

Add tag to selected files

Report

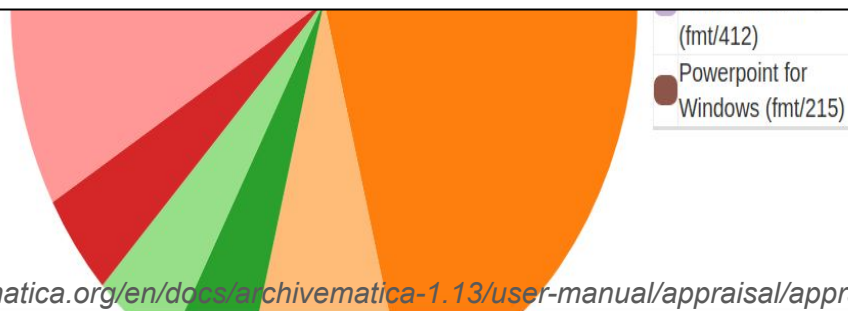
Visualizations

# Re-Appraising the Appraisal Tab

**Max Eckard**

Assistant Director for Curation | Bentley Historical Library | University of Michigan  
Archivematica Con 2021 | Implementation (General)

Synabus\_FINAL.doc keep  
datavibe-l\_FW\_job\_vacancy.rtf  
article.pdf  
abcd\_1-7d9641fc-2890-4153-8198-a6933a1aad8b  
data  
objects  
Landing\_zone.jpg  
MARBLES.TGA  
abcd\_2-d16347fa-3c48-4f43-886b-e94d1286ce03





# Appraisal Tab

Backlog 3 transfers, 37 objects selected

Add tag to selected files

Deselect all

Collapse all

Expand all

- abccd-8e0a0e3f-e9ec-43dd-a332-f0cd7265fd4
  - data
    - objects
      - Club-Report.doc keep
      - FRPEnForm.pdf keep
      - MS-OfficeOpenXML-samples.zip-2019-09-13T21\_10\_36.106208\_00\_00
        - sampledocx.docx
        - samplepptx.pptx keep
        - samplexlsx.xlsx
      - Project.zip-2019-09-13T21\_10\_36.106208\_00\_00
        - Members\_Master2009.xls keep
        - PPT\_test.ppt
        - Syllabus\_FINAL.doc keep
      - datavibe-l FW\_job\_vacancy.rtf
      - article.pdf
  - abccd\_1-7d9641fc-2890-4153-8198-a6933a1aad8b
    - data
      - objects
        - Landing\_zone.jpg
        - MARBLES.TGA
  - abcd\_2-d16247fc-2e18-4f12-886b-a04d1286ae02

Objects

Tags

Examine contents

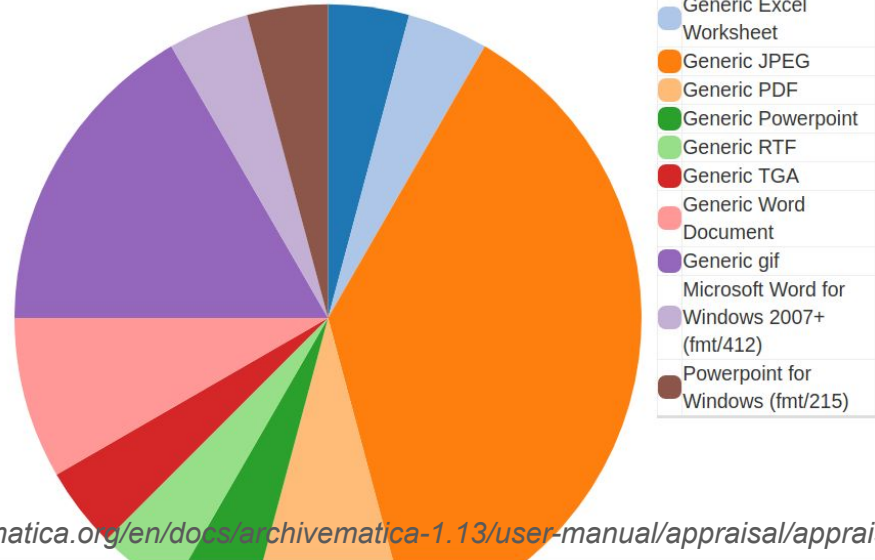
Preview file

Report

Visualizations

Formats (by total number of files)

Formats (by total size of files)



# “Tightly-Coupled” Archivematica-ArchivesSpace Integration

Backlog

0 transfers, 3101 objects selected

Add tag to selected files

Deselect all

Collapse all

Expand all

2008155\_0001-391eb6a8-ea72-4cf-d-a7a2-9bf2971e4627

logs

metadata

objects

BANCO2008

BANCO.whrtt

BANCO

backblue.gif

bhbanco.blogspot.com

bp0.blogger.com

bp1.blogger.com

bp3.blogger.com

buttons.blogger.com

cookies.txt

ec1.images-amazon.com

fade.gif

ArchivesSpace

toward fair

Identifier

Search ArchivesSpace

Add New Child Record

Add New Digital Object

Edit Rights Metadata

Edit Metadata

Delete selected

Finalize Arrangement

▼ Toward A Fair Michigan records

▶ Administrative Files


▶ Program Director's Files

▶ Organizational Activities

▼ Archived Website, 2008-2009

▶ Digital Object

# Tightly-Coupled Archivematica-DSpace Integration



**DEEPBLUE**

[Login](#)  
Search Deep Blue

[Go](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Browse by

- [Communities & Collections](#)
- [Titles](#)
- [Authors](#)
- [Subjects](#)
- [Date](#)

[Home](#) → [A Test Area](#) → [Archivematica Collection](#) → [View Item](#)

[Show simple item record](#)

dc.date.accessioned	2016-10-27T15:22:50Z	
dc.date.available	2016-10-27T15:22:50Z	
dc.identifier.uri	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/TEMP-BOGUS/304234">http://hdl.handle.net/TEMP-BOGUS/304234</a>	
dc.title	Board of Directors	
dc.description.bitstreamurl	<a href="http://dev.deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/TEMP-BOGUS/304234/2/objects.7z">http://dev.deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/TEMP-BOGUS/304234/2/objects.7z</a>	
dc.description.bitstreamurl	<a href="http://dev.deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/TEMP-BOGUS/304234/4/metadata.7z">http://dev.deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/TEMP-BOGUS/304234/4/metadata.7z</a>	
dc.date.updated	2016-10-27T15:22:50Z	
dc.owningcollname	Archivematica Collection	

[Show simple item record](#)

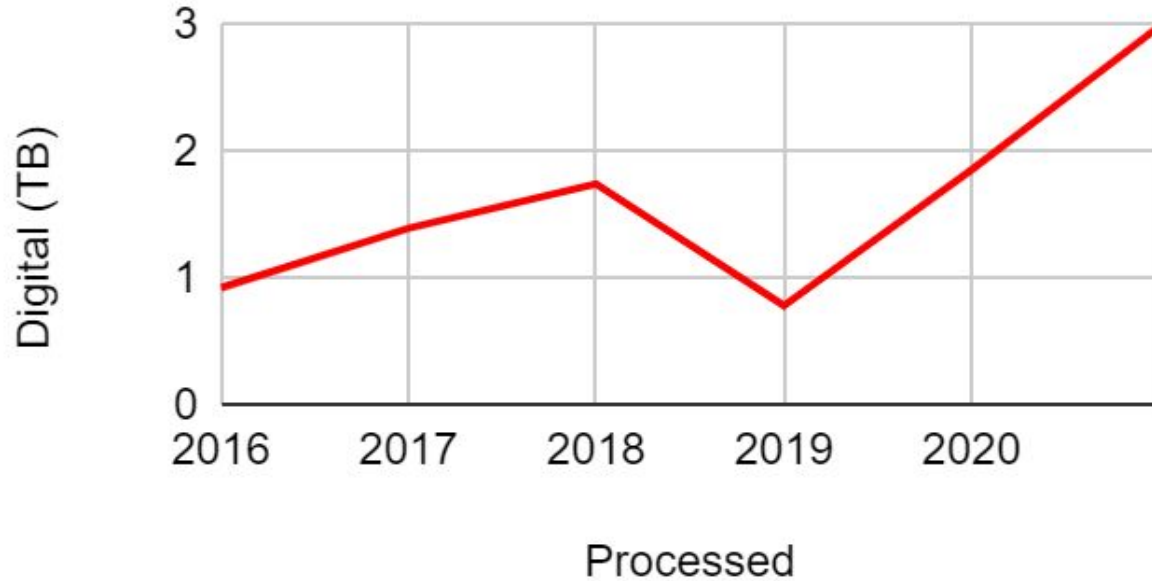
[View/Open](#)  
**Name:** objects.7z  
**Size:** 2.2MB  
**Format:** Unknown

[View/Open](#)  
**Name:** metadata.7z  
**Size:** 68KB  
**Format:** Unknown

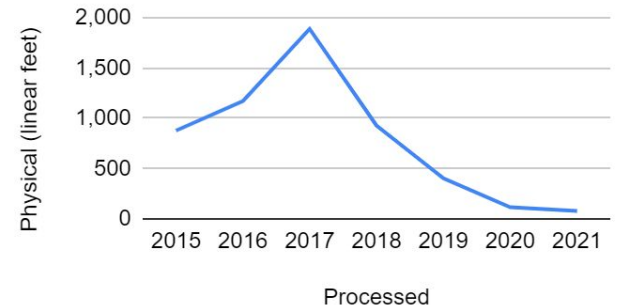
<http://archival-integration.blogspot.com/2016/11/the-end-is-just-new-beginning.html>

This item appears in the following Collection(s)

# Digital (TB) vs. Processed



## Physical (linear feet) vs. Processed



# Outline

- The Broader Effects of a Major Grant Project
- Archivemata (and the Appraisal Tab and Workflow Integration) Today
- Technical Lessons Learned
- Social and Cultural Lessons Learned

# Outline

- **The Broader Effects of a Major Grant Project**
- Archivemata (and the Appraisal Tab and Workflow Integration) Today
- Technical Lessons Learned
- Social and Cultural Lessons Learned

# The Brighter the Lightning the Louder the Thunder

The Broader Effects of a Major Grant Project

**Max Eckard**  
Digital Curation

**Dallas Pillen**  
Metadata and Digital Projects

**M** | BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY



# “Working Smarter” (in Gigantic Scare Quotes)

- Started to learn some basic technical skills, at least as individuals
- Technical skills
  - “Scripting it” with Python
  - Getting comfortable on the command line
  - Working with databases
  - Parsing XML
  - Using version control
  - Interacting with APIs
- This ability to work smarter has had a very positive impact on many other areas of our work.

# Making Tech Skills a Strategic Priority

- Working smarter as individuals led us to thinking more about making technical skills a strategic priority.
- Put focused effort into group learning around technical upskilling
  - Informal workshops
  - An intensification of this effort with more emphasis on an inclusive approach to peer-to-peer learning experiences within the Curation team
  - Generating deliverables around topics that directly relate to our work
- This process has also made us more collectively aware of the limitations of our own silos of expertise and the ways that the digital initiatives we undertake impact the overall curation of archival materials.

# The “Agile” Archivist (Scare Quotes, Again)

- We also learned about agile software development
  - Individuals and interactions with them over processes and tools
  - Working (i.e., good enough) software over comprehensive documentation (although documentation is also important)
  - Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
  - Responding to change over following a plan
- This experience set us on a trajectory that ultimately led us to a better understanding of project management more generally
- The development of project management skills has also had a very positive impact on many other areas of our work.

# From Project Management to Strategic Thinking About Projects

- Our fixation with “agile” gradually grew into an exploration of project management concepts more generally
- That exploration of project management concepts gradually led to thinking more strategically about what projects we want to undertake in the first place
  - Divergent-Emergent-Convergent Thinking ← [Divergent, Emergent, and Convergent Thinking: 3 Thinking Modes of Creative Thinking](#)
  - Strategy Knotworking ← [Strategy Knotworking: Turning Ideas and Ambitions into Reality](#)
- That thinking more strategically has led to looking for ways to make that process more inclusive and participatory
  - Liberating Structures ← [Liberating Structures](#)

# Outline

- The Broader Effects of a Major Grant Project
- **Archivematica (and the Appraisal Tab and Workflow Integration) Today**
- Technical Lessons Learned
- Social and Cultural Lessons Learned

The Appraisal tab is  
no longer functional

The DSpace  
integration is no longer  
functional

The UI crashes  
regularly.

We have not been  
successful upgrading  
to a more current and  
officially supported  
release.

# Re-Appraising the Workflow Integration

- Over time, however, we found ourselves moving away from this "tightly-coupled" integration.
  - Works really well for relatively small, heterogeneous content
  - does not work as well for relatively large or homogenous content (or content destined for access systems that aren't DSpace)
- We developed our own Python scripts to replicate a lot of what Archivematica was doing, but *outside* of Archivematica
  - Python ArchivesSpace wrapper ← [BHL ASpace API Client](#)
  - Python DSpace wrapper ← [DAPPr](#)
  - "AIP Repackaging" scripts ← [BHL AIP Repackager](#)
- Now we do this for pretty much everything, even the small, heterogeneous content
- So we still have an integration, it's just more what I would call "loosely-coupled."

# Re-Appraising the Appraisal Tab

- This has also meant that we have moved away from doing appraisal inside Archivemata to doing appraisal outside of Archivemata.
- Most recently we have used Archivemata solely for creating AIPs with the Automation Tools

# Archivemata Technical Support

- Meanwhile, we have had some staff turnover at both the Bentley and the LIT department of our University Libraries.
  - Has resulted in a lack of internal knowledge of Archivemata and its specialized integrations with other applications
  - Has had a significant impact on our ability to get technical support for the application
- Started to run into some Archivemata issues that weren't "relatively straightforward to resolve"

(Meanwhile, Archivemata happily chugged away at TBs worth of digital material kicked off via the Automation Tools over the last year and a half or so.)

- So...
  - Maintenance is hard
  - We're currently in talks with Artefactaul about an annual maintenance agreement

I don't know if we'll go  
back to using the  
Appraisal tab or the  
workflow integration

# Outline

- The Broader Effects of a Major Grant Project
- Archivemata (and the Appraisal Tab and Workflow Integration) Today
- **Technical Lessons Learned**
- Social and Cultural Lessons Learned

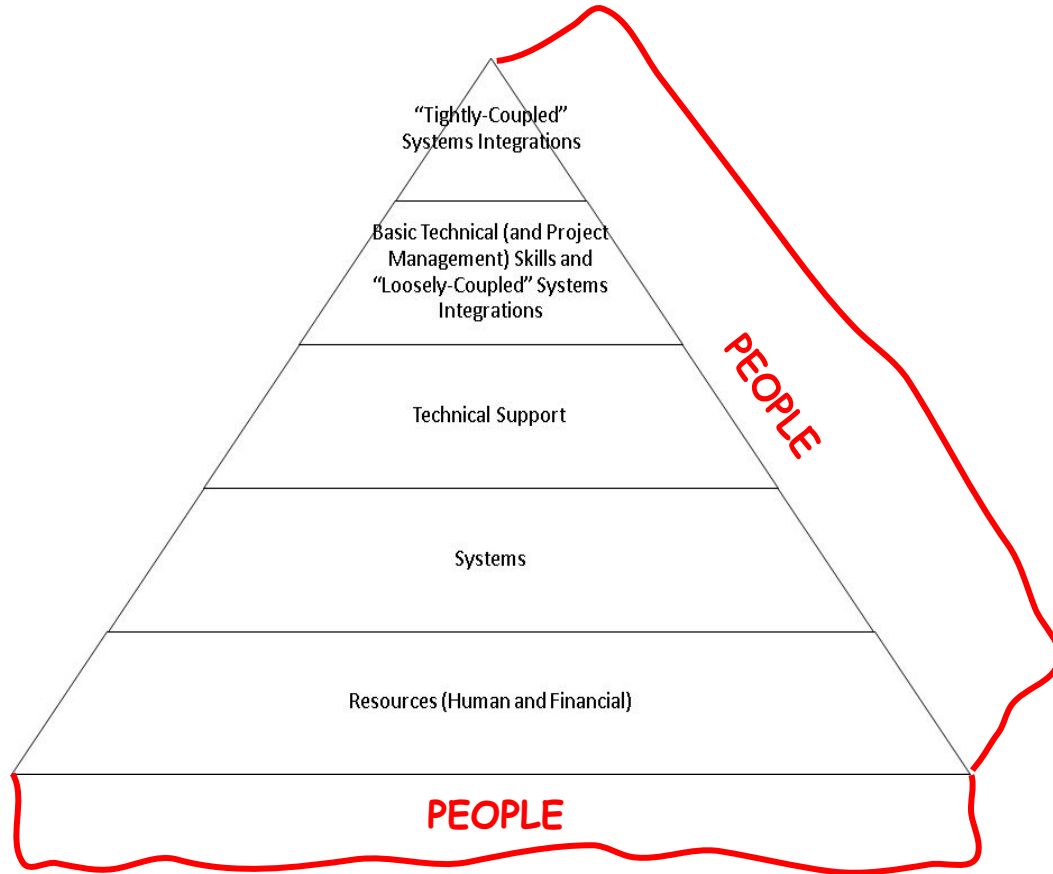
# Scope Creep, Systems Integration, and the Appraisal tab

- I have often questioned our decision to add appraisal functionality to Archivemata
- I worry that we were trying to make a system accomplish a goal widely outside the scope of its original design.
- It was never really that useful for processing archivists anyway
  - Only moderately useful for archivists focused on digital preservation
  - Less so for processing archivists needing to do intellectual appraisal of content
- I worry that this is an example of “arbitrary complexity, forced without rhyme or reason by the many human institutions and systems to which [the software developers of Archivemata] interfaces must conform”

# Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs" as Applied to Systems Integration



# Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs" as Applied to Systems Integration



# Outline

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# Resources

- It seems important that “project archivists” that were involved with this digital preservation project eventually became “regular” dealing with digital preservation on a more regular, permanent basis.
- This reasoning also applies to the way that we moved from soft money to General Fund money.

# Organization

- Our U-M Library LIT colleagues don't have any incentive to support Archivematica!
- “Good will” in organizations only goes so far.
- We've slowly but surely been exploring how feasible it might be to support these systems on our own or at least without them
  - We're exploring technical support with Artefactual.
  - But we also now completely host Aeon on our own
  - We started hosting a development environment for ArchivesSpace as a kind of experiment
- When we can't do something “on our own,” we develop MOUs that clearly define our relationships with campus partners

# Pandemic and the “Great Resignation”

- A pandemic makes people rethink their careers, work conditions, and long-term goals
- There have been pros of being “good to go” with digital processing when it came to the pandemic
  - We’ve been able to support remote work with digital processing
  - Without a full-time digital archivist or even an Archivematica GUI that worked
- We’re not immune to the trends of the “Great Resignation”
- Or even of people in archives learning technical skills and then leaving the profession for what they perceive are greener pastures

Thank You!

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