Cynthia A. Ghering
Director, University Archives and Historical Collections, Michigan State University
Candidate for ArchivesSpace Governance Board - Very Large Member Representative

As the director of a public land-grant university archives and records management program with experience in leading multiple information technology teams and services, I'm very aware of the challenges facing archivists and technologists with limited resources and a finite capacity for innovation. I understand firsthand the complexity of web applications and software development and the challenge of balancing the sometimes competing priorities of customers, developers and administrators. I am certified in IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) Foundation v3, a best practice framework for IT service lifecycle management and have successfully managed the development and implementation of several large IT projects. From my current role at Michigan State University and my former positions at the Ohio Historical Society, I also know that there is no "one" archival voice or flavor of cultural heritage institution. The exciting and sometimes frustrating reality is that we have as many types of archival repositories as there are formats of archival records. While I am passionate about the mission and goals of ArchivesSpace, I also realize there continues to be challenges in the adoption, support, and continued improvement of a community developed system for a mainly non-profit, and traditionally under-resourced, user base. However, I am a strong advocate for real-world, practical solutions that can prove their value through measurable outcomes, cost/benefit analysis, and sustainability. If elected as a member of the ArchivesSpace Governance Board, I would call upon my leadership and management experiences in the archives, library, museum and information technology fields to assist in the design and analysis of application functionality, development requirements, and strategic decisions regarding system infrastructure, service models, and user support. My institution, like many other repositories, is committed to the continued success of ArchivesSpace and I would be privileged to utilize my professional experience and skills to support the mission and goals of the ArchivesSpace community.