

# How to Get Involved in the ArchivesSpace Community/Ask an Expert

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- Introduce ways to get involved in ASpace beyond using the application
- Components of the ASpace member community
  - Governance Board. Elected members. One member from each membership level. And original institutions from the early days of ASpace with financial stake. Also CEO of Lyrasis, the organizational home.
  - Lyrasis. Organizational home. Lyrasis provides infrastructure and services that any organization would need. So that ASpace team which is pretty small can focus on work specifically for ASpace. Lyrasis provides infrastructure like HR, technology, etc.
  - Registered Service Providers: Atlas, Keystone, Lyrasis. Anyone can provide services to other users of ASpace for free. Hosting, training, etc. RSP's have made financial commitment.
  - Member driven groups: UAC and TAC
    - User Advisory Council: functional side of things. Archivists, metadata librarians. Work in ASpace on a day to day basis
    - Technical: help others use ASpace. From a development perspective or systems to get installed. Can provide assistance on making the application better from a technological aspect.
    - Both councils are nominated.
    - Terms are renewable.
  - There is a nominating committee that makes appointments
- 7 ways to contribute to the ASpace community as an individual
  - 1: Support your colleagues and share your knowledge
    - Answer questions on the users group listservs or when you're at a conference and someone asks
    - Contribute to our blog and webinar series, as well as ASpace-sponsored events
    - Consider forming/participating in local or regional users groups
  - 2: Participate in a Governance or Working Group
    - Governance Board
    - User Advisory Council
    - Technical Advisor Council
    - Limited time working groups, recent or upcoming examples include:
      - Staff interface

- MARCXML exporter (will be putting out a call soon!): As a user, what do you need to make it better?
  - Member Forum planning
- 3: File bug reports and feature requests
  - Sign up for an ASpace JIRA account: <https://development.archivesspace.org> to already noted
    - (Don't need to be a member to request a JIRA account -- anyone can request.)
    - Report bugs
    - Request features
    - Comment on bugs and feature requests already noted
  - Detailed descriptions, screenshots, wireframes and examples help developers help you and the comments overall
  - When you file a JIRA request, the more detailed and concrete examples (screenshots, wireframes, how things should look) will help developer turn that request into code that goes into the application.
- 4: Test the application
  - Anytime we put out a new release. There are calls that ASpace puts out.
  - There is also a testing group.
  - Participate in community application testing, which is now part of every release process
  - Contribute testing protocols or testing data
  - More work that goes in upfront, the better it is when it comes out!
  - Any information or data that you want to share, even if you can't help test, this is welcome!
- 5: Band together for larger feature or plugin development
  - If you would like to see a larger set of features that could improve the application, organize with like-minded community members and develop specifications
  - Think about whether your institution may be able to subsidize or contribute to the development itself
    - Or possibly pool resources together with other institutions
  - Also reach out to ASpace program team to talk strategy on how to reach out to other institutions
- 6: Share plugins and scripts
  - If you've written plugins or scripts to interact with the application better, please share those with others! Very likely that issues you are dealing with at your institutions, others are experiencing as well!
  - Github Labs area for sharing your plugins and scripts
    - Also available to share your experiments to get feedback from others
  - See what others have done and share yours too
- 7: Contribute to core code or documentation

- Consider whether your plugin or code modification may be useful for everyone and appropriate for the core code of the application.
- Submit a pull request or get in touch with the Core Committers group to learn more
- And if it's something that should be integrated into ASpace, we want to help move in that direction.
- Laney will be providing information for the community overall, what kind of code meets the expectations, characteristics of a feature/functionality, etc.
- Above all: Get involved!
  - Progress in ASpace is only possible through the many big and small ways members participate and contribute.
  - No contribution is too small, and all types of contributions are needed and appreciated.
  - If you have other ideas to get involved, please feel free to get in touch!
- Contacts:
  - Laurie: [laurie.arp@lyrasis.org](mailto:laurie.arp@lyrasis.org)
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  - Governance Board: Carol Mandel, Chair
  - TAC: Max Eckard, incoming Chair
  - UAC: Suzanne Stasiulatis, incoming Chair

#### Questions:

- Getting feet wet with application: Member area includes video tutorials, application overview, how to get started with accessioning
  - Need to prove that ASpace is worth investing in. Application is free to download and use. Sandbox. Kim is recording a new application demo to provide overview on the app. All documentation is free (installation, maintain software). Collection management tools section of SAA maintains resources, including ASpace.
  - Hosting: Outreach staff can provide a demo of hosting through Lyrasis. Will give access to the community/training/documentation Approach to hosting is use a community adopted version of ASpace, instead of customization individually.
  - Also a lot of videos on youtube that people have put together that are useful.
  - No restrictions on people out in the community documenting or sharing information. ASpace runs training sessions, but there are training sessions run through community members as well.
  - Atlas provided a free initial training session to help people get their feet wet -- open to everyone
- Question/recommendation: Default installation with most commonly used or useful or widely applicable plugins. For a little more guidance to plug and play
  - Listserv: May feel intimidating since questions/answers are high level. But we really want to encourage people to not be intimidated and to realize how valuable

the information they do have is, even if it seems like a simple thing. Definitely want to encourage those types of conversations on the listserv as well -- including what is a good way to find information! Also encourage people to post questions on the listserv instead of just emailing, because everyone is wondering the same thing!

- Idea of standard installation: great idea! Would love to hear what would be useful. Certain types of functionality you wish were just there? We can let you know if someone has already figured out how to do that, or figure out if that should be part of a package.
- Listserv question: What type of plugins do you find most useful? Would be a great conversation that would benefit the community on a larger scale
- Migrations. And how that affects workflows. (Go to the migrations session later this afternoon!)
- Accessions and resources related to a resource. (Interest in maybe something to help spawn records for the purpose of retrospective accessioning.) More sophisticated ways you want to do it? There might be a plugin that another institution came up with.
- Contribution of individual ideas are welcome. Don't need to be involved in lengthy commitment!