Same software, different design: implementation of AtoM with limited resources
Speakers

• Kathryn Dan – Australian National University
• Kari James – Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
• Piers Higgs – Gaia Consulting
Discussion points

• Determining scope and requirements
• Technical implementation
• Design implementation
• Method of migration and procedures
• Maintenance, support and ongoing development
• Documentation
Same software, different design: AtoM at the Australian National University

Kathryn Dan, University Archivist
Designing the Archive conference 2019
ANU before AtoM

- Lists – Word, Excel, typed
- 40,000 lines spreadsheet data from defunct 1990s database
- Beta test 2008-, release 2010
- Public site launch 2014
Why we chose AtoM?

- Based on ICA descriptive standards
- Designed by archivists
- Web-based with hidden back-end
- Searchable by Google
- Open source
- Multi-lingual/multi-repository
- Import/export facility – exit strategy
Functionality we use

- Public interface
- Archival description – creators, series
- Upload of items using CSV facility
- Accessioning module
- Location data
Implementation – a long project

- Procedures
- Uploads manual and using csv
- OCR typed lists
- Link to digitised images
- Enter repository locations
- Adopt accessioning module
- Clean up eg outstanding loans
- Harvest by Trove
Refining and developing

- Addition of optional field ‘Alternative identifier’
- Addition of date to ‘Add new child’ entry so that identifier, title and date recorded
- Changes to OAI-PHP code to allow harvesting by National Library’s Trove and other metadata harvesters
- Archival history – ability to hide from public view
- Reciprocal predicates – for authority records, if entity is ‘predecessor’ to another entity, then second entity is recorded as ‘successor’ to the first
- Additional ‘types of entity’ to refine ‘corporate body’, eg trade union
Fit for archives purpose
Free (no licences)
Adaptable to local needs
Open AtoM community develop
Standard interface
Exit strategy

May desire extra features
Need infrastructure
Need skills to enhance
Might need to wait
Might not suit your users
With support
More information

- [https://www.accesstomemory.org](https://www.accesstomemory.org)
- ANU Archives implementation of AtoM [https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/12285](https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/12285)
- Public site: [archives.anu.edu.au](archives.anu.edu.au)
- Email: butlin.archives@anu.edu.au
Same software, different design: AtoM from the other side

Piers Higgs, Chief Executive Officer
Gaia Resources
Why AtoM at all?

• Open Source
• Preconfigured to ICA standards
• Can be extended to Digital Preservation
AtoM Worldwide
AtoM in Australia

- Smaller collections (except SROWA)
- Driven by budget restrictions
Lessons Learned

• Open Source does not mean (completely) free
• ICA standards are not what Australia wants
• Budgets are limited
• Demand is increasing!
So why AtoM still?

- Open Source provides options
- Can implement it relatively cheaply “out of the box”
- Is a good starting point for smaller collections
The Future

• AtoM Foundation – developing a roadmap to v3

• https://accesstomemoryfoundation.org/
Same software, different design: Discussion

Kathryn Dan, Kari James, Piers Higgs
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