MPLP Archival Processing | #critlib | 11/14/2016

Critlib on More Product, Less Process and Archival Processing - Tuesday, November 14, 2016 - Readings and definitions available here critlib.org/mlp-archival-processing/

Intros

Alice Prael @AlicePrael

Hi all & welcome to todays #critlib chat on MPLP & archival processing. If you’re new to MPLP brief overview is here: critlib.org/mlp-archival-

Let's get started with some intros! #critlib

Alice Prael @AlicePrael

I'm Alice Prael, Digital Accessioning Archivist @ Beinecke Library and I'll be moderating today's #critlib chat

Greg Bem @bembrarian

I'm Greg and I'm a faculty librarian at @TheLWTech @learningcommons. I only have minimum experience working with archives. #critlib

Looks like it might be a pretty quiet #critlib today.
dev dog
@devonproudfoot

Hi I am Devon, a Project archivist at the Bentley in Ann Arbor, Michigan! I am excited to join in the discussion! #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Tod Robbins 📚
@todrobbins

I'm Tod and I'm the digital asset manager/archivist @boncomsdc. I've worn so many hats over the years, but yay corporate archives! #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

I'm going to start w/ the Qs but please feel free to keep up with introductions :) #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Q1. What has your experience been with MPLP? How do you determine *sufficient* description and *adequate* arrangement for collections?

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

Q1-What has your experience been with MPLP? How do you determine ‘sufficient’ description & ‘adequate’ arrangement for collections? #critlib

A YEAR AGO

lurknlearn
@nancyeadams

@bembrarian @zinelib readings for #critlib?

A YEAR AGO

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

Also, please remember to include the Q# in your answer, thanks! #critlib

A YEAR AGO
@bembrarian @boncomsic more or less: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_a... it rides the line of digital collections and records management #critlib

Greg Bem  
@bembrarian

Q1 Currently working w a grad student on processing an archive for the first time. We're using this manual: clir.pacscl.org/wp-content/upl... #critlib twitter.com/AlicePrael/sta...

Alice Prael  
@AlicePrael

A1. As a digital archivist, most of my exp. w/ MPLP is thru automating archival processing on born digital collections #critlib

dev dog  
@devonproudfoot

I only learned of MPLP since I started grad school (had 1 archives job before then) but since then have used in various forms #critlib

lurknlearn  
@nancyeadams

@bembrarian @zinelib sorry I don't think this link came through with #critlib readings when sent before twitter.com/nadirahff/stat...

Greg Bem  
@bembrarian

(A1b, sorry!) I've had no prior experience to MPLP but think it's really important in an age of info overload. #critlib twitter.com/bembrarian/sta...
@AlicePrael what kinds of automation in the processing? I'm very curious. #critlib

A1 Arrangement w/ digital is kinda weird cuz you can re-arrange more easily, but the level of processing depends on our expectations #critlib

/of whats in the coll., but since the donors don't always know what's there it's hard for us to know what level of processing to do #critlib

We used AV MPLP to get through our 50-year backlog before moving material offsite. Trusted labels, for better or for worse #critlib

@AlicePrael Interested in what those expectations are. Also, what's taken for granted in digital age? What is default? #critlib

@todrobbins We do basic scans for personal info thru FTK, create file manifests and trusting the file names from the creator #critlib
@bembrarian What we expect is in the coll. e.g email probably has lots of personal info, Microsoft paint doodles are prob safer #critlib

A YEAR AGO

@devonproudfoot

A1 - the Bentley has incorporated MPLP into its processing manual but it really depends on the collection material #critlib

A YEAR AGO

@meau

@devonproudfoot isn't the point of MPLP that it always depends on the collection and researcher need? #critlib

A YEAR AGO

@chiuchuitrain

Hi #critlib, late to the discussion, mostly here to lurk. I'm Anastasia, just finished a residency rotation in special collections.

A YEAR AGO

@AlicePrael

Moving onto Q2, but please feel free to keep discussing Q1 #critlib

A YEAR AGO

@meau

A1 I’ve worked at places that do extensible processing and places that don’t -- it feels a lot better to not have a backlog #critlib

A YEAR AGO
A1. Probably more important, it's easier to keep good relationships with donors and patrons w/ no backlog #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Q1. We use MPLP on all incoming collections, because we already have the mother of all backlogs and don't want more. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

A1. The original MPLP article came out while I was in grad school, so it's always been part of my practice #critlib

A YEAR AGO

A1.2 Even when doing "full" processing (which is very rare), it's a conscious decision, so I'm always "doing" MPLP #critlib

A YEAR AGO

A1.3 It always feels strange when ppl say "We do MPLP sometimes." You either make decisions about levels of processing or you don't #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Q2. How does MPLP affect access and accessibility of material?

A1.2 Even when doing "full" processing (which is very rare), it's a conscious decision, so I'm always "doing" MPLP #critlib
@AlicePrael are you running @BitCurator in addition to FTK for this workflow? #critlib

A2. Seems like working through materials faster will limit how thorough descriptions are, but maybe there's something I'm missing. #critlib twitter.com/AlicePrael/sta...

@todrobbins @BitCurator We use BC for some things but not PII scans because the Bulk Extractor output is more difficult to work w/ #critlib

Q2: tbh not sure most of our patrons notice the difference btw "normal" + MPLP processing, except that the folders aren't as neat? #critlib

IME, MPLP has sometimes been hijacked to mean "box-level" when really it means "use your brain and make hard choices" #critlib

@todrobbins @BitCurator If you're curious about the specifics all the docs for our workflow are public guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=300384... #critlib
In my practice, MPLP requires actually doing appraisal so you're not processing worthless records. #critlib

A2 Does anyone find it kinda has the effect of limiting the resources you can put into critical description? #critlib

@meau that is a very good way to put it! MPLP has suggestions for processing, but that doesn't mean it covers every case #critlib

A2-I worry that MPLP exchanges accessibility for access- i.e. you can request it, but how usable is it? #critlib

It also means that you have to treat your entry-level employees as pros, teach them to exercise the golden minimum #critlib

MPLP is almost impossible in shops that don't invest in the professional development of their staffs. #critlib
@chiuchiutrain Now this is interesting! How do you define critical description? #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Christie Peterson
@save4use

A2 - IMO the added access MPLP affords to otherwise dark backlogs far outweighs loss of detail on a few collections #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Anjanette
@flanjanette

@AlicePrael right. And mlp in theory is different from how people do it in practice. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

dev dog
@devonproudfoot

A2 - This is something I don’t really have a good answer to yet, but I try to keep it in mind during processing #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Q3. How does MPLP affect privacy issues? Does MPLP lead to increased risk?

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

Q3. How does MPLP affect privacy issues? – does MPLP lead to increased risk? #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Maureen
@meau

It's easier to sort and pull paperclips and make lists than it is to describe aggregations and historical contexts. MPLP Is hard #critlib

A YEAR AGO
Christie Peterson
@save4use

@chiuchiutrain I've had to make arguments & justify effort, but no, I don't find MPLP limits resources when they're really needed #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Anastasia
@chiuchiutrain

@bembrarian Oversimplifying, but full description, I suppose? As 1st-time processor, process helped me understand the coll. more. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Carrie Hintz
@CarrieElise

A3: This isn't an MPLP issue for me, it's a donor relations issue #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

A3 Indexing makes privacy less of a problem for digital, but I worry about putting content online w/total trust in the PII scan #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Maureen 🌸
@meau

A4 As described in the article, it requires more from curators to anticipate privacy problems before they come up #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Christie Peterson
@save4use

@meau Yes! Box and folder lists, lacking aggregate description and context, is a mis-application of MPLP #critlib

A YEAR AGO
Maureen @meau

You have to TALK THIS THROUGH with donors. They have to be told that they need to ID sensitive records. #critlib

dev dog @devonproudfoot

A3 - PII scans make it easier to catch personal information in digital records, but it is more difficult to cover in paper material #critlib

Carrie Hintz @CarrieElise

@CarrieElise And MPLP provides vocabulary/theoretical framework to talk to donors about what you do and don't do during processing #critlib

Maureen @meau

It's such malpractice to let donors send whatever they want and hope an entry-level archivist will comb through and catch problems. #critlib

Alice Prael @AlicePrael

@meau but with physical media they can't look thru the content and it's old enough they can't remember what's on that floppy disk #critlib

Christie Peterson @save4use

A3. The presence of restricted materials is a totally legit reason to put more time into processing a collection -- and that's MPLP #critlib
@AlicePrael it’s possible to look through electronic media before taking custody. Or provisional ownership before appraisal #critlib

Dana
@theaudiosignal

Same question goes for Wisconsin info workers, #critlib! twitter.com/captain_maybe/...

Christie Peterson
@save4use

@AlicePrael If donor can't give some idea of what is likely on a disk, or what was context of creation, may not be worth collecting #critlib

Q4. How does MPLP affect the work required from other staff - such as access services and digitization staff?

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

Q4. How does MPLP affect the work required from other staff (such as access services and digitization staff)? #critlib

Smack of jellyfish
@lemurchild

Q4: One thing we've been working through is how NOT to do item-level description for digitized stuff. #critlib

Christie Peterson
@save4use

@AlicePrael We shouldn’t forget to appraise just because it's digital. It still takes effort to process & considering that is MPLP #critlib
i wish i could chime in w/#critlib but my boss went to an MPLP workshop and i screamed b/c i've been pushing that for YEARS JESUS

i could have explained MPLP to her, but she didn't trust me I GUESS #critlib

@chiuchiutrain @bembrarian I think you can do careful and complete description without over-arranging everything. #critlib 1/2

@chiuchiutrain @bembrarian In fact I’d argue that we should increase resources for description over arrangement and rehousing. #critlib 2/2

Q5. What do we lose with MPLP? What do we gain? How can we balance MPLP with traditional processing?

Q5. What do we lose with MPLP? What do we gain? How can we balance MPLP with traditional processing? #critlib

Q5: We lose our backlogs. 😞 We gain the ability to think critically about what resources we apply to what parts of processing. #critlib
Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

A5 About an hour ago I thought of MPLP and Traditional Processing as two ends of a spectrum, but now I think of MPLP more as 1/2 #critlib

Smack of jellyfish
@lemurchild

@chiuchiutrain @bembrarian Time difference btw scanning the collection for content vs. full re-foldering/re-arranging is huge, imo. #critlib

dev dog
@devonproudfoot

A5 - I don’t think it is as much of a balance. MPLP allows the processor to decide what attention the collection needs! #critlib

Smack of jellyfish
@lemurchild

@chiuchiutrain @bembrarian For parts of some collections, sure, full arrangement is valuable +adds a lot. But for most, not really. #critlib

Carrie Hintz
@CarrieElise

A5: We gain control of how we choose to spend our time and resources #critlib

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

A5 an effective & resource conscious way of applying traditional processing, considering collection and researcher needs 1st 2/2 #critlib
Christie Peterson
@save4use

A5 With MPLP, we lose one-size-fits-all, easy answers, but we gain the ability to use judgment and resources appropriately #critlib

Maureen
@meau

Also just putting this out there. Arrangement is, at best, a waste of time and at worst erases context of creation. #critlib

Christie Peterson
@save4use

@meau OK, gonna take you up on this one ... wait, should we offer to debate this in front of a crowd at #SAA17? #critlib

Christie Peterson
@save4use

@meau what about arrangement that is basically re-establishing original order? #critlib

Alice Prael
@AlicePrael

We're nearing the end of our hour but please keep up the convo. Thanks to everyone for participating in today's MPLP #critlib chat!

Christie Peterson
@save4use

@meau what about arrangement that consists of grouping unorganized materials into clusters of like things for group description? #critlib
Alice Prael
@AlicePrael
Storify will be up soon & be sure to tune in next Tuesday@ 9 pm eastern for #critlib in the Trump Administration

Greg Bem
@bembrarian
Thanks to great facilitation from @AlicePrael during this week's #critlib!
twitter.com/AlicePrael/sta...

dev dog
@devonproudfoot
Interesting chat today! It is great to hear from others and try to be able to explain my own views. I still have a lot to learn! #critlib

Maureen
@meeu
OH ALSO! If you want to know how to ACTUALLY implement MPLP, buy @dsantam 's book. It's smart & helpful worldcat.org/title/extensib... #critlib

Maureen
@meeu
Dudes, do what you need to do to serve something in the reading room. But that ain't archival description and barely prof work #critlib