CIDER & Hydra Tools for an Archival Arrangement and Description Strategy

Erin Faulder
Archivist for Digital Collections
Tufts University | Digital Collections and Archives

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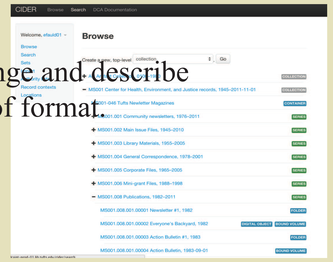
1: CIDER : Archival Arrangement & Description

1.1 Archival Arrangement

CIDER, a collections management tool, allows us to arrange and describe all archival material in a hierarchical fashion, regardless of format.

Why? *This is our system of record for archival material. Archives staff can simultaneously update records without needing to access the repository.*



1.2 Item Description

Types of metadata defined at this level:

Descriptive intellectual thing, physical and digital manifestations

Administrative locations, restrictions, and rights

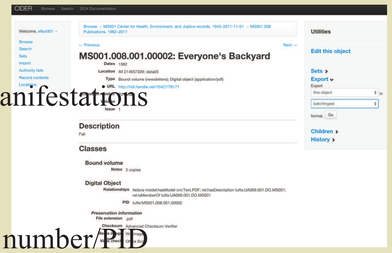
Technical format, preservation-related information

Structural

Implicit through archival arrangement, object id number/PID

Explicit rels-ext statements

Why? *Allows us to manage all manifestations of an archival object in an intellectually meaningful way.*



1.3 Export XML for Fedora Ingest

Types of metadata included here:

Descriptive the intellectual thing, it combines information about all manifestations

Administrative primarily hard-coded into the export template

Technical

Structural

Implicit PID number

Explicit rels-ext statements connecting:

Object to archival collection

Object to EAD object (in Fedora) describing archival collection

Objects to other objects, outside the traditional archival hierarchy model

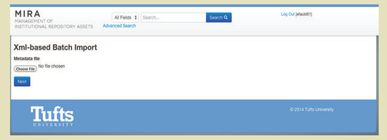
Why? *Flexibly push out metadata from system of record to other systems (ex. EAD finding aids, MARC records, Fedora objects, spreadsheets for researcher use). Allows external systems and patterns of use to change and develop while one system of record manages archivally important metadata.*

2: MIRA Hydra : Batch Ingest

Batch ingesting metadata and object(s).

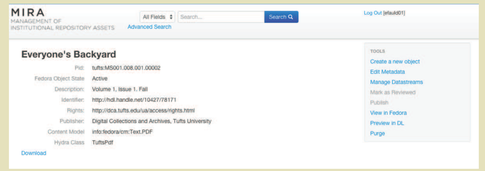
2.1 Upload Metadata

Uploading metadata file (exported from CIDER) and then digital object file (image/EAD/other).



2.2 Publish Objects

Publishing objects to the production environment and make them publicly available through the TDL.



3: TDL Hydra : Discovery Environment

The TDL is all about discovery of publicly accessible objects in the repository. **dl.tufts.edu**

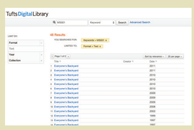
3.1 Three ways to discover an object and understand its archival context

1) Discovering the archival object through the finding aid (EAD) object.

Why? *In this way, the object is understood within the context of the rest of the archival collection; it enables representation of archival provenance.*

2) Discovering the archival object through searching or faceting.

Why? *Most often used by researchers looking for certain topics but uninterested in the archival context.*



3) Discovering the collection from the archival object through the rels-ext statement linking the object back to its collection.

Why? *Preserves the archival notion of provenance while still allowing the flflexibility of modern search strategies.*

3.2 Future discovery mechanisms

Other types of non-hierarchical arrangements possible for discovery purposes using rels-ext statements:

"isDerivativionOf" / "hasDerivation"

Why? *Linking epigrams, translations of epigrams, images depicting where the epigram was originally inscribed.*

"hasEquivalent"

Why? *For images that are nearly identical. Only one image would be displayed in a search, and from that object other similar images could be viewed. For archival objects that exist in multiple collections/multiple places in a single collection. They could be identified and allow users to navigate among the collections.*