

The Amazing Adventures of Joseph T. Barcode: A Story of High Density Storage and Access Solutions

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Abstract: The Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries opened in 2012, containing reading rooms, a high-density, 30,000 square-foot vault, exhibit galleries, and classrooms. Planning and designing the building required assessing how material would move throughout the building and facilitating multiple systems and programs for tracking such functions as accessioning, processing, patron transactions, and exhibiting items, taking into account that all original manuscript materials would be housed in a high-density storage vault beneath the building and paged to various locations on three floors. The result is a marriage of multiple systems including a Generation Fifth Application Library Archival System (LAS) utilized in the vault that provides inventory control of hundreds of thousands of boxes, books, and audiovisual items via a barcode. This same barcode is attached to each item's record (located in finding aids in an XTF database, audiovisual databases, and MARC records) facilitated by Archivists' Toolkit using the Yale plugin, which allowed for rapid entry of container level barcodes. A Java script used in all discovery tools imports the container level barcode and collection information into the Aeon Content Management System, a software system built around an SQL database that tracks collection usage by staff and patrons, on and off-site. This allows for reading room management, online user registration, and advance patron requests directly from catalog records and finding aids. The goal of this poster is to demonstrate the unique collections management and circulation solutions that has been implemented and how these solutions can be scaled down to smaller facilities.

About the authors:

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