



ArchivesSpace

# ArchivesSpace: Software and Community Of, By, and For Archivists

Presentation for



Carol A. Mandel

Dean, Division of Libraries, New York University  
Chair, ArchivesSpace Governance Board



ArchivesSpace



# ArchivesSpace is an open-source, web application for managing archives information

- Core archival processing functions, e.g., accessioning, description, arrangement
- Collection management records, events, reports
- Generation of metadata in multiple standard formats





# ArchivesSpace Chronology

- 2004** NYU and UCSD awarded grant to develop Archivist Toolkit (AT)
- 2006** AT 1.0 released; Archon released
- 2008** AT Ithaka sustainability study
- 2009** Began explorations of:
  - AT/Archon “harmonization”
  - Home organization model
  - Sustainability models





# ArchivesSpace Chronology

- 2011** Mellon grant to create ASpace software and sustainability model
- 2012** Organizational home agreement with LYRISIS
- 2013** ASpace 1.0 released and ASpace membership community established





# Challenges We Faced in Crafting the ASpace Model

- Archivists ≠ Developers
- Incentivizing engagement
- Many small archives have minimal resources
- Defining and finding an organizational home





# ASpace Principles for Sustainability

- Of, by, and for the archival community
- Must serve the full range of archives (no lone-arranger left behind)
- Must be affordable to full range of archives, including the smallest
- Users should be community members – community too small to support “free-riders,” and **engagement is key**





# ASpace Strategies for Sustainability

- Centralized development capacity along with member software contributions
- Deep member engagement in priorities and mutual support, e.g., User Advisory Council, Technical Advisory Council, Users Group listserv
- Access to documentation, training, and support advice
- Stratified membership dues ranging from \$7,500 for largest to \$300 for smallest
- Governance Board and staff focus on user needs to guide resource allocation
- Fulsome support from organizational home





# Overview of Membership

Very large	46
Large	34
Medium	58
Small	54
Very small	113
Educational	<u>10</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>

Note: Began in 2013 with 49 charter members







# ASpace Now

*Our success:* We have created an active, engaged community with sufficient resources to continue development and support wide use

*Our challenge:* Robust, satisfying, effective continuing development for our community of users

