



2 December 2011

On behalf of the members of the Archeion Standing Committee and members of the Archives Association of Ontario board, I am very pleased to announce the launch of the next generation of Archeion. Ontario's archival descriptions are now available at www.archeion.ca.

The new Archeion is based on ICA-AtoM open source software which offers a number of enhancements that were not available in our previous system. These include:

- multi-level archival descriptions!
- linking digital objects held in institutional digital repositories to their archival fonds of origin;
- the ability for Archeion users to display element headings in French, Dutch, Spanish, Slovenian, Polish, and Portuguese;
- institutional descriptions based on ICA-ISDIAH, the International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings, which will allow AAO institutional members contributing to Archeion to keep up-to-date contact and descriptive information about their own institution;
- advanced search capabilities incorporating data generated from user studies conducted on behalf of the AAO by the University of Toronto and Artefactual Systems Inc.;
- global search and replace for descriptions;
- bulk Import XML and CSV;
- reports for file and item lists, box lists and physical storage locations;
and,
- a rights interface based on PREMIS;

Through the support of the NADP (National Archival Development Program), and the Museum Technology Fund of Ontario, the AAO was able to fund the development of a new display theme called "Trillium" for ICA-AtoM 1.2. Developed by MJ Suhonos, "Trillium" is based on the Twitter "Bootstrap" framework.

Researchers and archivists will now be able to search and browse our descriptions with ease, linking to similar records based on subject headings developed by our colleagues at the Archives Association of British Columbia, and geographic place name taxonomy developed by members of the Archeion Committee drawing on federal and provincial gazetteers.

There are many people whose hard work, patience and commitment to this program must be acknowledged and celebrated. In no particular order, the Archeion Committee would like to thank:

- the **Canadian Council of Archives** and the ongoing support they provide to the Archeion program and the AAO through the **National Archival Development Program (NADP)**, in particular Executive Director **Christina Nichols** and **Isabelle Alain** whose patience, advice, encouragement and commitment is greatly appreciated;
- the **Government of Ontario's Ministry of Tourism and Culture**, which through the **Museum Technology Fund** provided a significant amount of funding that ensured that the final stages of the project could be realized. Special thanks goes to **Angelina French** and **Carol Law** for their patience, advice and commitment;
- the **Trillium Foundation** who are funding a province-wide series of technical training workshops for archivists interested in learning how to use ICA-AtoM software and specifically contribute to Archeion. Special thanks goes to **Sanjay Shahani**, the program manager who was convinced of the wider impact this project could have on local communities and institutions across the province;
- **EMC Corporation** who's Heritage Trust Grant kick-started the project in 2010;
- The dedicated team involved in ICA-AtoM development at **Artefactual Systems Inc.**, but in particular **Jessica Bushey**, **Evelyn McLellan**, **MJ Suhonos** and **Peter Van Garderen** whose patience, support, professionalism and commitment ensured a quality product not only for the AAO but for archival institutions interested in using this open source software;
- A very sincere thanks to **Amanda Hill**, the current **Archeion Coordinator** and **Sharon White**, a previous Archeion Coordinator whose commitment and enthusiasm for this project ensured its success;

- Volunteer **Jordan Phoenix**, who as a graduate student in archival studies at the iSchool at the **University of Toronto** undertook a research analysis of ICA-AtoM and committed to conducting the user testing at the University of Toronto in early 2011. In collaboration with **Jessica Bushey**, Jordan's testing resulted in important changes to ICA-AtoM's interface and advanced search functionality;
- The range of volunteers who graciously gave up their time to participate in the usability testing at the University of Toronto;
- The technical staff at the **iSchool of University of Toronto** whose generous hosting ensured a safe and secure home for the Archeion server for its first ten years;
- The institutional members of the **Archives Association of Ontario** whose patience and goodwill allowed the Archeion team to focus all their efforts on the migration project for the past year and a half.
- Our sister associations including **AABC** and **SAIN** who were early adopters of ICA-AtoM and whose own projects helped develop early iterations of the software;
- The active and **collaborative community of users** in the ICA-AtoM discussion group (<https://groups.google.com/group/ica-atom-users>) who identify bugs, suggest solutions and volunteer their time, skills, translations and expertise to enhance and improve the ICA-AtoM open source software for everyone;
- The **Archives Association of Ontario** board of directors for the past three terms whose patience, support and advocacy helped accelerate this project to fruition. Special thanks in particular to current and former volunteer members **Lynn Austin, Mary Gladwin, Danielle Hughes, Deb Majer, Heather McCafferty-Leger** and **Carol Radford-Grant**.
- The dedicated staff at Becker & Associates, including **Tammy Gunn** and **Christina Becker** whose administrative support has ensured that funds were received, insurance located and reimbursements distributed throughout the course of our activities. A special thanks goes to **Adam Becker** who assisted in the migration of our online Archeion exhibits, which will be hosted by the AAO website in due course.
- And finally to past and current members of the **Archeion Standing Committee** whose past and ongoing (almost all volunteer!) support ensured that Archeion survived very lean years of funding and rose to the opportunity to improve our lot. These members include myself, **Bob Anger, Tom Belton, Sarah Carson, Derrick Clements, Gina Coady, Philippa Cummings, Bernadine Dodge, Suzanne Dubeau, Loren Fantin, Mary Gladwin, Kent Haworth, Paul Henry, Amanda Hill, Sarah Jensen, Bob Krawczyk, Laura Lamb, Marc Lerman, Marie-Josée Lévesque, Sandra Kiemele, Paul Leatherdale, Loryl Macdonald, Hugo Stibbe, Alex**

Thompson, Nichole Vonk, and **Sharon White**. And thanks to anyone we may have missed!

Stay tuned for workshop opportunities, the release of the ICA-AtoM 1.2 user manual, and other events related to the new Archeion. If you would like to host an Archeion workshop in your area in the new year, please contact Amanda Hill, the Archeion Coordinator at: archeion@aao-archivists.ca.

Sincerely,

Anna St.Onge
Chair
Archeion Standing Committee
Archives Association of Ontario (AAO)