

ASKING THE USER

INCORPORATING USER-CENTERED
CUSTOMIZATIONS *and* FEATURES
into
YALE'S ARCHIVESPACE PUI

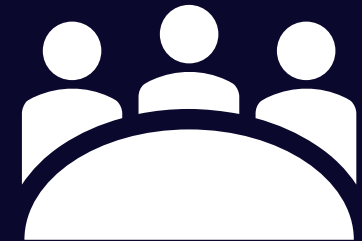
ArchivesSpace Member Forum 2018, Washington, D.C.



August 14, 2018

WE ARE...

**Yale ArchivesSpace
Public User
Interface (PUI)
Implementation
Team Members**

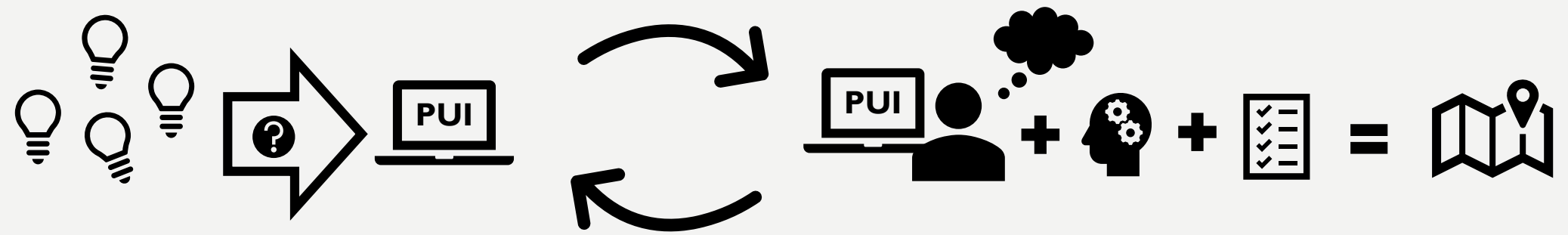
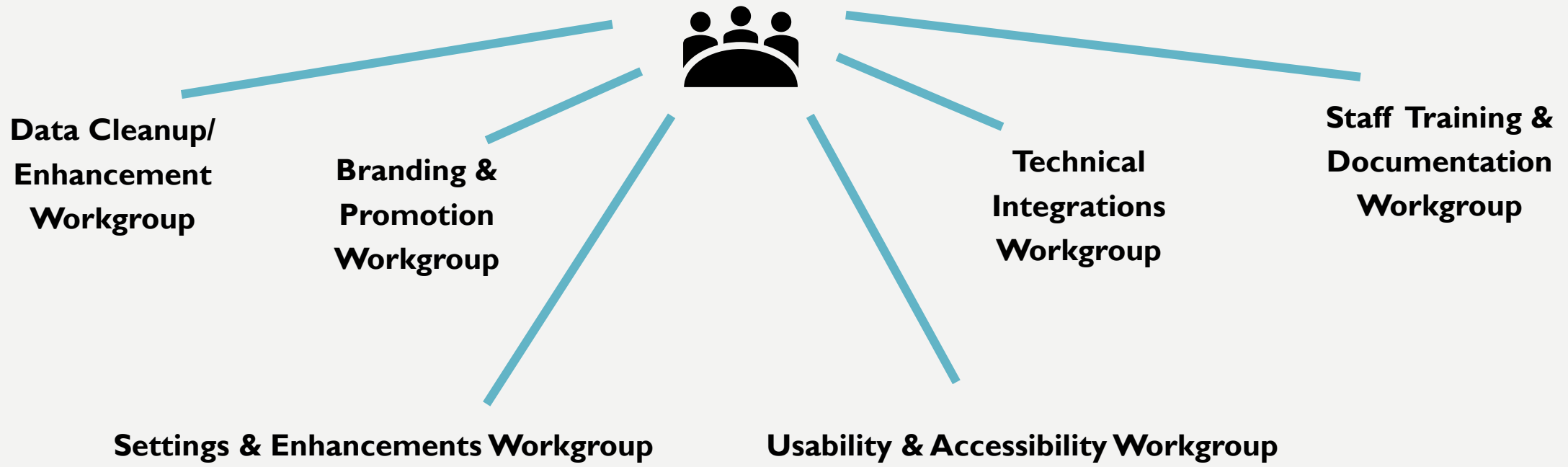


Stephanie Bredbenner

Eve Neiger

Alison Clemens

YALE ARCHIVESPACE PUI IMPLEMENTATION TEAM



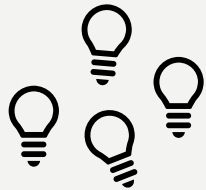


Project Manager:

Melissa Wisner

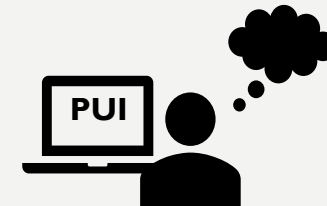
Ex officio:

Mark Custer



Settings & Enhancements Workgroup

- Stephanie Bredbenner
- **Anna Franz**
- **Jon Manton**
- **Steve Wieda**
- Alison Clemens *Team Lead*



Usability & Accessibility Workgroup

- **Moira Fitzgerald**
- **Tracy MacMath**
- **Jenn Nolte**
- Eve Neiger *Team Lead*

OUR INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Yale & ArchivesSpace

- Implemented ASpace in 2014
- Managed by the Yale Archival Management Systems Committee (YAMS)
- We document our work in:
 - ➔ [ArchivesSpace at Yale: User Manual](#)
 - ➔ [YAMS LibGuide](#)
 - ➔ [ArchivesSpace @ Yale blog](#)

OUR INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Yale's archival data lives in...

- ArchivesSpace (produce & maintain)
- MARC (distribute)
- EAD as XML (distribute)
- EAD as HTML (distribute)
- EAD as PDF (distribute)

YALE AND ARCHIVAL DISCOVERY

Yale Finding Aid Database (YFAD)

Yale UNIVERSITY LIBRARY Finding Aid Database Help Feedback

Search in Database
all finding aids ▼

 [Advanced Search](#)

Browse by Repository
[Manuscripts and Archives](#)
[Arts Library](#)
[Beinecke Library](#)
[Divinity Library](#)
[Medical Historical Library](#)
[Music Library](#)
[Visual Resources Collection](#)
[Yale Center for British Art](#)
[Lewis Walpole Library](#)
[Yale Peabody Museum](#)

Welcome to the Yale Finding Aid Database

This database consists of finding aids for archival and manuscript materials at Yale University. Their purpose is to provide information about the creation, historical context, arrangement, and content of archival and manuscript collections as well as the information necessary for users to identify and request the portions relevant to their research. These finding aids vary in style, depth of detail, and amount of materials covered, but their common purpose is to describe and enable access to archival and manuscript collections.

Finding aids represent holdings from:

- [Manuscripts and Archives \(Sterling Memorial Library\)](#)
- [Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections](#)
- [Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library](#)
- [Yale Divinity School Library](#)
- [Historical Library, Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library](#)
- [Irving S. Gilmore Music Library](#)
- [Visual Resources Collection](#)
- [Yale Center for British Art, Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts](#)
- [The Lewis Walpole Library](#)
- [Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History](#)

For more information on conducting research with archival and manuscript materials at Yale, see [Primary Sources at Yale](#).

[Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts](#) at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library are now searchable in a [separate database](#).

Requesting Materials

Requests to view materials in the reading rooms of the Beinecke Library and Manuscripts and Archives must be submitted through this online system. Links to the request system are found at the box level in each Beinecke Library and Manuscripts and Archives finding aid. Requests to view materials at the Divinity Library and the Arts Library must be submitted through separate online forms: [Divinity Library request form](#), [Arts Library request form](#). To request materials at other special collections repositories please use the contact information listed in each finding aid.

[Search this Site](#) / [Orbis Library Catalog](#) / [Feedback](#) / [Yale Info](#) / [Yale University](#) / [Ask! a Librarian](#)
© 2013 Yale University Library.

OUR GOALS FOR THE PUI

We wanted to...

- Increase UX with discovery & access to archival material
- Launch a holistic service integrated with production systems
- Bring a new level of service to finding aids & ASpace
- Leverage local expertise
- Improve integration with the library's federated search tool
- Create potential for more connections with other institutions and data on the wider web
- Provide new pathways and contextual connections for discovery (e.g. discovery via creators)

Resource folder: <http://bit.ly/YalePUI>

WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS BY...

Using a project charter and dedicating a project manager

Directly involving 30+ Yale Library staff members throughout the project

Allocating resources: staff time and external development

PRIORITIES AND QUESTIONS AHEAD OF TESTING

LEVERAGED STAFF EXPERTISE

- PUI Settings & Enhancements
Workgroup reviewed the PUI
- Solicited model search cases from YUL staff

HEARD FROM USERS

- Gathered feedback via user interviews with select populations
 - Undergraduate students
 - Graduate students
 - Yale faculty
 - Outside researchers
 - Yale University Library staff
- Based on user interviews, created list of desired outcomes
- Tested those expected and desired outcomes

WE BEGAN BY...

EDUCATING OURSELVES

Familiarize ourselves with the default & figure out what can be changed:

- By us in application settings
- By us with development
- By our vendor (Lyrasis)

COLLABORATING WITH COLLEAGUES

- Gather feedback and reactions & serve as stakeholder ambassadors
- Examine PUI-based and non-PUI based search and discovery interfaces for features of interest



Develop a needs list...a wish list...and a future, blue sky list

HOW WE APPROACHED MAKING CHANGES

OUR APPROACH WAS TO...

- Conduct user testing and analysis
- Review and interpret results from testing
- Make decisions about next steps

WE'LL EXPLAIN IT BY...

Tracing select issues



- Inherited description for scope and content notes
- Jargon and language
- Sharing descriptive data
- Contextual search results



WHY IS
USABILITY
IMPORTANT?

WHY IS USABILITY and ACCESSIBILITY TESTING IMPORTANT?

Ensure the software platform is easy to learn and convenient to use
FOR ALL USERS



Check that the PUI meets users' expectations



Support changes and enhancements to the PUI with real-world use



Identify bugs and flaws invisible to experienced (staff) users and developers



Show how successful users are with research tasks with this new tool



Collect user reactions and feedback to...



- Support iterative development
- Build training tools
- Squash internal fears of change (we hope!)

Resource folder: <http://bit.ly/YalePUI>

DECIDING WHEN TO TEST THE PUI

AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Test *before* changing settings and adding enhancements to the “out-of-the-box” PUI

SAVE  & 

But...

PUI must be functional

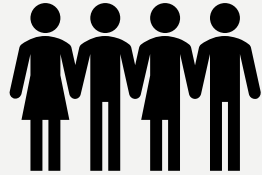
Users must be available

1st TEST PERIOD: Feb 1-16, 2018

2nd TEST PERIOD: Jun 12-28, 2018

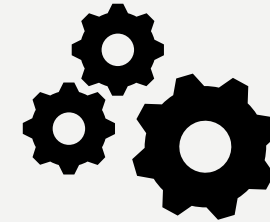
U&A WORKGROUP GOAL: TEST **SITE FUNCTION** WITH **REAL USERS**

“What do our users want? How do they see and use this resource?”



1. Undergraduate students
 2. Graduate students
 3. Faculty
 4. Outside researchers
 5. Library staff
- + Users who use screen readers
(accessibility testing)

**USE
PUI
TO**



1. Identify the purpose of the site, which institutions are represented, and what users can do on the site.
2. Find collections relevant to a search topic, subject, name, collection identifier, or date range (or combination thereof).
3. Find known materials within a larger collection.
4. Understand how to access materials and request material for use in the reading room.

METHOD

QUALITATIVE FACILITATED TESTING

TEST the WEBSITE *not* **THE USER**



- **USER STORIES** help us understand a user's mental model*

{ **A MENTAL MODEL** is what the user believes about the system and how they expect it to work }



- **Trouble-shoot issues**
- **Prompt user to “think aloud”**
- **Observe body language and non-verbal reactions**



KEY RESOURCE:

Krug, Steve. *Rocket Surgery Made Easy: The Do-it-yourself Guide to Finding and Fixing Usability Problems*. Berkeley, CA: New Riders, 2010.

BENEFITS

Low cost

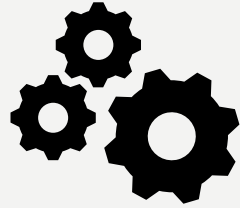
DIY - Anyone can conduct tests (you do not need to be an expert)

Minimal tools needed

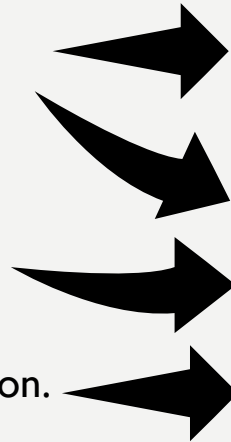
Only 3-5 test participants needed for feedback each round

Repeatable

WHAT WE DID: STEP 1 – PLAN & PREPARE (ROUND 1)



1. Identify the purpose of the site, which institutions are represented, and what users can do on the site.
2. Find collections relevant to a search topic, subject, name, collection identifier, or date range (or combination thereof).
3. Find known materials within a larger collection.
4. Understand how to access materials and request material for use in the reading room.



1. “Tell me what you think of the site? What is this site for and who would use it?”
2. TASK 1: Find materials related to women during the civil war...
3. TASK 2: Find a 1943 album from Berkeley College
4. TASK 3: Find something useful for your own research!



Postponed until Usability Testing Round 2, but also...

1. Asked for each task: How would you view that item in the Reading Room?

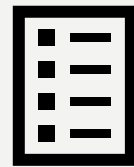
WHAT WE DID: STEP 2 – RECRUITING



At least minimal familiarity with archives and special collections, some primary source research experience.



Motivated test participant who understands context of tasks



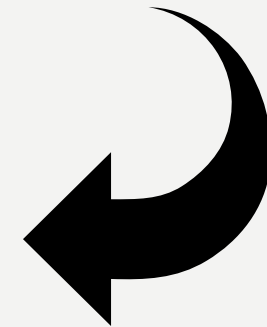
List of recent researchers in each category



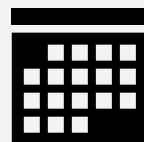
Snowball sampling - Test participants connect us with other users



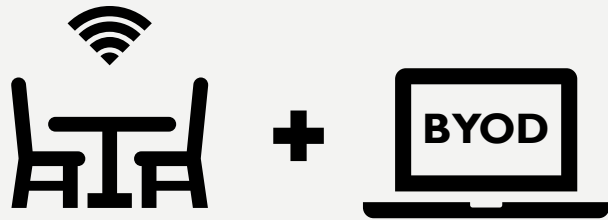
\$10 Amazon gift card



Doodle poll for test sign-up



WHAT WE DID: STEP 3 – TESTING!

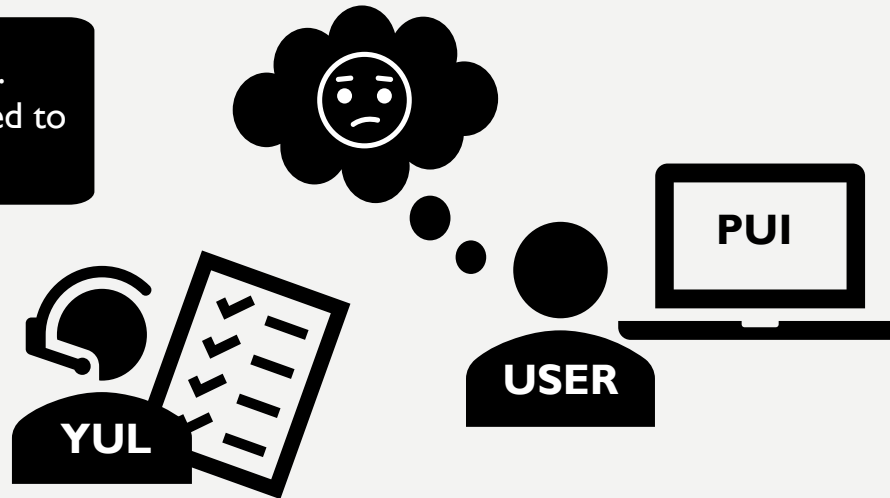


Met with each participant in a private room equipped with wi-fi. Participants were asked to bring their own device (BYOD)



Screen capture and conversation was recorded to the cloud using **Zoom**. Participants signed a consent form to be recorded.

What are you thinking...
Is that what you expected to happen?



Finished tests uploaded to a secure cloud folder

ROUND 1 TESTS COMPLETED!

16 total tests completed

- 3 undergraduates
- 5 graduate students (2 discounted due to technical difficulties)
- 2 faculty
- 2 outside researchers
- 3 staff
- 1 undergraduate using a screen reader

NEXT STEP:
DATA ANALYSIS *then*
REPORT AND RECOMMEND

Resource folder: <http://bit.ly/YalePUI>

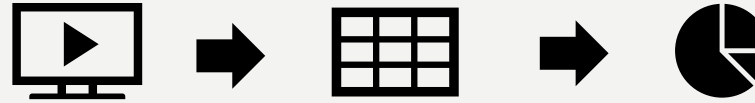
COLLECTED DATA



14 videos with sound and screen capture, including one with an audible screen reader



DATA ANALYSIS



Feedback and observations from recordings were coded

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
1	Test video Unique ID	User group	Test date and time	Facilitator	1st Review	2nd Review	3rd Review	Technical notes/issues	Home page	Navigation	Searching	Language and jargon	Visual app
2	A	Undergraduate	2/1/2018 11:00	MF	EN				Self explanatory. Simple and minimalist.		Date range search doesn't work as expected.	"Where is the finding aid?"	Minimalist
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													



- **Many users gave similar feedback**
- **Points of confusion and delight were similar across all user groups**

FINDINGS: WHAT WE SAW...

IN A NUTSHELL

More than half of test participants found the site easier to use and more intuitive than the current Yale Finding Aid Database.

Some language and design elements did not match users' mental models.

Mental model - what a user believes about the system at hand.

Key points of confusion for users



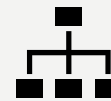
Navigation



Search relevancy and search behavior



“Where is the finding aid?”



Inherited description from higher levels is repeated at lower levels of description + missing label or indication of inheritance



Location of page elements (also accessibility issues!)

- Facets in the right sidebar – violated users' mental models
- Search form

Yale

Home Repositories Collections Digital Objects Unprocessed Material Subjects Names Classifications

Correspondence regarding Association of Learned Societies research fellowship, 1930–1934

File – Container: 49, Folder: 1020 Call Number: GEN MSS 1429. Series II

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library > Frederick W. Hilles Manuscript Collection and Papers > Frederick W. Hilles Papers, 1775–1979 > Professional correspondence, 1923–1979 > Correspondence regarding Association of Learned Societies research fellowship, 1930–1934

Professional and personal papers of Frederick W. Hilles and his family, including personal and professional correspondence; research files; writings; personal and family papers, including material related to Susan Morse Hilles and Charles Dewey Hilles; teaching materials from Hilles' tenure at Yale University and Temple University; and material documenting Hilles' service on the boards of the Yale Library Associates and the Yale University...[See more >](#)

Dates

1930–1934

Language of Materials

Chiefly in English; some manuscripts in French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin.

Information about Access

This collection is open for research.

Extent

From the Series: 52.53 linear feet ((107 boxes) + 1 broadside, 1 roll.)

[Expand All](#)

Physical Storage Information

Repository Details

“This doesn’t help me that much.”



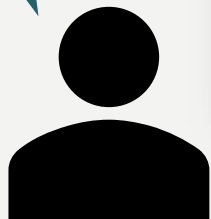
“That was confusing – I thought I had gone to the wrong page; to the [collection] home page.”

“Wait, is this the same item?”

“I’m thrown because I clicked on a specific item and this description is from the beginning of the collection.”

Collection organization

- "X" general, 1971
- "Y" general, 1952–1975
- Yale University Press, 1937–1975
- "Z" general, 1956–1975
- Unidentified, 1926–1974
- Empty envelopes
- Correspondence regarding Association of ...
- Correspondence regarding Chauncey Bre...
- Correspondence regarding Frederick W. Hi...
- Correspondence regarding Laurence E. Po...
- Correspondence regarding PhD thesis of B...
- Correspondence regarding Reynolds exhib...
- Christmas cards, 1951–1974
- Christmas cards, 1951–1974
- Unfiled
- > Research Files, 1900–1975



Term	Locations in PUI	Defined by users as	Usability issue caused
Collection Organization	Collection level resource record	≠ Finding Aid	Can't find the "Finding Aid"
Container	Search results, Collection level resource record	Eventually realize it means "box" but this is not intuitive	Confusion/discomfort
Container Inventory	Collection level resource record	? (for most)	Can't find "Box list"
Creator	Drop down "search by" menu in search bar	? (for some)	Avoidance
Digital Materials	Drop-down "limit to" menu in search bar	Unclear (digitized vs. born digital), Unique from collections	Confusion and avoidance
Digital Objects	Top navigation menu	Unclear (digitized vs. born digital), Different from Digital Materials?	Confusion and avoidance
File	Search results, File level resource record pages	Computer file, folder, item (inconsistent)	Confusion about relationship between description and physical items
Notes	Drop down "search by" menu in search bar	? (for all)	Avoidance
Person	Search results	"What qualifies a name as a 'person'?"	Confusion about where these linked records will lead
Repositories	Top navigation menu, text throughout	Unclear without further exploration (visible list of repositories)	Confusion and avoidance

JARGON & LANGUAGE

How can the words we use cause confusion and usability issues?

Find what you're looking for:

*civil war" Search all record types Keyword Years: 1859 To 1870 -

And women Keyword Years: From To To +

Search

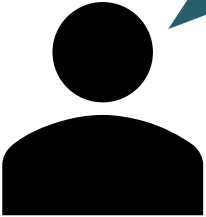
"I've seen other databases where they give you a snippet of a sentence with your search term highlighted... I'd like to see that."

"Having search terms highlighted would be helpful."

"Most of these are women...but here is a Thomas, I don't know why this is here."

The screenshot shows a Safari browser window at the URL `puitestarchivespace.library.yale.edu`. The search results are as follows:

- States Army during the American Civil War**
Found in: [Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library](#) > [Julia Driver collection of women in photography](#) > [Card Photographs and Other Photographic Materials](#) > [Photographic Materials](#)
- Brewster family papers**
Collection Call Number: WA MSS S-1309
Summary: The papers contain diaries, artwork, and an album of Elizabeth Bates Brewster and her daughters Ada Augusta Brewster, Mary Brewster Long, and Elizabeth Brewster Scribner. Subjects discussed include child rearing and family life, nursing during the Civil War, school teaching, and life in Nevada and California.
Found in: [Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library](#) > [Brewster family papers](#)
- Thomas Fry Tobey papers**
Collection Call Number: WA MSS S-1354
Summary: The papers contain correspondence, appointments, discharge certificates, photographs, printed material, and other military papers documenting Tobey's life and career, particularly during the Civil War years. There is additional material concerning his later career during which time he served at several Far Western posts.
Found in: [Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library](#) > [Thomas Fry Tobey papers](#)
- Webster family papers**
Collection Call Number: MS-527
Summary: Principal figures in these papers are Noah Webster, the lexicographer, and his son William Greenleaf Webster. Also included are papers pertaining to the G. C. Merriam Company and the publication of Noah Webster's dictionaries and grammars. Family correspondence includes twenty-two letters written by Noah Webster to his son between 1835 and 1843 while the latter was in Cincinnati, Ohio, and La Fayette, Indiana, selling his father's books. The papers of William Greenleaf Webster make up...



USABILITY TESTS – TAKE TWO!

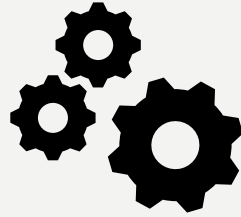
Same general functions

+

NEW Requesting

+

Updated interface!



Same tasks

+

NEW tasks

1. Identify the purpose of the site, which institutions are represented, and what users can do on the site.
2. Find collections relevant to a search topic, subject, name, collection identifier, or date range (or combination thereof).
3. **Understand how to access materials and request material for use in the reading room.**
4. **Understand that multiple folders from the same box do not need to be requested separately.**

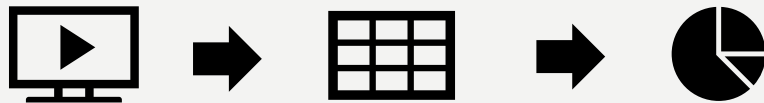


1. “Tell me what you think of the site? What is this site for and who would use it?”
2. TASK 1: Find materials related to women during the civil war...
3. **TASK 3 Find and request Rosamund Johnson’s composition “Fishing”**
4. **TASK 2 Request the following items:**
 1. **Chandler, Raymond. *Killer in the rain* (1964)**
 2. **Creeley, Robert. *The gold diggers* (1965)**

ROUND 2 TESTS COMPLETED!

6 total tests completed

- 2 non-Yale undergraduates
- 1 Yale graduate students
- 3 staff (1 test conducted while Aeon requesting was down)



DATA ANALYSIS

- Added categories for requesting
- How are the new customizations and changes received?
- Did changes help usability issues?



Resource folder: <http://bit.ly/YalePUI>

COLLECTED DATA



6 videos with sound and screen capture



RECOMMENDATIONS



...a sampling



Layout changes (e.g., move filters/context tree to the left sidebar)



Clearer language/description



Accessibility changes



Improve search relevancy



Add Yale identity skinning



REPORT OUT!

- I. METHOD & PROCESS
- II. FINDINGS
 - I. USER FEEDBACK BY CATEGORY
- III. RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON USER FEEDBACK
- IV. RECOMMEND FUTURE TESTING

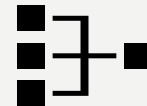
SO WE'VE DONE
USABILITY
TESTING...
NOW WHAT?

ANALYZING RESULTS & PRIORITIZING ISSUES

ANALYZING RESULTS



Read U&A recommendations



Compared our notes and merged similar issues



Watched the usability test videos



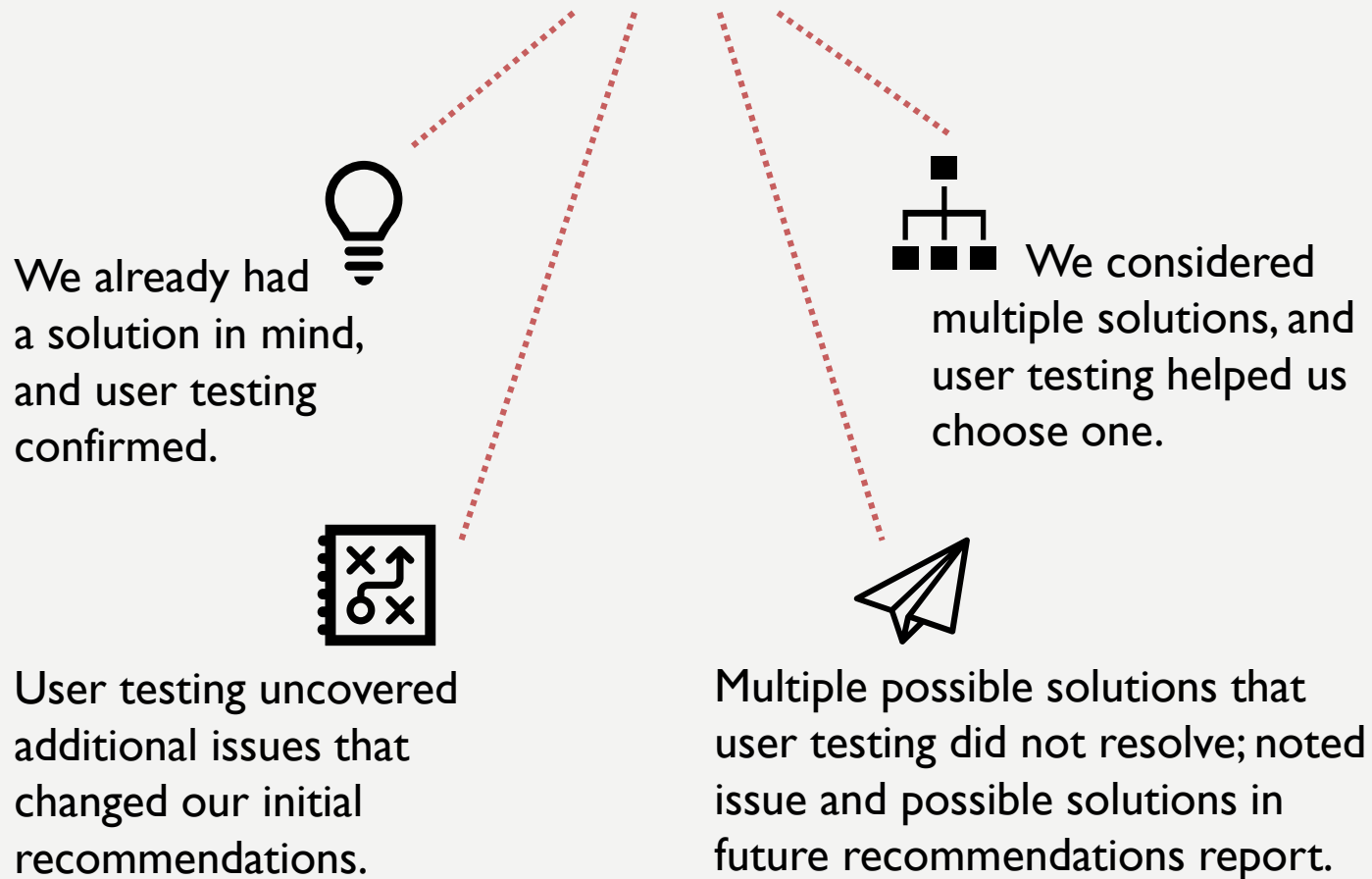
Ran our own tests to uncover additional issues

PRIORITIZATION CONSIDERATIONS

- U&A critical designation
- User confusion
- User delight/enhancement of experience
- Staff workflows/use by professionals
- Continuity of service/level of disruption if not addressed until post-launch
- Timeline/difficulty of potential fixes

BRAINSTORMING SOLUTIONS

Multiple possible outcomes...



Resource folder: <http://bit.ly/YalePUI>

MAKING THE CHANGES

Project leaders reviewed priority issues and decided where to route our requests:

Yale-specific

Core code



Basecamp

JIRA ticket



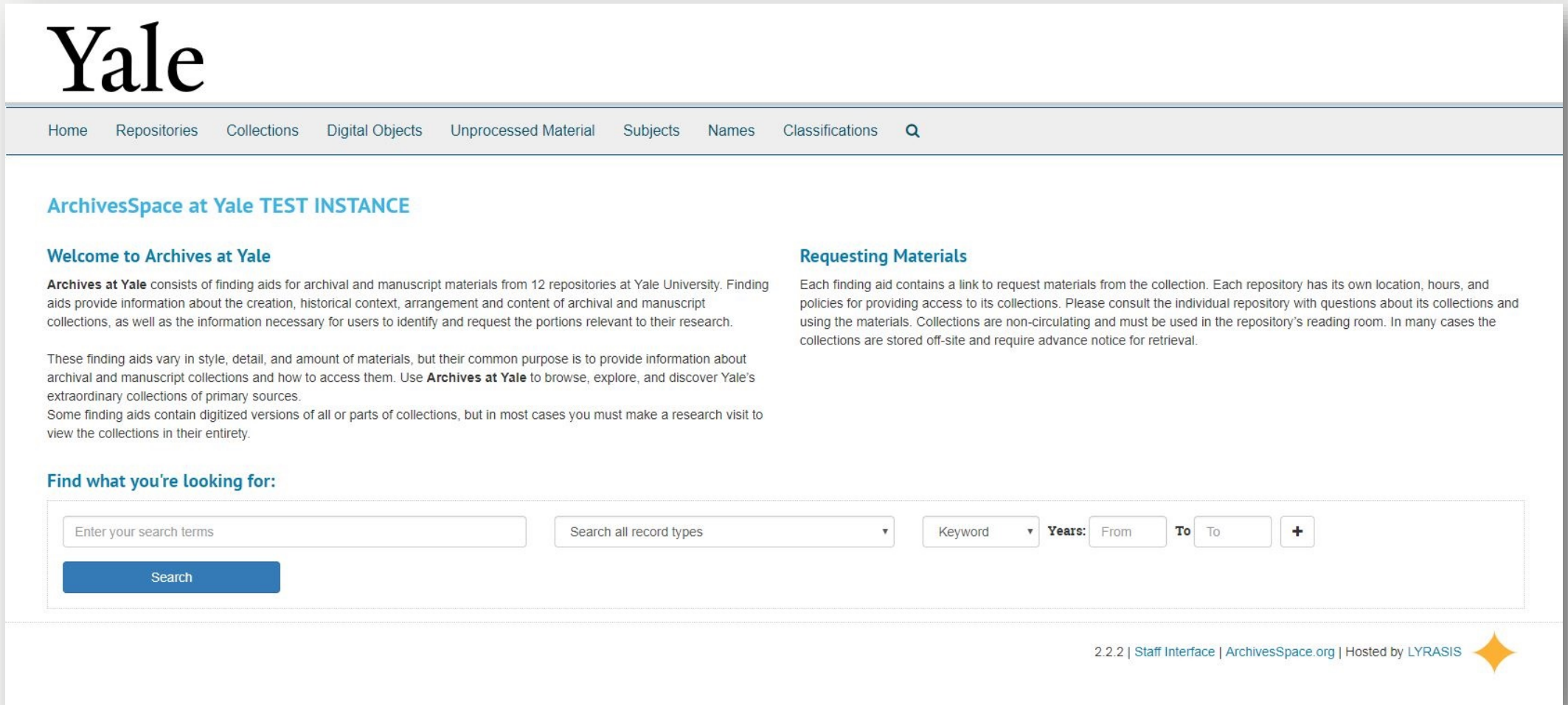
HOW DID USABILITY TESTING AFFECT OUR DECISIONS ?

ISSUE	RESULT
<p>Inherited scope and contents notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Testing confirmed user confusion<li>• We also considered indexing issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suppress for now<li>• In future recommendations, consider displaying them, but labeling clearly<li>• If they are displayed again, they should not be indexed
<p>Jargon and language issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Testing confirmed user confusion<li>• Some user confusion we did not anticipate (limit to collections, subjects, names)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change container inventory to container list, navigate collection to finding aid view<li>• Add explanations of limit to collections, names, and subjects to help page

HOW DID USABILITY TESTING AFFECT OUR DECISIONS ?


ISSUE	RESULT
<p>Contextual search results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We brainstormed several solutions before testing• Testing confirmed potential for user enhancement, but did not clarify the best possible solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could not decide on best solution• Lowered prioritization and added to future recommendations report
<p>Downloading structured data (CSV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When we first discussed before testing, would have required development work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing script wasn't designed to target this• Added to future recommendations report• Harvard's development may affect future prioritization

FRONT PAGE - BEFORE



The screenshot shows the front page of the ArchivesSpace at Yale website. At the top left is the Yale logo. A horizontal navigation bar contains the following links: Home, Repositories, Collections, Digital Objects, Unprocessed Material, Subjects, Names, Classifications, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is the main content area. On the left, there is a section titled "ArchivesSpace at Yale TEST INSTANCE" followed by "Welcome to Archives at Yale". The text describes the finding aids available at Yale University. On the right, there is a section titled "Requesting Materials" which explains how to use the finding aids to request materials. At the bottom of the main content area is a search box with the heading "Find what you're looking for:". The search box includes a text input field for search terms, a dropdown menu for "Search all record types", a "Keyword" dropdown, and a "Years" section with "From" and "To" input fields and a "+" button. A blue "Search" button is located below the search box. At the bottom right of the page, there is a footer with the text "2.2.2 | Staff Interface | ArchivesSpace.org | Hosted by LYRASIS" and a yellow star icon.

Yale

Home Repositories Collections Digital Objects Unprocessed Material Subjects Names Classifications 

ArchivesSpace at Yale TEST INSTANCE

Welcome to Archives at Yale

Archives at Yale consists of finding aids for archival and manuscript materials from 12 repositories at Yale University. Finding aids provide information about the creation, historical context, arrangement and content of archival and manuscript collections, as well as the information necessary for users to identify and request the portions relevant to their research.

These finding aids vary in style, detail, and amount of materials, but their common purpose is to provide information about archival and manuscript collections and how to access them. Use **Archives at Yale** to browse, explore, and discover Yale's extraordinary collections of primary sources.


Some finding aids contain digitized versions of all or parts of collections, but in most cases you must make a research visit to view the collections in their entirety.

Requesting Materials

Each finding aid contains a link to request materials from the collection. Each repository has its own location, hours, and policies for providing access to its collections. Please consult the individual repository with questions about its collections and using the materials. Collections are non-circulating and must be used in the repository's reading room. In many cases the collections are stored off-site and require advance notice for retrieval.

Find what you're looking for:

Enter your search terms Search all record types Keyword Years: From To

2.2.2 | Staff Interface | ArchivesSpace.org | Hosted by LYRASIS 

FRONT PAGE - AFTER

The screenshot shows the 'Archives at Yale' website. At the top is a dark blue header with the site name 'Archives at Yale' in white. Below this is a black navigation bar with links for 'Repositories', 'Collections', 'Subjects', 'Names', 'Help', and a search icon. The main content area has a white background. It starts with a 'Welcome to Archives at Yale' heading, followed by a search section titled 'Find what you're looking for'. This section includes a search input field, a dropdown for 'Search all record types', a 'Keyword' dropdown, and a 'Years' section with 'From' and 'To' input fields and a plus sign. A blue 'Search' button is below the search fields. The page is divided into two columns. The left column has a heading 'About this Site' and a paragraph of text. The right column has a heading 'Requesting Materials' and a paragraph of text. At the bottom is a dark blue footer with the Yale logo and links for 'System Status', 'Privacy Policy', 'Data Use', 'Accessibility', and '#YaleArchives'. Five callout boxes with teal backgrounds and white text point to specific features: 'Moved search bar to top of home page' points to the search icon; '- Simplified top bar - Added Yale branding - Added Help page' points to the top navigation bar; 'Simplified intro text' points to the 'About this Site' text; 'Added more info about requesting' points to the 'Requesting Materials' text; and 'Links promote accessibility, visual interest, and engagement' points to the footer links.

Archives at Yale

Repositories ▾ Collections Subjects Names Help 🔍

Welcome to Archives at Yale

Find what you're looking for

Enter your search terms Search all record types ▾ Keyword ▾ Years: From To To +

Search

About this Site

Archives at Yale contains finding aids from 10 libraries and repositories at Yale University. Finding aids describe the creation, content, context, and arrangement of archival materials, allowing users to identify and request materials relevant to their research. **Use Archives at Yale to browse, explore, and discover Yale's extraordinary collections of primary sources.**

Requesting Materials

Each finding aid contains a link to request materials from the collections. **Each repository has its own location, hours, and policies for providing access to its collections.** Please consult the repository with questions about using the materials. Collections are non-circulating and must be used in the repository's reading room. In many cases the collections are stored off-site and require advance notice for retrieval. Some finding aids contain digitized versions of all or parts of a collection, but in most cases viewing a collection in its entirety will require visiting the repository.

Yale System Status Privacy Policy Data Use Accessibility #YaleArchives

Moved search bar to top of home page

- Simplified top bar
- Added Yale branding
- Added Help page

Simplified intro text

Added more info about requesting

Links promote accessibility, visual interest, and engagement

JARGON & LANGUAGE - BEFORE

Yale

Home Repositories Collections Digital Objects Unprocessed Material Subjects Names Classifications Q

Langston Hughes papers

Collection Call Number: JWJ MSS 26

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library > Langston Hughes papers

Collection Overview Collection Organization Container Inventory

The career of James Langston Hughes spanned five decades. He wrote poetry, short stories, plays, newspaper columns, children's books, and pictorial histories. He also edited several volumes of prose and fiction by Afro-American and African writers. Through his writing and through his extensive travels and lecture tours he came into direct contact with an amazing array of writers, artists, activists, and performers. The papers span the...[See more >](#)

Dates
1862-1980

Information about Access
This collection is open for research.

Boxes 639-667 and items in cold storage: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Ownership & Copyright
The Langston Hughes Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Extent
305 Linear Feet ((671 boxes) + 11 broadside folders + art storage)

Catalog Record
A record for this collection is available in Orbis, the Yale University Library catalog

[Expand All](#)

Additional Description

Search Collection

Years: From To Search

Collection organization

- Langston Hughes papers
 - Box 421, folder 9320
 - Personal Correspondence, ca. 1910-1967
 - Professional Correspondence, dates: 1920-1967
 - Family Correspondence, dates: 1904-1967
 - Third Party Correspondence, dates: 1927-1966
 - General Writings, 1922-1967
 - Poems, 1924-1967
 - Song Lyrics, 1928-1966
 - Newspaper Columns, 1942-1966
 - Translations by Langston Hughes, 1925-1965
 - Printed Appearances of Hughes's Writings, 1920-1...
 - Writings of Others, 1913-1967

JARGON & LANGUAGE - AFTER

The screenshot shows the 'Archives at Yale' website interface. At the top, the header includes 'Archives at Yale' and navigation links for 'Repositories', 'Collections', 'Subjects', 'Names', and 'Help'. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library' and 'Langston Hughes papers'. The main content area is titled 'Langston Hughes papers' and is identified as a 'Collection'. A call number 'JWJ MSS 26' is displayed. Three tabs are visible: 'Collection Overview', 'Finding Aid View', and 'Container List'. To the right of the tabs are three icons: 'PDF Finding Aid', 'Ask a Question', and 'Citation'. Below the tabs, there is a 'Description of the Papers' section with a paragraph of text. Further down, there are sections for 'Dates' (1862-1980) and 'Language' (English). At the bottom, there is an 'Information about Access' section. On the right side of the page, there is a search box and a 'Navigate the collection' section with a dropdown menu showing 'Langston Hughes papers' and several sub-items with expandable icons.

Container Inventory →
Container List

Collection Organization →
Finding Aid View

Collection organization →
Navigate the Collection

INHERITED NOTES - BEFORE

Yale

Home Repositories Collections Digital Objects Unprocessed Material Subjects Names Classifications

Correspondence regarding Association of Learned Societies research fellowship, 1930-1934

Citation Aeon Request

File – Container: 49, Folder: 1020 Call Number: GEN MSS 1429. Series II

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library > Frederick W. Hilles Manuscript Collection and Papers > Frederick W. Hilles Papers, 1775-1979 > Professional Correspondence, 1923-1979 > Correspondence regarding Association of Learned Societies research fellowship, 1930-1934

Professional and personal papers of Frederick W. Hilles and his family, including personal and professional correspondence; research files; writings; personal and family papers, including material related to Susan Morse Hilles and Charles Dewey Hilles; teaching materials from Hilles' tenure at Yale University and Temple University; and material documenting Hilles' service on the boards of the Yale Library Associates and the Yale University...[See more >](#)

Dates

1930-1934

Language of Materials

Chiefly in English; some manuscripts in French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin.

Information about Access

This collection is open for research.

Extent

From the Series: 52.53 linear feet ((107 boxes) + 1 broadside, 1 roll.)

[Expand All](#)

Physical Storage Information

Repository Details

Collection organization

- "X" general, 1971
- "Y" general, 1952-1975
- Yale University Press, 1937-1975
- "Z" general, 1956-1975
- Unidentified, 1926-1974
- Empty envelopes
- Correspondence regarding Association of ...
- Correspondence regarding Chauncey Bre...
- Correspondence regarding Frederick W. Hi...
- Correspondence regarding Laurence E. Po...
- Correspondence regarding PhD thesis of B...
- Correspondence regarding Reynolds exhib...
- Christmas cards, 1951-1974
- Christmas cards, 1951-1974
- Unfiled
- > Research Files, 1900-1975
- > Teaching Material, 1913-1976
- > Personal and Family Papers, 1775-1976

INHERITED NOTES - AFTER

More pronounced breadcrumbs

Increased the prominence of the title

Suppressed inherited language and S&C notes

The screenshot shows the 'Archives at Yale' website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the site name and navigation links: 'Repositories', 'Collections', 'Subjects', 'Names', 'Help', and a search icon. Below the header, a prominent breadcrumb trail is displayed in dark blue boxes with white text: 'Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library' > 'Frederick W. Hilles Manuscript Collection and Papers' > 'Frederick W. Hilles Papers, 1775-1779' > 'Professional Correspondence, 1923-1979'. The main title of the collection is 'Correspondence regarding Association of Learned Societies research fellowship, 1930-1934', which is larger and more prominent than in previous versions. Below the title, there are icons for 'Request', 'PDF Finding Aid', 'Ask a Question', and 'Citation'. The page also includes sections for 'Dates' (1930-1934), 'Information about Access', and 'Extent'. A search box and a 'Navigate the collection' list are visible on the right side of the page.

CHALLENGES



Constant active development



Partial solutions not in line with our original vision or recommendations



Maintaining project documentation on multiple platforms over an extended period of time

INTERNAL DOCUMENTATION/COMMUNICATION



EXTERNAL DOCUMENTATION/COMMUNICATION



NEXT STEPS *and* COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



S&E Workgroup has prioritized remaining recommendations into four tiers and compiled a report about future enhancements



Future iterative user testing will be managed by Yale Archival Management Systems Committee



Shared U&A report to Aspace listserv



Hosted our code on Github



Submitted JIRA tickets for core code contributions



WAYS TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION

- Join the ArchivesSpace Users Group listserv
- Reach out to other partner institutions, ask questions, and share resources
- Check out existing Github code and JIRA tickets
- Start conversations on the listserv and comment on existing JIRA tickets
- Submit your own JIRA tickets

RESOURCES

Current test version of *Archives at Yale*: <https://puitestarchivesspace.library.yale.edu>

Resources from our PUI implementation process: <http://bit.ly/YalePUI>

Yale's ArchivesSpace Github page: github.com/YaleArchivesSpace

Submit and comment on JIRA tickets here: development.archivesspace.org

Steve Krug's website and resources for DIY usability testing:

www.sensible.com

www.sensible.com/downloads-rsme.html

THANK YOU!

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