# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

# **STEP Committee**

# Technology Fee Application

Edith Garland Dupré Library: Upgrade and Configuration of ArchivesSpace for Enhanced Online Access and Discovery of Special Collections Resources

Title

Zachary Stein, Sheryl Curry, Laurie Vanderbrook

Name of Submitter (Faculty or Staff Only)

**Edith Garland Dupré Library** 

Organization

Title: Edith Garland Dupré Library: Upgrade and Date: 7/8/2022

Configuration of ArchivesSpace for Enhanced Online Access and Discovery of Special Collections

Resources

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Department/College/Org: Edith Garland Dupré Library

#### **ABSTRACT (250 words or less):**

Funding for this grant will provide start-up costs for a secure, publicly available, and searchable platform for Special Collections's ArchivesSpace instance. ArchivesSpace is a popular open-source application used to organize and display data about archival resources, including rare books, manuscripts, digital files, photographs, oral histories, and maps. Three repositories in the Library utilize ArchivesSpace: Special Collections, the Ernest J. Gaines Center, and the Cajun & Creole Music Collection. Approximately 700+ finding aids on a wide variety of topics have been created and uploaded to the library web site using ArchivesSpace. Currently, these are placed on the Library's website through HTML text or as PDF files, neither of which are searchable.

As technology evolves, so do the learning needs and expectations of our students. The ArchivesSpace application currently being used is a legacy version with security vulnerabilities, prohibiting access beyond the campus network and preventing dynamic searching capabilities. IT Services will upgrade, maintain, and configure ArchivesSpace, allowing finding aid data to be searchable and publicly available. Once implemented, ArchivesSpace will provide enhanced searching and discovery options, improving the research experiences for students and other users and exposing the diverse set of information resources across the Library's many collections and archives.

### a. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

This proposal requests funds to upgrade and enhance Special Collections's ArchivesSpace application from a static, non-searchable interface to a publicly available and searchable platform. By making ArchivesSpace public, students will be able to search the Library's various archival collections with ease and efficiency.

The mission of Dupré Library is to support the instructional and research programs of the University. This is accomplished by providing access to information through the teaching, acquisition, organization, and preservation of information resources to the University's academic community, the region, and the state. Special Collections, an integral part of the University Libraries, brings together a wide variety of materials representing the south and southwest Louisiana experience. Special Collections, which includes the Cajun and Creole Music Collection and is affiliated with the Ernest J. Gaines Center, supports research for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and other scholars whose work relies on archival records, rare books, manuscripts, media, digital files, and other primary sources.

One of the focus areas of Dupré Library is the preservation and sharing of its diverse set of information resources across the institution's many collections and archives. The Library uses the popular open source ArchivesSpace application as its web-based archives information management system. Through ArchivesSpace, staff can organize and display standard-compliant data about its archival resources. The output of this data is identified as finding aids. These are inventories that provide information to students and researchers on the contents of the collections and where materials can be discovered. Approximately 700+ finding aids on a wide variety of topics have been created and uploaded to the Library's website. Currently, finding aids are added through HTML text or as PDF files, neither of which are searchable. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Special Collections website has had 95,213 page views; the University Archives and Acadiana Manuscripts Collection page has had 18,308 views.

A functioning, enhanced ArchivesSpace application makes it easier to search for items in the collections, which in turn facilitates students and researchers with their projects. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Special Collections has received 255 visitors and held 8 instruction sessions for classes. The Research Guide has been accessed 466 times. Special Collections receives students from all different areas of study, including but not limited to history, English, social sciences, and biological sciences. The John M. Parker Papers have been particularly popular for information regarding early Louisiana politics, and the John J. Lynch Papers have been used for gathering research on the Louisiana wetlands and Sandhill Cranes. A dynamic, searchable platform would especially benefit students who use Special Collections for classroom instruction and assignments, historical research, and digital humanities projects. Additionally, Special Collections holds the Annual Caffery Competition, where students submit research projects using Special Collections items as resources. The efficiency and ease of search and discovery options in ArchivesSpace will expose students to the treasure trove of items in the archives, which may inspire them to submit contributions.

#### **Technical Information**

The Library currently has an active legacy version of ArchivesSpace on University Computing Support Services (UCSS) Servers via an agreement between the Library and UCSS. UCSS currently provides Virtual Machine (VM) and File Services to the Library for the hosting of ArchivesSpace. The Library is requesting UL IT Services to upgrade and manage the entire ArchivesSpace stack (VM, Application, Storage) and that ArchivesSpace be made publicly available outside the campus network (i.e., internet accessible). This will require monthly charges for services for VM, application stack, disaster backup and recovery, cloud archive, and network/DNS/certificates. The Library will continue to manage the content within the ArchivesSpace application. The Library is also requesting assistance with the completion of the UL IT System Security Plan.

## **B.** Projected lifetime of enhancement

The award from this grant will be used to fund the monthly support costs for one year. This will help jumpstart the project, for which Dupré Library will then attempt to secure long-term funding to continue to provide access.

## C. Person(s) responsible for

1. **Implementation**: IT Services

Installation: IT Services
Maintenance: IT Services

4. **Operation**: Dupré Library Special Collections staff

5. Training (with qualifications): N/A

#### D. Justification

Funding for this grant will provide the initial setup for a secure, publicly available, and searchable platform for Special Collections's ArchivesSpace instance. Students will be able to search for their needed resources in a more efficient and flexible manner, thus improving their research experience.

# **Budget Proposal**

1. Equipment N/A

2. Software N/A

3. Supplies N/A

4. Maintenance \$ 2,520.00

VM Service (manage, monitor, upgrade & \$100/month \$1,200/year

patch OS as needed)

Application Stack Service (manage, monitor, \$100/month \$1,200/year

upgrade & patch ArchivesSpace, Apache,

Java, MySQL)

Network/DNS/Certificate Services \$ 10/month \$ 120/year

5. Personnel N/A

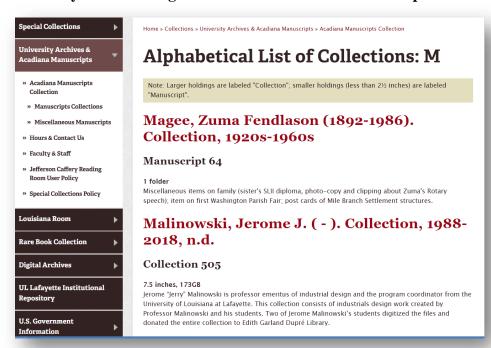
6. Other N/A

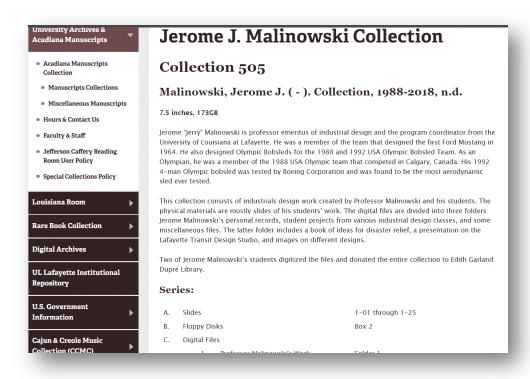
**TOTAL:** \$ 2,520.00

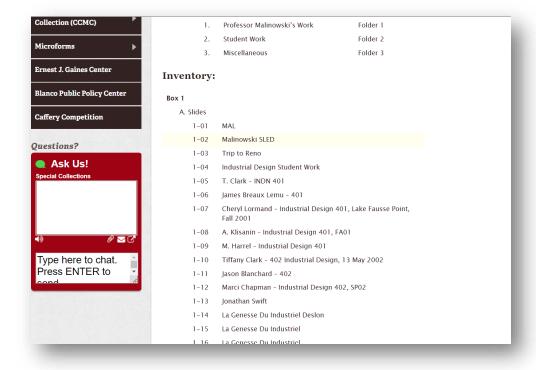
#### **Additional Information**

COLL 3	Watson Family Papers
COLL 8	Givens-Hopkins Families Papers
COLL 12 and 12A	Joel L. Fletcher, Jr. Papers
COLL 33	Rice Millers' Association Records
COLL 43	Edith Garland Dupré Papers
COLL 45	Jefferson Caffery Papers
COLL 67	Petroleum Archives Collection
COLL 90	Barnett Studio Photographs [Freeland Collection]
COLL 161	J. Carlton James Oral History Collection
COLL 170	Lafayette (Louisiana) Rotary Club Records
COLL 206	Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) Records
COLL 329	Colonial Louisiana Records Collection
COLL 338	Junior League of Lafayette Collection

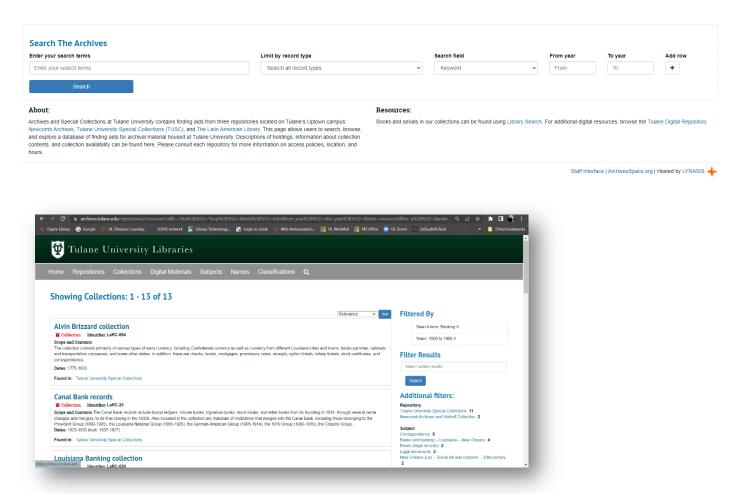
## **Current layout of Finding Aids from the Acadiana Manuscripts Collection**

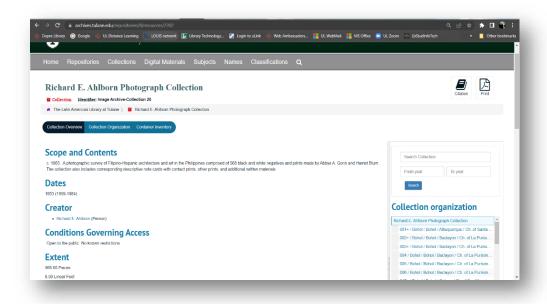


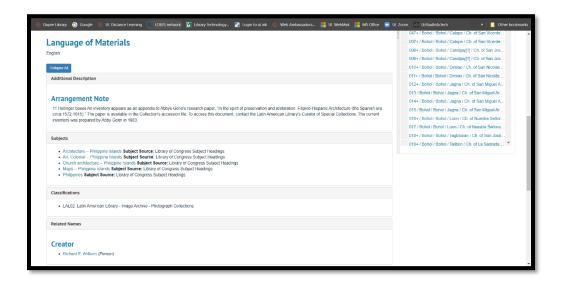




# The following page from Tulane University Libraries is an example of what the Library is anticipating. It features filtering options and active linking.







#### **Previous STEP Grants Funded**

2011. *Digital Signage in Edith Garland Dupré Library*. Sheryl Curry and Betsy Miguez. Grant amount: \$2,278.00.

2009. *Lending Laptop Service at Edith Garland Dupré Library*. Principal co-investigators Susan Richard, Duane Huval, Linda Desormeaux, Lance Chance, Sheryl Curry, Betsy Miguez and Heather Plaisance. Grant amount: \$32,747.00.

2005. *RefWorks Bibliographic Management Service: a Web-based Management Tool for UL Lafayette Users*. Principal co-investigators Sheryl Curry, Ashley Bonnette and Helen Thompson. Grant amount: \$16,957.00.

zs/smc/lv