

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

**Archivists' Toolkit Users Discussion**

Approximately 30 members took part in this discussion. Members took turns posing questions to the group.

*Q: Does anyone have experience with generating reports?*

A: Manually edited reports to layout specific way; it was very time consuming; accomplished this by manipulating within the AT system.

*Q: Can you reformat pdf finding aids?*

A: Yes, but we were only able to do it with IT help.

A: Yes, we've had IT develop new stylesheets at Smithsonian.

A: Changes to stylesheet are embedded but we are willing to share stylesheets.

A: We have been exporting finding aids into html which is easier to edit, but is also time consuming. (There was general consensus that this has been the easiest way for most to edit the layout/style of finding aids). Might this present issues with html5, due to the fact that AT won't be updated anymore?

*Q: Has anyone been conducting ArchivesSpace testing?*

A: Yes, but we have found it very complicated.

A: Yes, but it is slow moving because coordinating among consortium is difficult and we are not confident enough to migrate.

A: One institution is also waiting to start testing—have been using AT for 2 years and still trying to standardize.

*Q: Is anyone here committed to sustaining AT at your institution and do you have resources to devote to maintenance?*

A: Yes, one institution indicated that they have IT support for this.

*Q: Is there an estimated time when AT might start presenting problems for users without any further updates?*

A: Our IT guesses that AT might start having problems at different times based on each institution's set up. It makes it hard to predict across the board.

A: We've been using AT reference and are having a lot of issues with digital object module. We are going to wait to migrate to Aspace, but issues with digital objects aren't going to be fixed. We have stopped using the reference module now.

*Q: Is anyone use the assessment module?*

A: PACSCAL uses it; FYI no assessment module for Aspace but I've heard that creating a plugin for it is being discussed.

*Q: Are there any demos available for Aspace?*

A: Not that we are aware of.

*Q: Are there any public interfaces live with Aspace?*

A: Not that we know of.

*Q: Would anyone jump into Aspace without being a member?*

A: I'm guessing it is probably not wise without IT support. You aren't locked into it if you want to try it though.

*Q: Is anyone not planning to move to Aspace at all? Is anyone totally happy with AT for the time being?*

A: AT does what we need it to right now but we are aware that migration is probably inevitable. It may end up being very affordable to subscribe through a consortium to run.

A: We have issues with AT all the time. New developments in description/access will not be integrated into AT without developer support.

*Q: Does anyone have experience using ICA-Atom?*

A: Yes, doesn't seem that appealing.

*Q: How can CMT Roundtable help support the work of roundtable membership? Would it be useful to collection documentation for various tools and post them to the CMT microsite?*

A: Yes—user guides, manuals, etc. Build on the Spiro report to continue evaluating tools and functions.

A: Would be good to create lists of institutions who are using specific tools and make their contact information available.

*Q: Is anyone using AT to manage MARC output?*

A: Yes, we generate for catalogers to use but it needs to be edited.

*Q: Is anyone using AT for digital objects?*

A: No, we are using Omeka to generate basic information, we batch upload to Omeka.

A: We found the digital object module confusing and not very useful.

*Q: We are working on legacy finding aids in other languages. Currently scanning and adding as pdf to finding aid. Would be nice if others could share tips for creating finding aids in other languages.*