ArchivesSpace
Building a Next-Generation Archives Management Tool

DLF Forum
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Katherine Kott, Development Manager
Mark A. Matienzo, Technical Architect
ArchivesSpace
What is ArchivesSpace?

• A project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for building a “next-generation” archives management tool

• A community effort, led by the libraries of New York University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of California, San Diego

• A “logical merge” of Archivists’ Toolkit and Archon
Where does ArchivesSpace fit?

Lennox Lad, Old Silo

dirkjankraan.com, new born dutch lambs
Overview of Existing Applications

Archivist’s Toolkit

- Comprehensive archival management system
- Open source (ECL 1.0)
- Clients run on Mac OS, Windows, Linux
- Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Strengths include robust collections management and resource description

Archon

- Unified platform for archival description and access
- Open source (Illinois/NCSA License)
- Web-based
- Received Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration (2008)
- Strengths include discovery system and basic digital library functionality
Level of Consolidation

Archives have Special Needs

• Distinct practices and workflows

• Need for both contextual and resource description

• Tools for other communities don’t satisfy needs of archival practice

Product Proliferation is Hard to Sustain

• Multiple code bases to maintain

• Multiple user communities to sustain

• Applications have strengths, but also functional overlap
The Changing Archival Landscape

• Increased demand for structured data

• Introduction of new descriptive standards (EAC-CPF)

• Revision of descriptive standards (EAD, DACS)
Planning Grant Activities: Jun.-Dec. 2009

• Merger agreement between projects

• Planning grant submitted to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

• Development of high-level requirements

• Discussion and planning webinars
Planning Grant Activities: Jan.-Nov. 2010

• Planning grant awarded January 2010

• Development of draft specifications

• Technical planning and Technical Design Meeting

• Survey regarding implementation and deployment of open source archival management software
Planning Grant Activities: Dec. 2010-Nov. 2011

- Interviews with archives staff performed by Lisa Spiro (consultant)

- Development of sustainability and business model desiderata by Beth Sandore (UIUC), Luc Declerck (UCSD), and David Millman (NYU)
What is driving ArchivesSpace?

• Need for more scalable solution
• Need for improved digital object management
• Opportunity to consolidate platforms
• Sustainable open source software support model
How will ArchivesSpace meet these needs?

• Design and develop a new, unified system using a flexible technology framework

• Better definition of digital objects in data model

• Include functionality of both Archivists’ Toolkit and Archon

• Identify and incorporation into “organizational home”
ArchivesSpace: A New, Unified System

- Combine best-of-breed features from AT and Archon
- Engineered for easier maintenance, administration, and extensibility
- Address needs of consortial deployments
- Enable interoperability/increased compatibility with other systems and software
- Released as open source under Educational Community License, version 2.0
- Use existing open source libraries that are under a license compatible with ECL 2.0
Criteria for Organizational Home Selection

- Provide access to both a stand-alone version of software for archives of all types and sizes, and a version for consortia, or large institutions, to host on behalf of their constituencies.

- Facilitate ongoing maintenance and enhancements, including community contributions.

- Support a governance structure and a fee-based membership structure.

- Encourage the development of a healthy ecosystem of partners that provide supporting services for ArchivesSpace.
When will this next-generation tool be ready?

- Currently solidifying requirements, selecting software development vendor, and identifying “organizational home”

- Development scheduled to begin in January 2012

- Advising potential implementers of archival management systems to deploy Archivists’ Toolkit or Archon

- Migration paths from each existing tool included in project plan
Work Plan (1): 2011

- Organizational, Governance, and Sustainability Planning (April – June 2011)
- Background and logistics (March – September 2011)
- Data Model (April 2011 – October 2011)
- Programming Procurement (May 2011 – December 2011)
- Organizational, Governance, and Sustainability Home Finalized (July – December 2011)
Work Plan (2): 2012

- Core Programming (January – May 2012)
- Activate Governance Body (January – June 2012)
- Archives Functional Programming (April – October 2012)
- Identify and Select Operational Support Plan (July 2012 – January 2013)
- Import/Export/Reports (August – November 2012)
Work Plan (3): 2012-2013

- Build Management and Usability Testing (March 2012 – February 2013)
- Develop Marketing, Communication, and Outreach Plan (June 2012 – February 2013)
- Beta Testing and Rollout (November 2012 – February 2013)
- User & System Documentation (June 2012 – February 2013)
- Support Migration of Existing AT/Archon Installations (June 2012 – February 2013)
Project Team (1)

- Steering Committee: Luc Declerck, David Millman, Beth Sandore
- Technical Architect: Mark Matienzo
- Development Manager: Katherine Kott
- Archivists: Chris Prom, Scott Schwartz, Brad Westbrook
- Senior Software Developer: Joe Pawletko
Project Team (2)

- Build/Release Management Team: Brian Tingle, Adrian Turner
- Migration Facilitators: Nathan Stevens (AT), TBA (Archon)
- End-User and Systems Documentation Specialist: Annie Ross
- Developer: TBA (RFP has been issued, vendor responses submitted, evaluation is underway)
- Consultants
- And YOU!
Current Technical Activities

• Analysis and revision of existing functional specifications

• Data model development

• User story development
Data Model Overview

- **agents**
- **archival_objects** (intellectual entities)
- **instances (object entities)**
- **events**
- **locations**
- **rights**
- **subjects**

- **contain**
- **haveDigitalInstance**
- **havePhysicalInstance**
- **areObjectOf**
- **areSubjectTo**
- **haveCustodyOf**
- **areCreatedBy**
- **areSubjectOf**
- **haveSubject**
- **areResponsibleFor???
- **areHoldersOf**
- **participateIn**
Detailed Data Model

- repositories
- staff_users
- name_forms
- agents
- contact_details
- external_documents
- notes
- user_groups
- archival_objects
- resources
- accessions
- digital_object_descriptions
- deaccessions
- containers
- file_metadata
- file_versions
- subjects
- collection_mgmt_statements
- archival_objects
- extent_statements
- date_statements
- external_documents
- notes
- events
- rights_statements
- agents
- tenants
- staff_users
- user_groups
- locations
- deaccessions
Preparing for Agile Development: User Stories

1. As an Archivist, I want to create and edit a Resource record
2. As an Archivist, I want to associate two Resource records
3. As an Archivist, I want to create and edit Name descriptors
4. As an Archivist, I want to create and edit Subject descriptors
5. As an Archivist, I want to associate a Name record with a Resource description
6. As an Archivist, I want to associate a
For more information and to participate

• ArchivesSpace website
  • [http://www.archivesspace.org/](http://www.archivesspace.org/)

• ArchivesSpace Google Group
  • [http://groups.google.com/group/archivesspace/](http://groups.google.com/group/archivesspace/)
Thank You!

mark.matienzo@nyu.edu
katherine.kott@gmail.com