

ArchivesSpace - 2016 Governance Board Elections

June 10, 2016

Dear ArchivesSpace Member Representatives:

The 2016 Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for election to fill vacancies on the ArchivesSpace Governance Board:

Small Member Representative

- Alston Cobourn, Digital Scholarship Librarian, Washington and Lee
- Heather Heckman, Head of Collection Management, Pennsylvania State Archives

Very Large Member Representative

- Cynthia Ghering, Director, University Archives, Michigan State University
- Audra Eagle Yun, Head of Special Collections & Archives and University Archivist, University of California, Irvine Libraries

Statements for each candidate are included in the pages below. The official member representatives for Small and Very Large member institutions will receive a separate message with a ballot link for their respective slates on Friday, June 10. All voting must be completed by Monday, June 27.

Election results will be announced in early July. Elected candidates will serve a two-year term concluding June 30, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Dupont, Boston College
Chair, 2016 Nominating Committee

2016 Nominating Committee Members

Christian Dupont, Chair (Boston College), Member, Governance Board
Gordon Daines (BYU), Chair of User Advisory Council
Sally Vermatten (NYU), Chair of Technical Advisory Council
Stephen Hussman (University of Arizona), representing very large membership level
Ed Galloway (University of Pittsburgh), representing large membership level
Annie Benefiel (Grand Valley State University), representing medium membership level
Margot Note (World Monuments Fund), representing small membership level
Yue Ma (Chinese Museum in America), representing very small membership level
Brad Westbrook (ArchivesSpace), ex officio

Alston Cobourn

Assistant Professor and Digital Scholarship Librarian, Washington and Lee University

Candidate for ArchivesSpace Governance Board - Small Member Representative

I am excited to be a candidate for small member institution representative on the ArchivesSpace Governance Board. It is a tremendous opportunity to work with colleagues on shaping an application that is advancing our profession in anticipated and unanticipated ways.

During my education and training, I had experiences which showed me the societal significance both of archives, and of those who care for them. While earning my MLS with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from UNC-Chapel Hill, I worked as a para-professional at North Carolina State University using Archivist Toolkit in processing collections.

I also became actively involved in the profession at that time by serving on the Board of the Society of North Carolina Archivists as Chair of the Membership Committee (Spring 2009-November 2012). I have continued my commitment to professional organizations through my active participation in MARAC, where I have been a committee member, candidate for office, semi-annual meeting session coordinator, and [article](#) author. I believe in greater professionalism for archivists and am studying for the Certified Archivist examination.

I began my professional career in my current position at W&L's Leyburn Library. Upon my arrival, the department was using disparate and unconnected tools -- from a card catalog to a variety of electronic programs -- in a vain attempt at establishing intellectual control of its large holdings, and in making them easily discoverable and usable to researchers.

Assigned to righting this situation, one of the first decisions I made was to implement ArchivesSpace. I believe that a single, open-source system for archival management is the way forward for us as a profession. Based on my experience during the last three years, I think that the majority of smaller institutions need ArchivesSpace as much as larger ones. Indeed, with larger institutions lending a hand to smaller ones, whether unilaterally or consortially, all institutions can benefit from using this tool.

I have led our phased implementation over the last three years, including decision making about the front-end and back-end; project management of data migration; collection inventorying and training; and oversight of staff and student workers. I have come to appreciate the staff constraints and technical barriers that can cause fear of ArchivesSpace implementation in smaller institutions. I would bring to the Governance Board this perspective that would inform my representation of, and advocacy for, smaller institutions in their implementation and use of ArchivesSpace.

Heather Heckman

Archivist III, Head of Collections Management, Pennsylvania State Archives

Candidate for ArchivesSpace Governance Board - Small Member Representative

I am currently the Head of Collections Management at the Pennsylvania State Archives. I have been employed at the State Archives since 2013 and previously completed two grant projects for the State Archives. With just over twenty years in the archival profession, I have worked for multiple organizations handling both small and large archival collections. I have specialized in start-up archival projects and records management support for small and large private and public institutions.

I have worked with finding aids across multiple platforms from simple, off the shelf software, to more complex proprietary systems. At the Pennsylvania State Archives, I have worked over the past two years with the team of archivists moving finding aids away from an in-house static system and into Archon. The archives has successfully tested its migration from Archon into ArchivesSpace and is working through the nuances of how the data will move from one platform to another. The transition to Archon and then ArchivesSpace is occurring as the collections are being prepared to be moved to a new building. So far, the initial experience with Archives Space has been very good and the latest upgrades to the software address many of the needs the archives finding aids required. As an organization in the thick of adopting Archives Space, my colleagues and I are working to balance not only the transition of our current data but also the wide variety of additional resources Archives Space brings to the table without becoming overwhelmed.

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.

Audra Eagle Yun

Head of Special Collections & Archives and University Archivist, University of California, Irvine Libraries

Candidate for ArchivesSpace Governance Board - Very Large Member Representative

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the ArchivesSpace Governance Board representing Very Large member institutions. As Head of Special Collections & Archives and University Archivist at the University of California, Irvine, I am part of senior leadership for the UCI Libraries and provide administration and vision for my team, including strategic planning; fiscal oversight; managing donor relations; setting goals, policies, and procedures; overseeing archival and monographic technical services; and fostering user-centered instruction, outreach, and reference.

Our campus is a charter member of ArchivesSpace and was one of the first universities in the state to implement an instance of ArchivesSpace after its initial release. Having participated in development activities from the perspectives of a charter member, a user, and now an administrator, I am particularly interested in the potential for Governance Board members to participate in the dissemination of information about development priorities. Communication with senior leaders, technical experts, and archival practitioners at institutions of every size is an essential component of establishing a strong ArchivesSpace community.

I am eager to participate in the governance of this central tool for the archives and manuscripts professions and to help unlock the potential of ArchivesSpace to be integrated into emerging initiatives, including those related to email archives, born-digital content, and linked archival data. UC Irvine is a partner in the ePADD project and the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Cooperative Program Pilot, as well as an early adopter and leader in providing access to born-digital archives through the Critical Theory Archive. UC Irvine is also home to the Southeast Asian Archive, among other community-based collections with specific language and descriptive requirements. I believe it is important to have representation on the Governance Board with an eye towards inclusiveness in archival description. I look forward to the possibility of representing initiatives like these on the Governance Board.

Throughout my career I have participated in leadership roles both regionally and nationally, primarily archivist organizations. I have enjoyed participating in elected and appointed positions with the Society of American Archivists, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL, the Society of California Archivists, and the Society of North Carolina Archivists. I am a Certified Archivist as well as a member of the 2013 cohort of the Archives Leadership Institute. As part of the University of California Libraries' Next Generation Technical Services initiative, I contributed to the Guidelines for Efficient Archival Processing in the University of California Libraries. My professional experience and research emphases include archival technical services, extensible processing, community-based archives, and born-digital archives.