Collections Management Tools Roundtable Meeting
Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
August 13, 2014

Archon Users Discussion

Eight people took part in this discussion. All participants expressed dissatisfaction with the ArchivesSpace public interface. Only two participants indicated that they were in the process of migrating from Archon to ArchivesSpace, or had already made the migration but had not fully implemented the system due to its functional insufficiencies. The others were hesitant to commit the resources to migration at this time and had reservations about the system, especially the public interface. One participant was so frustrated with ArchivesSpace that his institution revoked its ArchivesSpace membership. A participant revealed that his institution is willing to look at proprietary systems over the open source ArchivesSpace.

The group felt that few if any Archon users have completely ceased using Archon in favor of ArchivesSpace. One member noted that in *AT/Archon Integrated Application: Hi-Level Functional Requirements*, only 1 of the 19 requirements addresses the public interface of what would become ArchivesSpace. He also noted that it may not fulfill the requirement of "present the lowest possible barriers for acquisition, installation, implementation, and operation for archives of all sizes." The University of Illinois is doing a gap analysis of the ArchivesSpace public interface. The group discussed creating a survey for Archon users to determine who is still using and committed to the system, who has completely migrated to ArchivesSpace, and who is considering migration. These efforts may result in a proposal for a better public interface.