Open Source Solutions for Archival Collections

A report from the field at Rare Books and Special Collections

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Open UBC Week Presentation
Identifying the problem(s)

• Access system had become unwieldy for number of collections managed (approaching 700)

• No practical solution for the accessioning, preservation or dissemination of born-digital records.
Why open source?

• $$$

• Ability to customize

• Community of users

• Compatibility with other systems

• Ongoing improvements
Developing pilots

Part of a larger set of UBC Library pilot projects

ICA_AToM

- Finding aid conversion
- Historical photograph records
- New finding aid creation
- Digital objects

archivematica

- Legacy media
- New acquisitions (soon)
Diagram courtesy of Artefactual Systems
Challenges so far

• Technical problems
  – File failures

• Intellectual issues
  – Appraisal
  – Accessibility
  – Arrangement
Advice for implementing open source solutions

• Look for alignment with other institutional goals
• Don’t be shy to participate in the community
• Think about sustainability