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Show 'Em What You've Got: Exposing Finding Aids with ArchivesSpace

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SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'VE GOT: EXPOSING FINDING AIDS WITH ARCHIVESSPACE

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OUTLINE

- What ArchivesSpace is and why we chose it

- Demo of both public and staff interfaces

- Questions and discussion

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT UNO

- University Archives

- Special Collections (Rare Books and Manuscripts)

- Arthur Paul Afghanistan Collection

- U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives

THE NEED

Prior to 2014:

- Some paper finding aids or inventory lists for some collections
- Many collections with little or no documentation of any kind
- No online finding aids

2014:

- Collection inventory project
- Spreadsheet o' doom – two tiers

ARCHIVESSPACE

http://archivesspace.org/

- Archivists' Toolkit and Archon merged to form ArchivesSpace
- DACS compliant archival resource description
- Can output records as EAD or MARC
- Hosted by LYRASIS (or host it yourself)
- New system -- not fully mature, but improving

ARCHIVESSPACE MEMBERSHIP

http://archivesspace.org/members

- As of October 2015, out of 251 members listed, only 10 have links to live systems or implementation blogs

- UNO's implementation (hosted by LYRASIS):

    http://unomaha-public.lyrasistechnology.org/

- Virginia Military Institute, VMI Archives (running their own system):

    http://archivesspace.vmi.edu/

LOADING DATA INTO ARCHIVESSPACE

- Hagel Archive data from Archivists' Toolkit imported into ArchivesSpace
  - Hagel Archive is still closed to the public, so this is not visible on our public site
- University Archives and Special Collections data from Excel spreadsheet
  - "Tier 1" collections -- about 160 collection-level finding aids (really, placeholder records) created from inventory spreadsheet
  - LYRASIS wrote the software to migrate data from Excel.

POST-MIGRATION CLEANUP AND ENHANCEMENTS

- Personal/corporate names as creators, sources, and subjects—same agent record for all

- Library of Congress subject headings

- Art & Architecture Thesaurus genre headings

- "Tier 2" collection-level finding aids, created directly in ArchivesSpace

ROUTINE AND ONGOING WORK

- New materials accessioned directly into ArchivesSpace

- Record creation walkthroughs on our staff wiki

- Student workers are adding inventory lists to existing finding aids

- Still a work-in-progress, but growing

DEMO, DEMO! LET'S GO!

- This is what you came for, right?

  http://unomaha-public.lyrasistechnology.org/

- Public Interface

- Staff Interface

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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