

#### Radical Collaboration between Computer Science and Archival Science to Educate Next Generation Archivists

Jane Zhang Catholic University of America 2019 SAA Research Forum

# OS Software in Archival Education

- Rapidly changing technology has a significant impact on archival workflow and archival education.
- Open source software designed for archival purposes frequently used in graduate archival classrooms
  - BitCurator born-digital archives
  - ArchivesSpace archival description
- AS components / CS components

# **BitCurator – AS**

- Reducing the risk of inadvertent changes
- Creating authentic copies of digital content
- Reflecting original order of materials
- Establishing trustworthy chains of custody
- Discovering and exposing associated contextual information
- Identifying and documenting duplicate files
- Identifying/redacting sensitive information

## BitCurator – CS

- Computer hardware environments
  - Information processing speed, binary processing capacity, RAM, storage space
- Virtual machine
  - Operating systems, emulation technology
- Computer boot process
  - Normal booting, bootable USB
- Computer file directory systems

#### ArchivesSpace – AS

- Principles of provenance and original order
- Hierarchical / multi-level description
  - Data entry interfaces
  - Collection, series, file, item levels
- ISAD (G) General Rules
  - From general to specific
  - Relevant to the level of description
  - Linked to its immediate higher level
  - Not repeated at lower levels to avoid redundancy

## ArchivesSpace - CS

- Archivists' Toolkit to ArchivesSpace
- Database driven web technology
- AchivesSpace software + database
- Use MySQL for any data intended for production, including data in a test instance that you intend to move over to a production instance
- MySQL Community Edition

A freely downloadable version of the world's most popular open source database

#### **Radical Collaboration**

- Radical collaboration between computer science and archival science needed to educate next generation archivists
- Archival graduate students
  - Mostly with humanities and social sciences background
- Knowledge of backend computational infrastructure and frontend archival meaning needed for future archival career