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Spaceport: A Finding Aid Launchpad

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Spaceport

A Finding Aid Launchpad

Rebecca B. French – JMU Libraries



4 discovery platforms

- JMU Libraries website
- OCLC
- JMU Library Catalog
- Virginia Heritage database

3 file types

- HTML for website
- MARCXML for OCLC and JMU Library Catalog
- EAD XML with modifications for Virginia Heritage

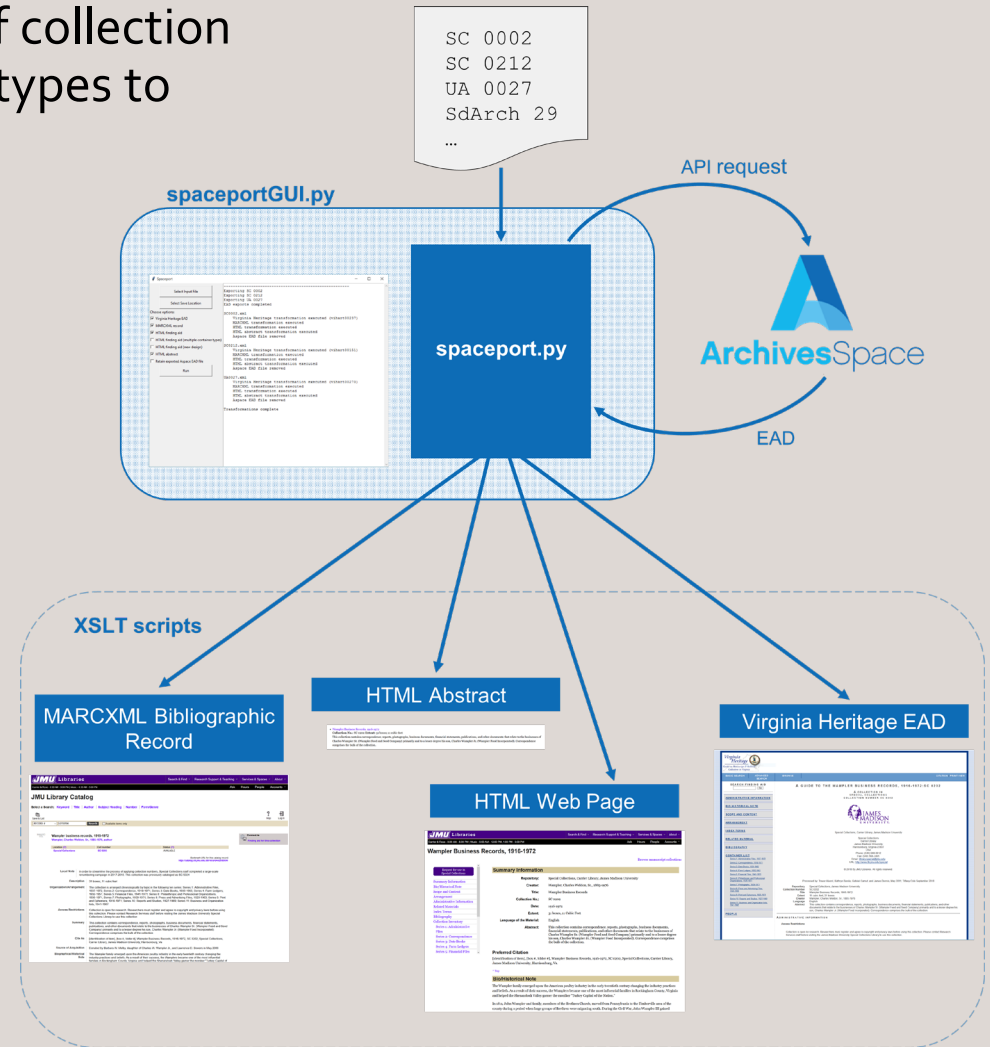
2

programming languages

- XSLT
 - Transform ArchivesSpace EAD into HTML, MARCXML, and modified EAD
- Python
 - Export ArchivesSpace EAD via API
 - Run XSLT transformations
 - Graphical interface

1 app

- User uploads a text file of collection numbers and selects file types to generate
- App retrieves EAD from ArchivesSpace using API
- XSLT scripts perform transformations



Liftoff!

- Able to use ArchivesSpace as system of record
- Only takes seconds to format a finding aid for upload to discovery platforms
 - 99% decrease in time to produce Virginia Heritage EAD, compared to hand-encoding
 - Generate web pages for all 340+ collections in only 20 minutes
- Facilitated migration of all finding aid web pages to new CMS and later implementation of Aeon requesting functionality
- More staff time to dedicate to standardizing description and updating legacy finding aids

“Thankfully, hand encoding finding aids is a distant memory at this point! I can’t even imagine my life without Spaceport.”

Tiffany Cole, Special Collections Archivist

“... Because it was so difficult and unwieldy to make changes across platforms, much of our description has languished for years ... Spaceport has changed all of that. We are now much more able to uphold our ethical obligations to the historical record.”

Kate Morris, Head of Special Collections

Spaceport

Code available at
[https://github.com/frenchrb/
JMU_ArchivesSpace](https://github.com/frenchrb/JMU_ArchivesSpace)

frenchrb@jmu.edu



"Space" icon by Mello from [the Noun Project](#)

The screenshot shows a software application window titled "Spaceport". On the left side, there is a control panel with two buttons: "Select Input File" and "Select Save Location". Below these is a section titled "Choose options:" with several checkboxes. The checked options are "Virginia Heritage EAD", "MARCXML record", "HTML finding aid", "HTML abstract", and "Retain exported Aspace EAD file". There is also a "Run" button at the bottom of this panel. On the right side, there is a large text area displaying the application's output log. The log shows the process of exporting three files: SC 0002, SC 0212, and UA 0027. For each file, it lists the transformations performed (Virginia Heritage, MARCXML, and HTML) and notes that the original Aspace EAD file was removed. The log concludes with "Transformations complete".

```
Spaceport
-----
Select Input File
Select Save Location

Choose options:
 Virginia Heritage EAD
 MARCXML record
 HTML finding aid
 HTML finding aid (multiple container types)
 HTML finding aid (new design)
 HTML abstract
 Retain exported Aspace EAD file

Run

Exporting SC 0002
Exporting SC 0212
Exporting UA 0027
EAD exports completed

SC0002.xml
  Virginia Heritage transformation executed (vihart00237)
  MARCXML transformation executed
  HTML transformation executed
  HTML abstract transformation executed
  Aspace EAD file removed

SC0212.xml
  Virginia Heritage transformation executed (vihart00151)
  MARCXML transformation executed
  HTML transformation executed
  HTML abstract transformation executed
  Aspace EAD file removed

UA0027.xml
  Virginia Heritage transformation executed (vihart00270)
  MARCXML transformation executed
  HTML transformation executed
  HTML abstract transformation executed
  Aspace EAD file removed

Transformations complete
```