Breakout Session: Digital Asset Management Led by Rachel Vagts

Our group's discussion centered around digital asset management systems. We discussed what systems people are using and the pros and cons of the systems. Cynthia Ghering from Michigan State University shared about MSU's digital curation study that they have recently conducted. They surveyed content creators and IT staff across their campus to look at what systems are being used and how.

We discussed how there are many types of systems including, but not limited to Digitool, Content DM, Fedora, DSpace, ResourceSpace and many others.

We discussed the process that CLIR used to look at archival management systems and wondered if it might not be prudent to do a similar study of DAMs. There doesn't necessarily need to be a whole new tool developed, but that existing tools could be developed further to meet our needs. It is important for us to be able to know what we need in a digital asset management tool and to be able to match the tool to our institutional digital needs. Years ago we found physical space to house records, now we need to find appropriate digital space to do the same.

The challenges are different based on our institutional set-up. Cynthia recommended we look at the reports in the MSU appendices from their study--there is a great deal of information on the various systems they are using in their campus including preservation information.