Goal: Upgraded discovery and access solution for finding aids

Other options:

* Front-end provided by Archivespace <http://archivesspace.org/>
* AtoM (Access to Memory) made by Artefactual, makers of Archivematica - <https://www.accesstomemory.org/>

What is ArcLight?

Blacklight for archives, relatively new - project announced November 2014, community development sprint for MVP (minimum viable product) 2017, last commit October 2018

Blacklight is a search interface, a Ruby on Rails website that uses the Solr search engine for discovery and retrieval. It is used most commonly as a library catalog application.

* Blacklight example applications: <http://projectblacklight.org/#examples>

The ArcLight project, an initiative of the Stanford University Libraries, builds upon Blacklight for discovery and delivery for archival information.

Open source project, code available on Github: <https://github.com/sul-dlss/arclight>

User personas created based on community-wide interviews of archivists and researchers. Example users created in design/development process: <https://stacks.stanford.edu/file/druid:hk349dn1751/ArcLight-Personas-2017-01-11.pdf>

ArcLight implementations/examples:

* University of Michigan - Bentley Historical Library: <https://arclight-testing.hydra.lib.umich.edu/>
* Demo: <https://arclight-demo.projectblacklight.org/>
* University of Albany - <https://github.com/UAlbanyArchives/arclight-UAlbany>

Design features:

* Repositories, collections view
* Tied to EAD
* Search features: Autocomplete, flat, hit highlighting, fielded search, facets, date range, multilingual support, Search within collections
* Download collection EAD
* Hierarchy browse within collection - complex archival hierarchies made more usable by allowing users to dive quickly into the lower levels.
* Links to component level view from search results
* Stable URLs/API

Observations

* Indexing (Albany): 677 EADs, which are unaltered ArchivesSpace v1.5.1 exports, make up about 230,000 Solr docs. We experienced two types of EAD index errors, and rectified these by improving description in ArchivesSpace. One was a long and inappropriate Chronological list in a Historical Note, more problematic than a standard
* ArcLight’s indexing model is very opinionated about the structure of EADs, but relatively trivial to modify and override the functionality used to model the EAD Documents
* Can be extended to accommodate other metadata formats