



Special Collections, Formats, and Archives Interest Group

Creating a Community of Practice

The history of the special interest group

- The John Carter Brown Library went live in August 2021.
- Isolated some architecture issues which were not very advantageous or user-friendly to Special Collections libraries.
- Interviewed four special collections librarians and four different institutions to ask about their experiences.
- It turned out that many of our issues were similar.

Special collections institutions needs

- As most of the library world goes electronic, we still have a print culture.
- Many materials are not understood by system architects or those who deal exclusively with modern materials.
- Often no one from those smaller libraries within special collections will be invited to be part of the implementation committee when their larger institution signs on to Ex Libris.
- We now can create a group of professionals who deal in all aspects of rare and unique materials in print and non-print formats who have the expertise to build good quality metadata for our patrons.

Composition of group members

- Set up an ad hoc google group of interested parties by advertising on ALMA-L beginning in January 2022.
- Existing, newly migrated, or incoming ELUNA and IGeLU members are welcome.
- We welcome professionals in in management, public services, technical services, and systems who work with special collections, special formats, archives, or digital preservation.
- Sign up for the official listserv at:
<https://exlibrisusers.org/listinfo/specialcollections>

Goals and Sample Projects

- Bring in contents from programs such as ArchivesSpace, Preservica (Digital Preservation software)
- Make sure Primo best displays the information in Alma.
- Education and suggestions involving the post-MARC BIBFRAME world.
- Description and access in both the coded and public displays needs be understood. It makes up the foundation of deep historical work across disciplines.
- Foster and improve understanding, and network with the greater ELUNA and IGeLU communities in order to foster a better understanding of the nature of these collecting.
- Sharing information and ideas among experts will help improve the infrastructure to improve knowledge.
- Appoint liaisons to each of the working groups and product management in order to better represent the interests of special collections, special formats, and archives.

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Thank You

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Join the conversation!



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