

RLG Programs Metadata Tools Forum

Archon Summary

Title:

Archon

Web site:

www.archon.com

Brief Description:

Archon™ is a set of web-based tools developed by the University of Illinois for the management and description of archives and manuscript collections, and for providing context-rich access to related digital objects and electronic records. Its common web-based input mechanisms and SQL data storage give archivists, special collections librarians and museum curators with limited technological resources and knowledge the ability to easily produce dynamic data output in the form of a searchable and browsable Web site, MARC bibliographic records, EAD finding aids and long-term preservation files. Archon also provides a method to track information about new accessions received and unprocessed holdings, and supports multilingual character sets to display public and administrative interfaces in other languages in addition to utilizing ISAD(G) and DACS compliant descriptive standards. Archon 2.1 is made fully available through a University of Illinois INCSA open source license.

System Requirements:

Archon uses a single web-based platform for all data entry and delivery, and was designed with minimal system requirements. It will run on any Web server or hosting service with PHP 5.0 or higher and access to a standard database application, such as MySQL or Microsoft SQL Server. Archon's Application Programming Interface uses an object-oriented data model and a database abstraction layer to insulate developers from all but the most complex functions.

Features and Uses:

End-users can:

- Simultaneously search descriptions of archival materials, electronic records, and digital objects.
- Browse materials by collection title, digital object title, controlled subject heading, creator authority record, or archival record group.
- View, print and search finding aids, and download and use digital objects/electronic records.
- Navigate easily between descriptions and related objects sharing the same collection, subject, creator, or archival record group.

Archives, library and museum staff can:

- Describe series, subseries, files, and items within each collection.
- Organize collections into record groups and subgroups based on provenance or function.
- Develop creator authorities and controlled subject lists, and link them to related digital content.
- Track locations of containers or groups of containers.
- List unprocessed materials in an accessions manager.
- Upload digital objects/electronic records or link archival descriptions to external URLs.
- Edit descriptive information directly from an enhanced public interface.
- Export MARC and EAD records (to import into other systems).

Archon administrators can:

- Define "Repository Level" information.
- Define record groups or other classification/arrangement schema.
- Customize the public interface by tailoring Archon's easy-to-modify themes.
- Create new output templates to display data in any way that a repository requires for its users.
- Add, edit, or delete user accounts.
- Batch import data from MARC, EAD (XML) or CSV format.

Access/Availability:

Looking to give away as-is and for development partners.

For More Information:

Scott W. Schwartz
schwartzs@uiuc.edu

Christopher J. Prom
prom@uiuc.edu

Please note: the information in this document was provided by Scott Schwartz.