Midwinter Online Conference 2023

Questions from Session 5: True Grit: Prospecting Through Inherited Data, by Nate Beyerink and Kyle Constant (University of Central Missouri)

Q1: Can you have too much Version History?

It's possible, but where you draw the line is going to depend on your particular needs. Is drive space the motivating concern? Do you have institutional requirements for document retention? At what point has enough changed between versions that the oldest is now useless?

Q2: Do you have any good strategies for archiving/version history in systems that small continuous changes are required and have no internal way of saving the history (I'm thinking Alma/Primo here, specifically)? Every system I try breaks down almost immediately (especially when multiple people have edit access)

Alma and Primo both feature export options on most tables (Terms of Use, code tables, configuration screens, etc.) so if I want to save a version of a changing configuration, I usually use that export function. It's also usually a good idea to put notes in the exported table that refer to the location of the table within Alma. Those csv or Excel files can then be organized by their names and the names of the folder/s in which they exist. Unfortunately, restoring the configuration often requires manual manipulation, but it does meet the minimum need of a version history.

Q3: Nate: what software did you use to create your beautiful flowchart?

The flowcharts shown in the presentation were made using Lucid Chart. Other tools can be found listed in the slides.

Q4: Where do you archive old documentations?

Our library has a shared network drive that is connected on our desktops. Within the file structure, I have sub-folders labeled "Archive". As I go to work on documentation, I will save a copy and move it to the archive folder with a name that reflects the version or last edit date.

Resources/insights shared by attendees during chat:

- https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/examples/process-mapping-software
- https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/usecase/education#:~:text=Free%20for%20an%20individual%20student%2C%20teacher%2C%20or%20faculty%20member
- Visio
- If you can't get a license for Visio, PowerPoint also has similar shapes/flows that you can manipulate rather easily