
A photograph of a turkey walking on a concrete sidewalk. In the background, there is a road with a red curb and a dark-colored car. The turkey is facing left and is casting a shadow on the sidewalk.

The ASpace SUI in the Wild
(Obtaining buy-in from non-archivist
colleagues, in four pseudo-motivational slides)

(With apologies to the
ASpace 'PUI in the
Wild' project)

Turkeys in the Bronx: wild or just feral?



Get past magical thinking

- Unless you have a mandate, you can't rely on 'if you build it they will come'
- When it comes to collection description and management, librarians already have systems that work for them; the task is to convince them that ASpace will be enough of an improvement to be worth adding to their workflows
- Deliberate, intentional empathy and knowing your institutional culture both help

Sometimes the expectations I have to manage are my own

Know where you are

- Literally:
 - The org chart doesn't necessarily tell you where your persuasion / invitation / training efforts should be addressed
- Figuratively:
 - Understand 'where people are,' not only in terms of what relevant knowledge and skills they bring to the task of learning ASpace, but also in terms of how much time and effort they are willing / able to devote to it

The map is not the territory

Maintain excitement without overpromising

- Go ahead and show people what can be done; what other institutions are already doing
- Balance that with realistic expectations of what your institution can do, and within what time horizon
- Figure out your optimal upgrade schedule
- Would you prefer big, infrequent changes or steady, incremental improvements?

Leadership is not about saying "here's the ceiling implied by our current resources."

Keep things simple

- Local practice notwithstanding, try to avoid reinventing too many wheels
- Meet people (closer to) where they are
- Ultimately, using ArchivesSpace isn't the goal; patron access is

(Thanks!)

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The possibilities may be endless, but doing an exhaustive assessment won't get you moved in any faster