Using the Archon Open Source Collection Management Software to Implement More Product Less Process (MPLP) at the University of Miami

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Abstract: In 2009, the Archon Simple Archival Information System software was adopted at the University of Miami Libraries and Archives. Developed at the University of Illinois and released under an open source license, Archon offers a user-friendly way to facilitate the authorship and web-delivery of EAD and DACS-compliant finding aids. The implementation of this software at Miami coincided with the adoption, across five archives and special collections, of More Product Less Process (MPLP) guidelines for processing collections. In this brief presentation, we describe the rationale for our decision to implement Archon simultaneously with MPLP, outline our method of deployment, and share our thoughts on the software's strengths in easing a large institution's adoption of MPLP. We intend to show that the Archon software and MPLP requirements complement each other well, and that their simultaneous adoption at the University of Miami have helped maximize productivity of processing staff, while maximizing the accessibility of our hidden collections to researchers.

About the authors:

Kyle Rimkus manages digital projects and oversees collection development in French and German Literature at the University of Miami Richter Library. He joined the faculty of the University of Miami Libraries in 2007.

He has an M.S. in Library and Information Science and an M.A. in French Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a B.A. in Germanic Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Vienna, and taught English at public schools in France.

His professional interests include digital project management and digital services for special collections and archives. He has served, since 2008, on the Advisory Board of Opening Archives in Florida, an effort led by the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA) to promote the adoption of archival standards and best practices throughout Florida, for which he also provides consultation and training to South Florida archives interested in adopting Encoded Archival Description (EAD).

At the University of Miami, he has led the campus-wide implementation of the Archon open source collection management tool, and oversees a Digital Production Lab whose services support the digital needs of his university's archives and special collections.

Béatrice Skokan is Special Collections Librarian at the University of Miami. She is responsible for the processing, preservation and outreach services for the manuscripts and archival collections held by Special Collections. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Society of Florida Archivists. She holds a Master in Library and Information Science from Florida State University, two Masters of Arts from UM - one in French and the second in International Studies.