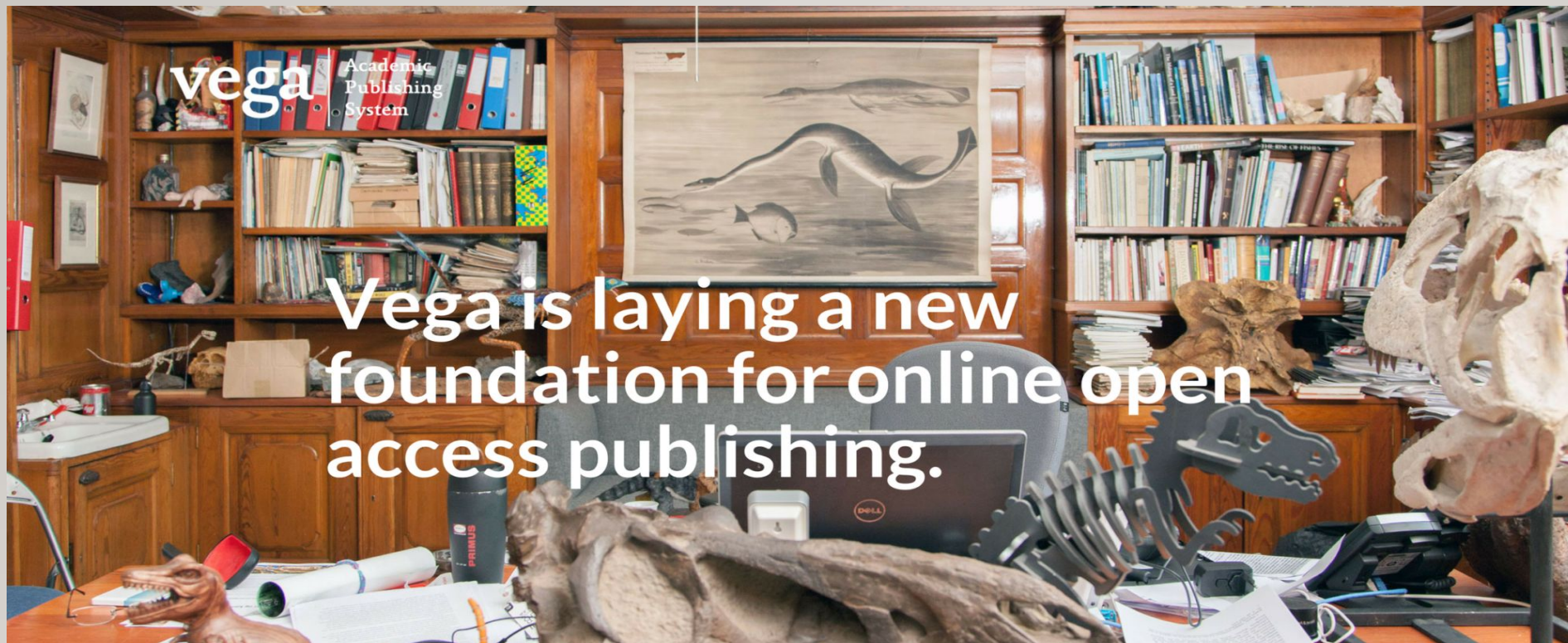# vega | Academic Publishing System

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

OWNED BY THE ACADEMY LPF PRECONFERENCE, MAY 21 2108

MOLLY TAMARKIN, VEGA PROJECT MANAGER

Vega is laying a new foundation for online open access publishing.

OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

For digital publishers working with multimedia, data, or other digital objects, Vega is an open source publishing platform that lets you configure every element of the workflow and presentation.

Based on a headless CMS, Vega offers tools for you to create your environment of choice while fostering a community to continue its open development as well as fee-based support services.

ORIGINS

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

- Cheryl Ball
  - Associate Professor of Digital Publishing
  - Director, Digital Publishing Institute
  - Editor, *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*

AHO (OSLO SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

- Andrew Morrison
  - Professor, Interdisciplinary Design
  - Director, Center for Design Research

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

1. Current digital publishing systems:
   1. Can't embed multimedia objects easily
   2. Monolithic architecture makes it hard to adopt/adapt
2. Few choices in digital publishing platforms
   1. Open Journal System (OJS)
   2. Bepress (Elsevier)
3. Limited presentation and delivery options

WHAT'S OUR SOLUTION?

1. A system built on a content management system, not a print workflow
   1. Works better with digital natives (objects + us)
   2. A platform that can easily adapt to changing technologies (cross industry)
2. A highly configurable system built around a robust data store (Lyra)
   1. Toolbox for both workflows, content, and presentation
   2. The ability to create a platform as well as a publication
3. A community to sustain development
   1. Clear avenues for participation and contribution
   2. A cost model that scales up & down: DIY or hosted

IS THE PROBLEM WORTH SOLVING?

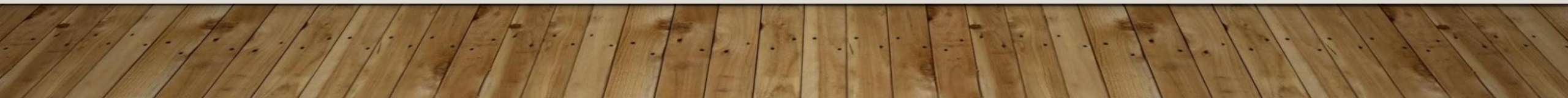|	
Unworkable	Authors can't include all components of their work.
	Publications can't publish the context with the content.
	More inefficiencies and missed opportunities.
Unavoidable	Traditional publishing is getting in the way of adopting present technologies. Do we Netflix or Blockbuster?
	The business of higher education depends on communicating research success.

IS THE PROBLEM WORTH SOLVING?

Urgent	Does anyone care? *Possibly the 10,000+ open access journal editors*.
	Show me the money. *Current (OJS + Bepress) services range from $850/title/year up to $40,000+ year for collections.*
Underserved	Market has 2 main offerings; both have limitations.
	Also mods to Drupal, WordPress, & other tools.
	No gold standard, yet.

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SUPPORTERS

- West Virginia University

- Wayne State University

- Mellon Foundation
  - $1,000,000 grant
  - Started 01/15
  - Planned end 12/17
  - Extended to 06/18

CURRENT STATE OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

- Bengler / Sanity in Oslo

- First implementable release end of June

  - Feature list

  - Install package

  - Release notes

- Will require continued development

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

FRONT END

- Plug-in based library allows updates without upgrades

- Customized editor allows you to embed data within editable text.

BACK END

- Data store decoupled from editing and presentation layers

- Full API-coverage for fully extensible development

Real time collaboration with highly connected structured documents

SCREENSHOT

SEE ALSO

- http://act.mit.edu/cavs/

The online repository of MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) Special Collection, part of the Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT) driven by the same approach.

- http://oma.eu/projects/dac-blox

Architecture firm's website presents projects, people, and information built on the cms driving Vega.

NEXT STEPS

- Software
  - Complete product roadmap and release schedule
  - Release beta version for feedback and fine tuning
  - Build repository package with documentation and install notes

- Sustainability
  - Complete business model for sustained development
  - Identify funds needed
  - Gather funds via Mellon approach, partner appeal, or both

THANK YOU