Communities in Collaboration

Building the Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative

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Empire ADC is...

A program that seeks to enhance access to and discovery of New York State finding aids through a shared technical framework and community of practice.
Agenda

- Describe EmpireADC project development, technical framework, and community of practice

- Discuss challenges and opportunities encountered through the project lifecycle
Project Timeline

- **2010**: MARAC NY Caucus Meeting
- **2011-12**: Survey and Report
- **2013-14**: Proof of Concept (Alpha Phase)
- **2015-16**: IMLS Sparks! (Beta Prototype)
- **2015-16**: Developing Harvester/EADitor
EADitor for EmpireADC
Technical Framework

**Ingest** [XForms]
- Enter DACS-compliant finding aids directly
- Harvester ingests pre-existing finding aids

**Database** [eXist-db]
- Functions as an index and repository of finding aids

**Access** [XLST, Solr XML, HTML5]
- Offers a display platform for finding aids
- Finding aids are harvestable by other repositories
Community of Practice

Led by an advisory group of archivists from across the state

Opportunities:

- Training to small-to-medium archives
- Best practices for finding aids
- Distributed financial burden
- Users able to search across NY institutions
IMLS Sparks! Grant

Funding supports software development and training program

Opportunities:

– Enhance EADitor tool for use in a consortial environment
– Create training materials relating to DACS and EADitor—to be implemented statewide
– Beta prototype launch: May 2016
Harvester/EADitor Framework

Allows for ingest of pre-existing EAD finding aids into EADitor display framework

Opportunities:

– Promote collaboration through a hub-and-spoke model
– Aggregated finding aids are ripe for harvest by SNAC and other projects
– *Prototype: still in progress*
Project Sustainability

Maintaining the project through future phases

**Challenges:**

- Project management: ESLN offers platform for collaboration but struggle for balance
- Financial burden: ESLN committed to project, though some version of cost share is probably inevitable
Distributed management shares the burden of consortial projects across stakeholders.

Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative will solicit finding aids from a variety of institutions and allow for the extensibility of linked open data.
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