Cross-Institutional Workflow Analysis Exercise

Authors
Rhiannon Bettivia, Hannah Wang

Description
This is an exercise that asks students to select workflow diagrams from two different institutions and analyze how they represent human agents, technological agents, and the movement of digital objects. Students will not only compare and contrast these workflows, but also discuss their efficacy as artifacts and models. This lesson uses and adapts deliverables from the OSSArcFlow project (IMLS, 2017-2020).

Learning object type
Lesson plan/materials

Learning objectives
This learning object might be used in a lesson to satisfy the following learning objectives:

- Design a born-digital archiving workflow.
Exercise

1. Skim all workflows from the OSSArcFlow Project
2. Select two workflows and answer the following questions:
   a. What types of institutions are represented here (use the OSSArcFlow Digital Dossiers for reference)?
   b. What human agents do you notice? Which ones are stated and which ones implied?
   c. What technological agents do you notice? Which ones are stated and which ones are implied?
   d. How do digital objects move from one place to another?
   e. How do these institutions distinguish between different types of content?
   f. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these two workflows? Are there any common “pain points”?
   g. Are there any specifics missing that you would like to see?
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