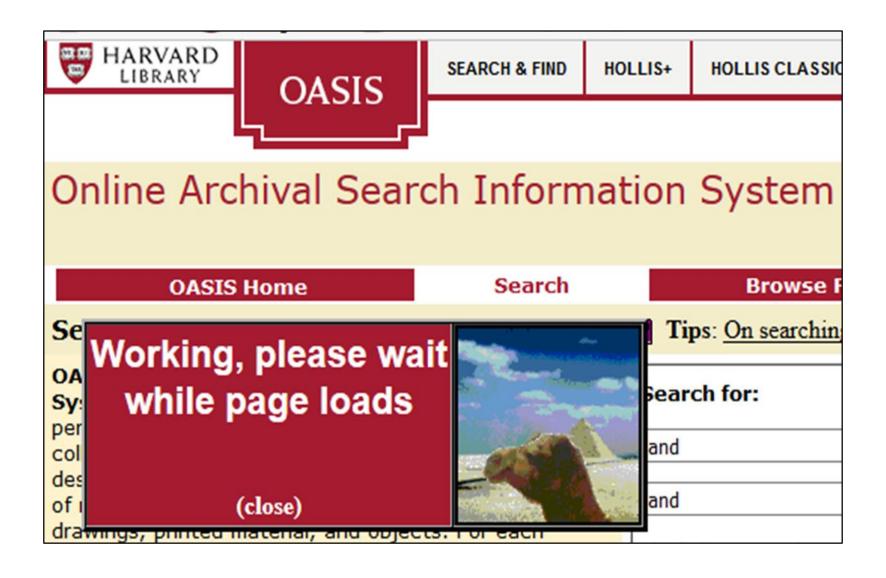
Taming a two-headed monster:



ArchivesSpace at Harvard

Johanna Carll, Kate Donovan, Robin McElheny, Jennifer Pelose

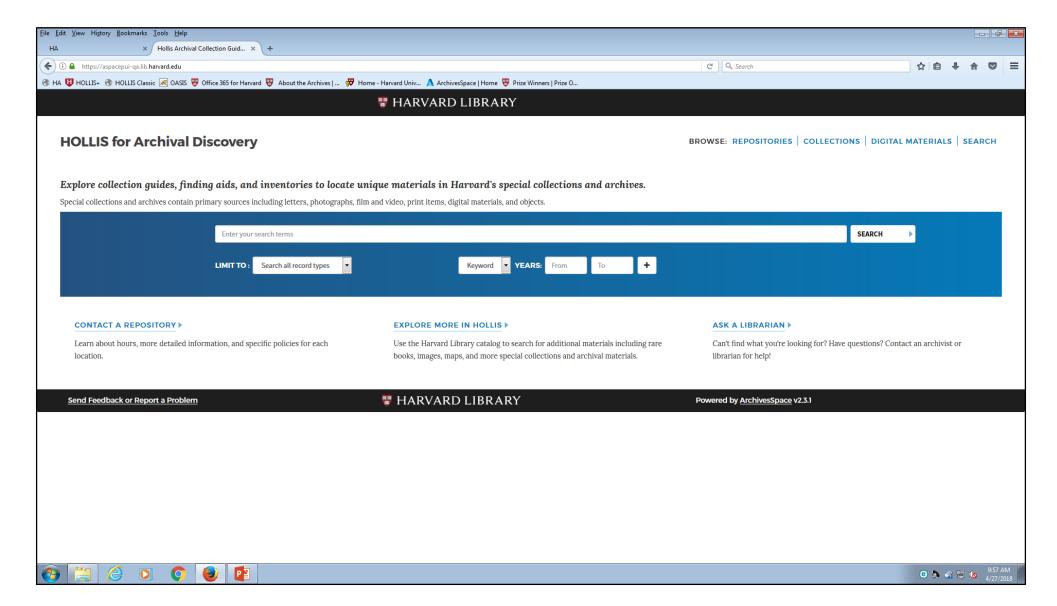
Where we began, circa 1999



OASIS

- Centrally-managed system to store and publish EAD finding aids
- Not a collection management system
- Minimal EAD requirements

Where we are twenty years later



What happened in between

2009:

Harvard launches Archivists' Toolkit

2014:

Replaced Toolkit with ArchivesSpace staff interface

July 2015:

Decision—replace OASIS PUI with ArchivesSpace PUI

Harvard's ArchivesSpace community

- 29 contributing units world-wide
- 200+ staff users
- 6000+ finding aids
- 2 million+ archival objects
- Countless descriptive practices reflecting wide variance in staffing and work flows

Task 1:

Migrate legacy finding aids from OASIS to ASpace staff interface

- Minimum data normalization for ingest only
- Automated and manual fixes to address local practices in conflict with ASpace requirements
- Many data modifications left undone

Task 2:

Participate in ASpace core PUI development

- Conduct local usability testing to inform design and functionality
- Contribute programming time to core development

July 2017

"OASIS must go! (By July 2018)"

Software platform is no longer supported

September 2017

Local ASpace PUI implementation begins

- Project goals:
 - Customize functionality
 - Customize design
- Tight schedule: October 2017 May 2018 (8 months)

The Big Challenge

Conceptual leap:

"... moving from producing finding aids (as in a document with specific formatting) to having to put metadata of various types into a data model driven database that can then produce a variety of outputs, including a formatted finding aid."

Kari Smith, MIT

Project methods

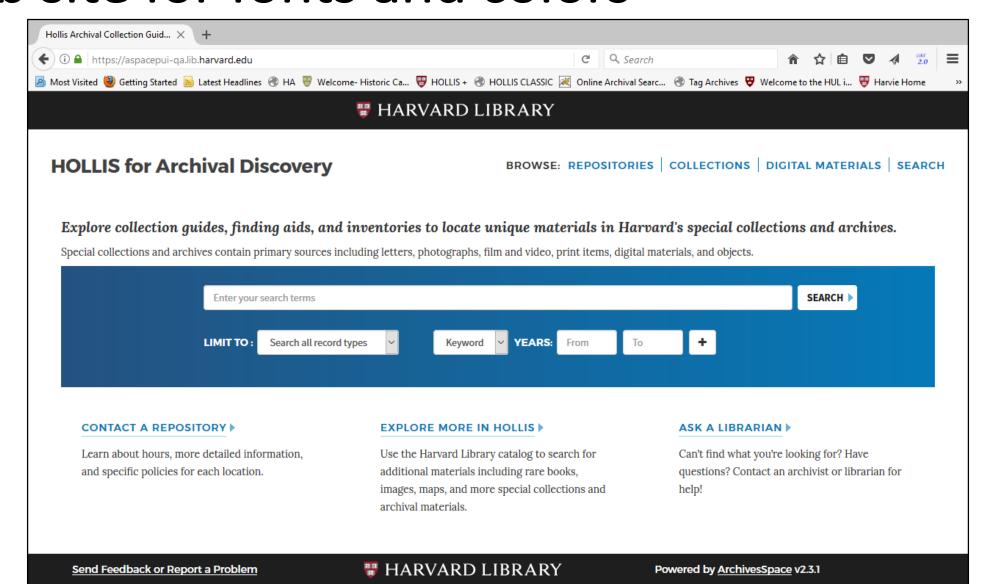
- Extensive user testing with faculty, students, independent researchers, archivists
- Close consultation with User Experience Librarian
- Work done by local developers and designer

User testing comments:

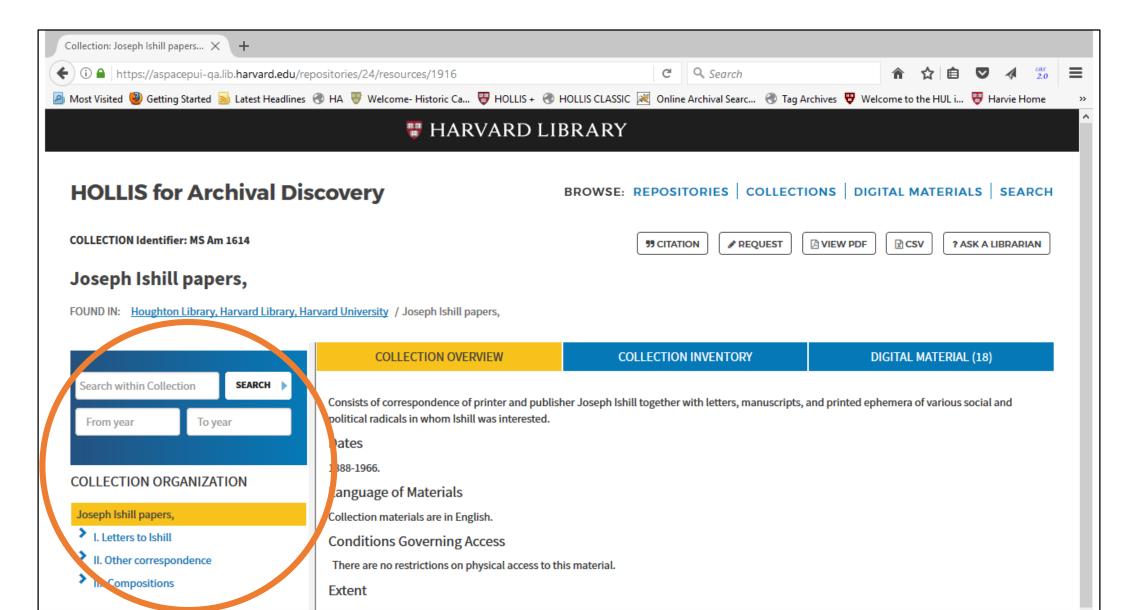
- This doesn't look like a finding aid; we don't have finding aids anymore, I guess.
- Where am 1?
- Too much white space it's confusing.
- I just want a list of what's in the collection.
- Why can't I find what I'm looking for? What happened to Ctrl+F?

What we did – a few examples

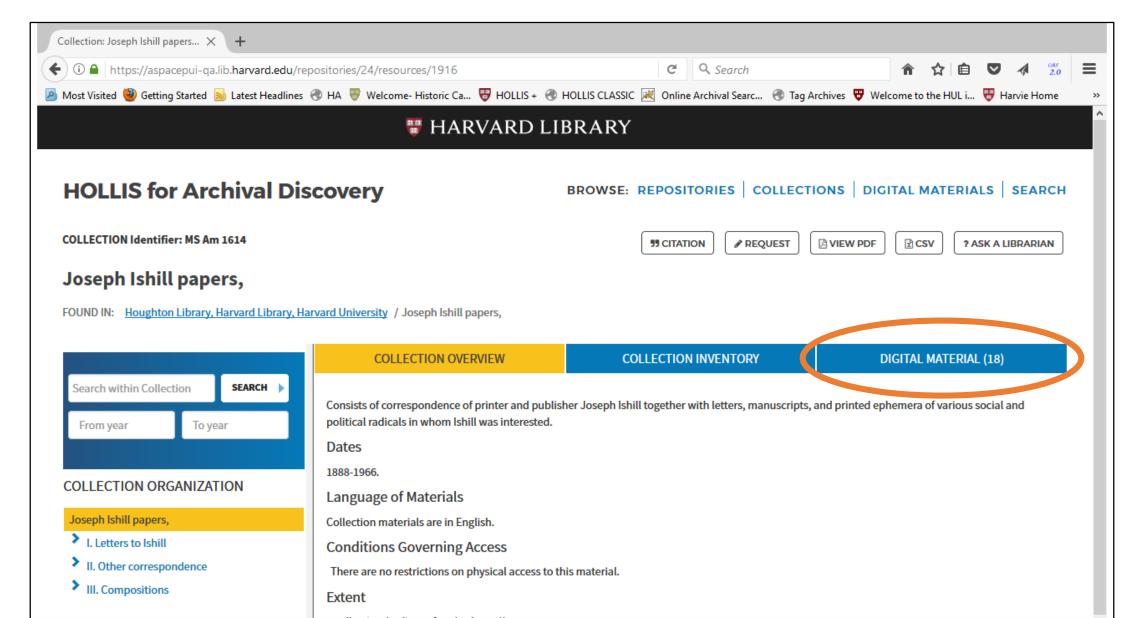
Used the style guide for the Library's new web site for fonts and colors



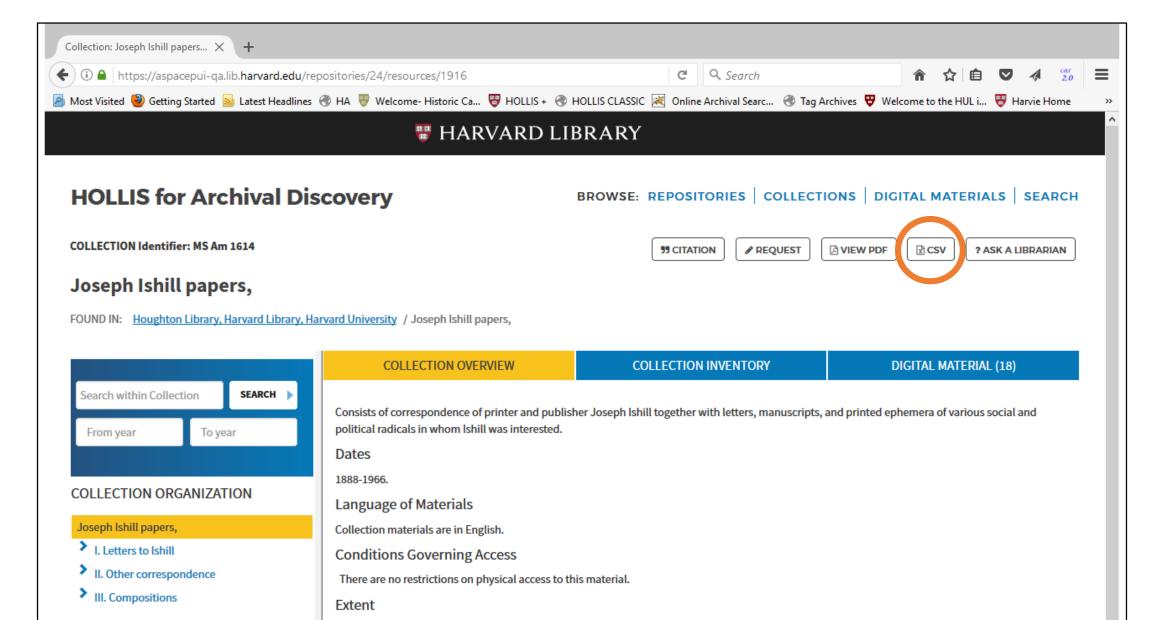
Moved navigation frame from right to left



Added "Digital Material" to pillbox



Added CSV download option



Harvard's ASpace landscape today

- ArchivesSpace PUI is live
- Next big steps: container management and contracting with developer to enhance "request" functionality
- Major lesson learned: ArchivesSpace is one beast, not two. Public services and technical services must work together at all stages of development.

Thank you!