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

Angela J. Kroeger
University of Nebraska at Omaha, akroeger@unomaha.edu

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

Angela Kroeger
Archives & Special Collections Associate
Criss Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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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
ARCHIVESPACE

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
ARCHIVESPACE 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.lyrasistechology.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.lyrasistecchnology.org/

• Public Interface

• Staff Interface
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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402-554-4159

References