Handling a Digital Backlog and Analyzing Content in Archivematica

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Abstract: Most digital preservation strategies assume that an archives will have the appropriate resources to begin processing digital acquisitions immediately, and that those acquisitions will be tidy, perfectly formed packages for submission. However, in most of Archivematica's client repositories, that is never the case. Digital donations arrive in as much disarray as their analog cousins. And while analog backlogs can sit untouched for decades, digital backlogs require much more protection than a shelf in a vault can offer. For these reasons, Artefactual is building requirements for managing a digital backlog and doing basic arrangement, description and analysis of transferred digital records using Archivematica microservices and its dashboard. The open source digital forensics community has developed tools for indexing, analyzing, and tagging authentic and trustworthy evidence that could help archivists build one or more viable Submission Information Package (SIP) from one or more transfers in line with sound archival practice. Taking cues from archivist-friendly tools like UNC Digital Repository's Curator's Workbench and projects like BitCurator, the Archivematica web dashboard will allow accessioned transfers to go through a series of microservices prior to becoming backlogged, and for the archivist to call up transfers from the backlog to analyze, arrange and minimally describe in its web-based browser environment prior to full processing and archival description. In this platform presentation, I will discuss these requirements and show mockups of the forthcoming Archivematica developments

About the author:

Courtney C. Mumma, MAS/MLIS, provides end-user support, user documentation, quality assurance testing and system requirements management for Artefactual's Archivematica project. She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia's Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies programs (2009). At the City of Vancouver Archives, she helped to develop and implement their digital archives system while managing the acquisition of the hybrid digital-analog 2010 Winter Games archives.

She has been a researcher and co-investigator on the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES 3 Project), researcher on the UBC-SLAIS Digital Records Forensics Project, and a member of the Professional Experts Panel on the BitCurator Project. Courtney has been published in Archivaria and has delivered a number of presentations nationally and internationally on the practical application of digital preservation strategies.