

# 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



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# Identifying the problem(s)

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- Access system had become un-wieldy 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



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# Developing pilots

Part of a larger set of UBC Library pilot projects



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



- Legacy media
- New acquisitions (soon)



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External media transfers



Basic work flow for both projects



Legacy descriptions and finding aids



EAD metadata updates

Diagram courtesy of Artefactual Systems



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# Challenges so far

- Technical problems
  - File failures
- Intellectual issues
  - Appraisal
  - Accessibility
  - Arrangement



# Advice for implementing open source solution

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



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