Introduction

The Staff Interface Enhancement Working Group was convened in July 2017 to develop recommendations for an enhanced and more user-friendly staff interface. SIEWG is nearly a 40-member group consisting of representatives from every category of size of institution, all sharing the same goal of making ArchivesSpace work for the diverse needs of the broad user community. The charge of this working group was to:

- Review, in order to de-dupe and enhance where necessary, outstanding JIRA issues submitted by the community over the years regarding the staff interface.
- Identify areas of interest not covered by existing JIRA issues.
- Identify accessibility gaps in the current staff interface.
- Recommendations should address comprehensively and holistically the experience of the staff interface, taking into consideration the diverse experience levels and needs of staff, student, and volunteers who interact with the program
- Recommendations should consider both small and major improvements, from changing the size of labels to exploring major revisions to increase the ease and efficiency of use.
- Changes should be scalable across the entire program and incorporate improvements from the Public Interface and have a straightforward, self-explanatory, and intuitive design.

The staff interface is the heart of the program, where the majority of time and effort is spent by archivists, students, and volunteers in creating their resource descriptions. Although ArchivesSpace is an extremely powerful tool by using the backend API, most users spend the majority of their work within the staff interface. Depending on departmental dynamics and staff skill, sometimes the staff interface is the only tool available to the archivists.

In general, the SIEWG recommends integrating as many of the improvements developed for the public interface into the staff interface, establishing a consistent and intuitive user experience across both the two interfaces. In situations where the interfaces differ, it is due to supporting different functionalities. Our specific recommendations always take accessibility in mind and seek to streamline navigation, reduce the amount of clicking and scrolling needed to accomplish tasks, and expand the functionality and customization within the user interface. Some aspects of our recommendations relating to Agents/Subjects and Digital Objects defer to future working groups developed to explore and expand those areas, but we wanted to put forth initial helpful recommendations.

In addition to the following recommendations, SIEWG commented and recommended for implementation the following JIRA tickets:

ANW-97 - As an admin, I want to identify inactive users so that they either do not appear or can easily be filtered out of the main user view.

AR-1529 - Add the "revision statements" section as a sub-record of the "Finding Aid Data" section in the Resource record

ANW-142 - As an archivist, I'd like Print-to-PDF to require fewer steps

AR-1655 - Browse Accession sidebar sorted by date?

The SIEWG recommendations will be submitted to the ArchivesSpace program in mid-December 2017. They will then be evaluated and prioritized by program developers and members of the Technical and User Advisory Council, with incremental implementation throughout 2018.

This project was accomplished thanks to the efforts of the following volunteers from member organizations as well as through the support of Christine di Bella and Christine Kim:

Alexandra Orchard (Reuther Library, Wayne State University), Alexis Adkins (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona), Anna Kephart (College of Southern Maryland), Annie Tang (Johns Hopkins University), Betsy Baldwin (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Caitlin Wells (University of Michigan), Christy Tomecek (Yale University), Devon Proudfoot (University of Michigan), Eleanor Blackman (Case Western Reserve University), Elizabeth Wilkinson (Yale University), Ella von Holtum (Rochester Institute of Technology), Emma Jolley (National Library of Australia), Greg Farr (Austen Riggs Center), Jane LaBarbara (West Virginia University), Joanne Archer (University of Maryland), Johanna Carll (Harvard University), John Anderies (William Way LGBT Community Center), Lavinia Ciuffa (American Academy in Rome), Linda Hocking (Litchfield Historical Society), Linda Sellars (North Carolina State University), Lisa Calahan (University of Minnesota), Lydia Tang (chair, Michigan State University), Lynn Moulton (Boston College), Margaret T. Kidd (Virginia Commonwealth University), Mariella Soprano (Caltech), Megan Blair (St. Edward's University), Meghan Lyon (Duke University), Miloche Kottman (University of Kansas), Monique Sugimoto (Palos Verdes Library District), Olivia Solis (University of Texas at Austin), Sara Chetney (Claremont Colleges), Sarah Cassone (American Academy in Rome), Suzanne Reller (University of Cincinnati), and Thomas Allen (University of Texas at Dallas).