

WHAT'S A DIGITAL ARCHIVIST?



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SOME BACKGROUND

M.E. Grenander Special Collections & Archives

- 4 permanent archivists, 1 on grant funding
 - Department Head
 - Supervisory Archivist (Manuscripts and Front Desk)
 - Curator of Digital Collections
 - University Archivist
- 3-4 Graduate students
- Undergraduate work study students

MY ROLE AS UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

- Born-digital institutional records
 - Lots of scripting
 - Web Archives
- Support technical services
 - ArchivesSpace migration
 - New web front-end PUI
 - Develop workflow tools
- Implement new systems
 - Hydra-Fedora 4 implementation
- Experience with Python, XML and XML tools, Web Development, some JavaScript and Ruby

LIBRARY SYSTEMS

- Department Head
 - Catalog developer and desktop support developer
 - System Administrator and Database Developer
 - One unfilled Web Developer position

WE DO DEVELOPMENT, THEY DO SUPPORT

- Ticket system
 - no local development
- XTF Public User Interface (PUI)
 - I did all XSLT and CSS work
 - Wrote scripts for static page generation
- Drupal
 - Systems ported XTF styling to Drupal theme
- ArchivesSpace
 - Systems exported data from old CMS
 - I wrote migration scripts
- Hydra-Fedora
 - Systems implements on servers
 - We develop rails applications

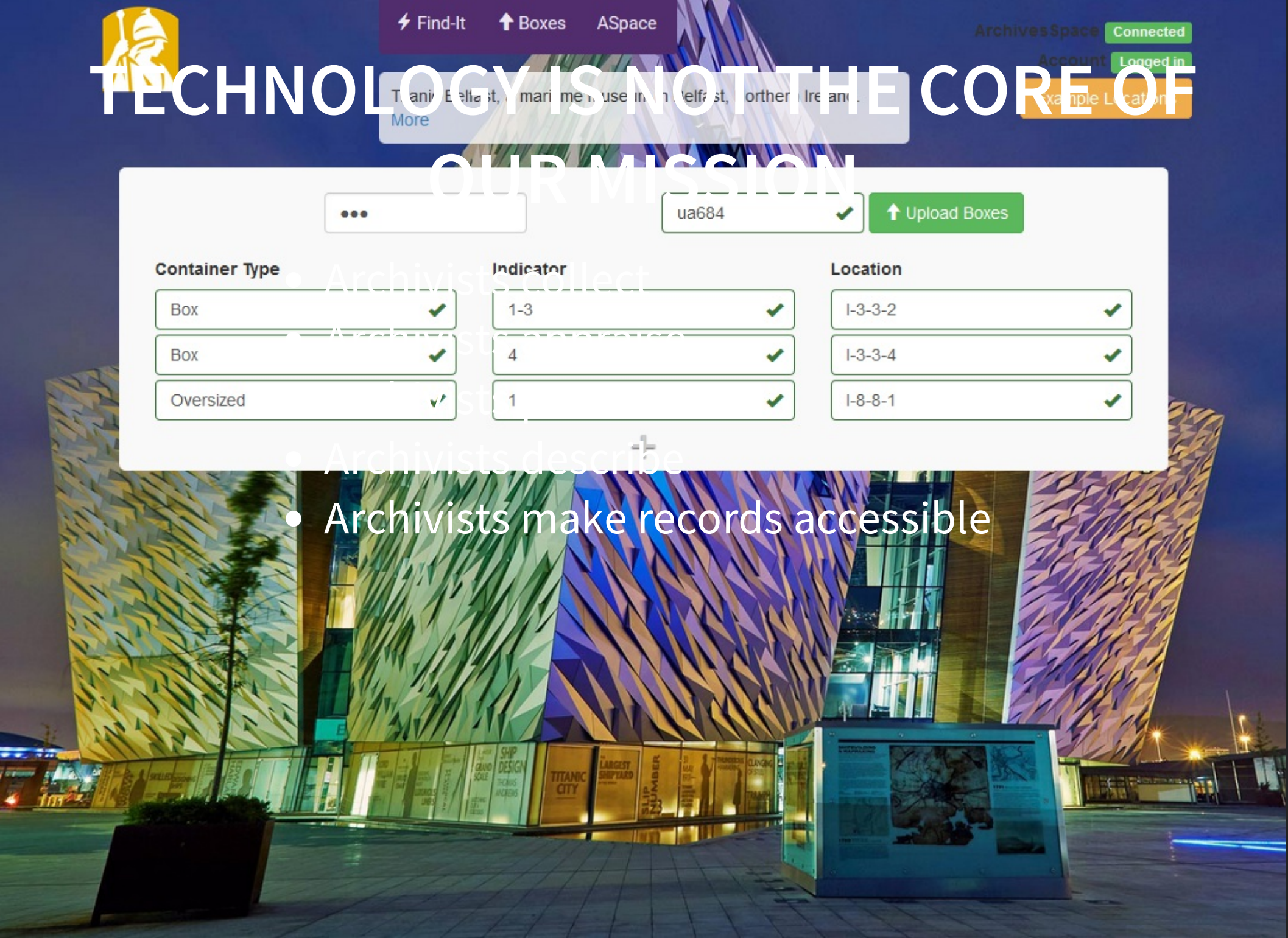
AM I A DEVELOPER?

- I end up writing code for large part of my job
- I developed our website, write small desktop apps, now writing Rails apps
- I don't have to learn and write applications for outside processes
- If I wrote most of our tools I would be a bad archivist
- I'm not always in-line with professional best practices

I'm a really bad developer

DO YOU NEED DEVELOPER SKILLS TO BE A GOOD ARCHIVIST?

- Allows you to be active rather than passive use of existing tools
- Helps understand systems architectures
- Eases/Speeds migrations
- Small workflow tools can be really valuable



• Archivists collect

• Archivists describe

• Archivists make records accessible

• Archivists make records accessible

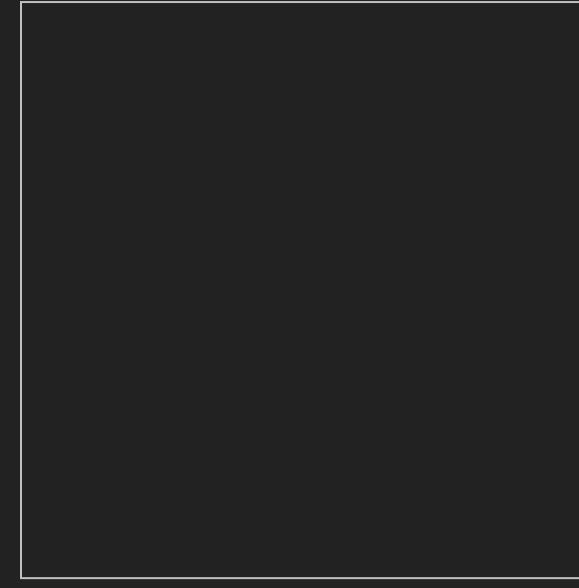
TECHNOLOGY IS AN AMPLIFIER

- Scripts collect over network transfers or disk images
- Command line tools or scripts *enable* appraisal at scale
- Digital repositories *eases* preservation planning
- Collections Management Systems *support* description
- Web applications make records *more* accessible

**NOT EVERY ARCHIVIST IS A DIGITAL
ARCHIVIST**

**EVERY ARCHIVES NEEDS A DIGITAL
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