

Getting into the OSSArcFlow

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Abstract: OSSArcFlow: Researching Archival Workflows for Born-Digital Content project is a two-year effort funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to investigate, model, and test workflows that combine multiple systems for born-digital content curation in libraries and archives. Specifically, the OSSArcFlow project aims to 1) inform our understanding of the socio-technical factors that shape digital curation workflows, 2) promote the benefits of a modular approach to digital curation and to 3) support the continued health of the open source software communities that build collection management and digital curation tools. Project outputs include detailed documentation of 12 partner institutions' workflows, scripts to streamline the transfer of metadata from one system to another, and generalizable guidance documentation to help institutions of many types as they select and implement digital curation and preservation tools and workflows in their own environments. In this presentation, we will provide an overview of the project, share emerging themes and preliminary findings from the first year of our work, as well as examples of current project deliverables (e.g., digital dossiers and current workflow diagrams) from each of our 12 partners.

About the Author:

Sam Meister is the Preservation Communities Manager at the Educopia Institute, working with the MetaArchive Cooperative and BitCurator Consortium communities. Sam holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from San Jose State University, where he completed a thesis on "Recordkeeping in Small Nonprofit Organizations", and a B.A. in Visual Arts from the University of California San Diego. Previously, he worked as the Digital Archivist and Assistant Professor at the University of Montana.