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

Presentation for Lyrasis and Member Summit

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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 LYRASIS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very large</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very small</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>315</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.