

OSSArcFlow: Researching Archival Workflows for Born-Digital Content

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Abstract:

The Educopia Institute, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science (UNC SILS), LYRASIS, and Artefactual, Inc. have recently begun a two-year project, funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), to investigate, model and test a range of workflows for libraries and archives to curate born-digital content. These archival workflows will incorporate three leading open source software (OSS) platforms - BitCurator, Archivematica and ArchivesSpace - and the project will be designed to generate findings that can be generalizable to settings that are using other platforms and applications. Our 12 partner institutions will implement these platforms; many are also working with additional tools that will be reflected in research discussions and guidance documents produced by the project.

We will address the following two research questions:

1. How can institutions combine tools to support workflows that meet local institutional needs?
2. How can institutions implement "handoffs" between different function-based systems?

We hope that the project will impact curation practices across the library and archives fields by increasing our understanding of what factors influence the decisions of institutions of different sizes and types as they choose tools and create workflows. Our findings will support a broad range of institutions that are responsible for digital content. The knowledge gained from working with multiple institutions of different types and sizes will also broaden understanding of curation approaches and priorities, and how those impact the use of digital curation tools and capabilities.

About the author:

Christopher (Cal) Lee is Professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He teaches archival administration; records management; digital curation; understanding information technology for managing digital collections; and digital forensics. His primary area of research is the long-term curation of digital collections. Cal edited and provided several chapters to *I, Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era*, published by SAA. Cal is Principal Investigator of BitCurator NLP and was Principal Investigator of the BitCurator and BitCurator Access projects. He has served as Co-PI on several digital curation education projects with Helen Tibbo, and he is currently Co-PI for OSSArcflow.

Jessica Meyerson is the Research Officer for Educopia Institute, where she identifies research collaborations that help to further understanding of the digital stewardship landscape, and provides project management support for the IMLS-funded OSSArcFlow and Fostering Communities of Practice in Software Preservation and Emulation projects. She received her M.S.I.S. from the University of Texas at Austin with specializations in digital archives and preservation. As a former Digital Archivist at the University of Texas at Austin, Jessica

has experience building social and technological infrastructure to ensure long-term access to cultural heritage materials. She is serves as Chair of the Software Preservation Network Organizing Committee.