

Records in Motion: an Open, Standards-Based Approach to Digital Records Transfers

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Abstract: For the past year, Rockefeller Archive Center and Marist College have collaborated to develop a web application to support the ongoing secure transfer of digital records from active organizations to archives. Named Aurora, the system is part of a chain of tools to support the archival management and preservation of born-digital records. Aurora ensures that transfers of digital records are virus-free, consistently structured, and include required metadata elements. Specifying and enforcing a common baseline for transfers allows archivists to focus their attention on appraisal and sensemaking of these records, while facilitating automation of routine administrative activities. Aurora is built on community-driven standards and specifications (including BagIt, BagIt Profiles, and PREMIS rights statements), an open source web framework, and released as open source software.

About the Author:

Hannah Sistrunk is an Assistant Digital Archivist for the Rockefeller Archive Center's Digital Team. Her role at the RAC is centered on supporting the planning, development, and implementation of infrastructure to acquire and manage born-digital records, with an emphasis on improving the user experience through user-centered design processes and usability testing. She holds an MSLIS from the Pratt Institute School of Information.

Hillel Arnold is Assistant Director, Head of Digital Programs, for the Rockefeller Archive Center. In this role, he leads the RAC's Digital Team, whose mission is to facilitate broad and equitable access to and responsible preservation of materials in the RAC's custody by providing technical leadership and expertise to staff in all program areas. He is active in archival standards-making and revision processes, and is also an adjunct professor in New York University's Archives and Public History program. He holds an MA in History from New York University and an MLIS from the Long Island University's Palmer School. Hillel likes to talk about folk music, maintenance, and user-centered processes.