ArchivesSpace Agent Enhancement Proposal

Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College

Background

Hampshire College (HC), Mount Holyoke College (MHC), and Smith College (SC) are considering a consortial implementation of ArchivesSpace (hosted with Lyrasis), where we would run a single instance of ArchivesSpace that would have anywhere from one to multiple repositories dedicated to each school. We have run across a barrier, however, which may prevent us from moving forward. The agent records are fully shared across all repositories. There is no functionality to create repository-specific/unshared agents or to limit specific subrecords in an agent record to members of a repository, while sharing other agent subrecords across repositories.

We have confidentiality needs for certain agents that prevent us from being able to share all of our agent data across all repositories. To that end, we would like some mechanism to create and restrict specific agent data, such as unauthorized/non-display name forms, contact details, notes, related agents, external documents, based on user permissions. Functionality details still need to be more fleshed out.
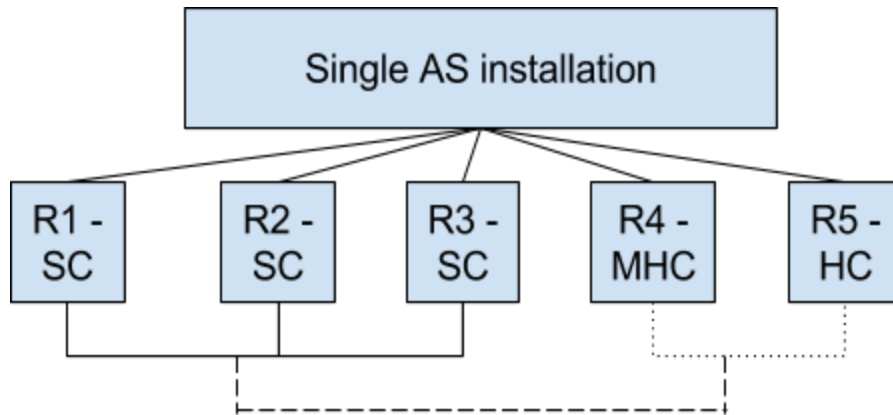
We are interested in this consortial relationship because we already share a single ILS and a single digital library (Islandora). We can see consortial advantages to ArchivesSpace, including improved discovery of collections, and we believe an improved agent permissions structure would be of benefit to other institutions that are also managing a multi-repository implementation of ArchivesSpace, whether they are other consortia or larger universities with multiple special collections. We are interested in exploring functional specifications with the ArchivesSpace community to meet the variety of needs that might be out there. (See attached file for a visualization.)

We imagine a merged scenario that looks like this:

- One installation of ArchivesSpace

  - R1: Smith's repository 1
  - R2: Smith's repository 2
  - R3: Smith's repository 3

  - R4: Mount Holyoke's repository

  - R5: Hampshire's repository

Single AS installation

R1 - SC   R2 - SC   R3 - SC   R4 - MHC   R5 - HC

Solid line: full agent records are shared amongst repositories' staff users

Dotted line: sometimes full agent records are shared amongst repositories' staff users

Dashed line: authorized and display name forms are shared amongst repositories' staff users

R: repository

Use Cases

1. As an archivist, I want to share specific name forms across multiple repositories, but not the non-authoritative and non-display name forms and the subrecords associated with the agent record.
2. As an archivist, I want to select which repositories a complete agent record is shared with. (This would be like the functionality in location records.)
3. As an archivist at SC, I want agent records and their subrecords to be shared across SC repositories. I do not want agent subrecords and non-authoritative/display name forms shared with MHC and HC repositories, but name forms marked authoritative or display can be shared with MHC and HC.
4. As a researcher searching for an agent in the public interface, I do not want to see duplicative records in the results list.