

User and Technical Documentation Conversation

Led by Kevin Clair and Christine Di Bella
ArchivesSpace Annual Member Forum
August 2019



Our Agenda

- Overview of the User Documentation sub-team and resources for user documentation
- Overview of the Technical Documentation sub-team and resources for technical documentation
- Open discussion - questions, comments, ideas about anything related to ArchivesSpace documentation

User Documentation

Maintains the [ArchivesSpace User Manual](#), working with the Community Engagement Coordinator to update information for each new release

Works with TAC Documentation subteam on areas of common concern to both advisory councils

Looks for ways to improve the User Manual and associated documentation on behalf of the ArchivesSpace community

User Documentation

Projects for 2018/19:

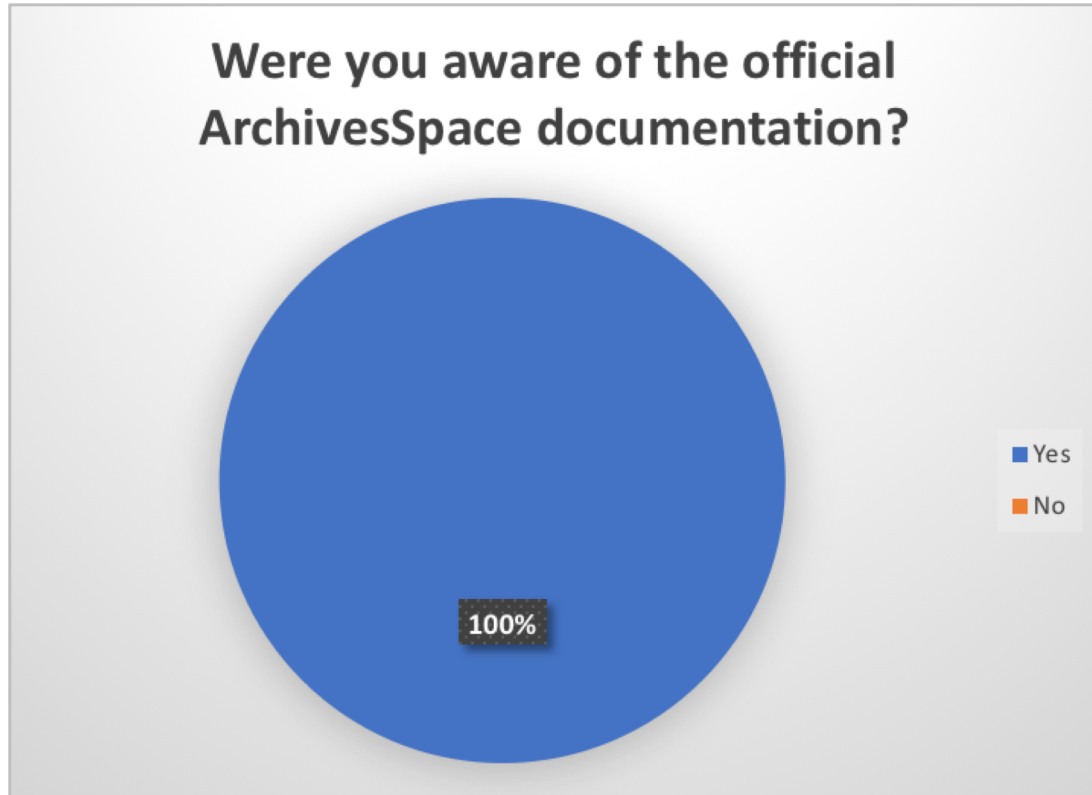
- Audit the existing user manual to determine where it needed to be updated, or where outdated information needed to be removed, in order to bring it in line with the current release of the application
- Survey ArchivesSpace community members who maintain their own documentation, to find areas where it aligns with or is complementary to the User Manual, and to identify ways in which the User Manual can better integrate with user-generated documentation

User Documentation

New documentation platform:

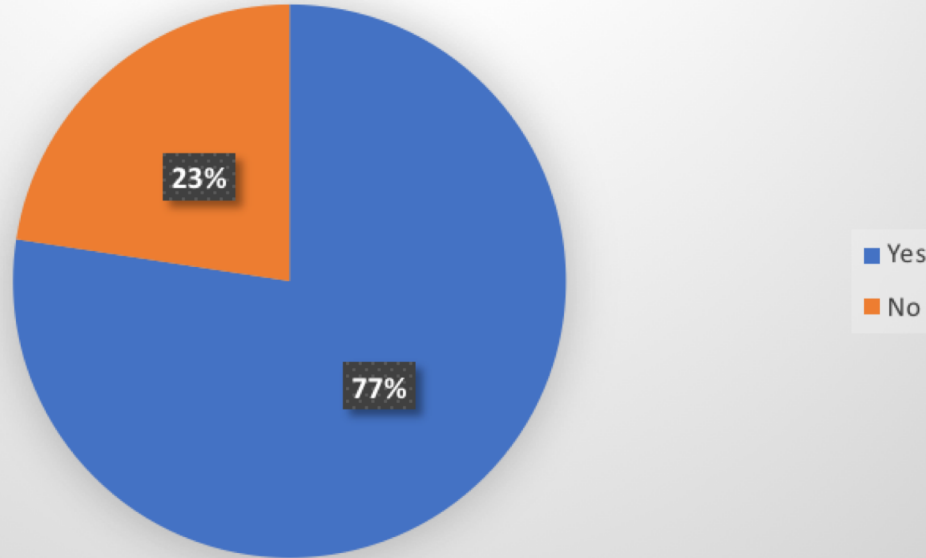
- Allows for multiple users
- Makes UAC Docs' lives easier -- can update the User Manual directly instead of coordinating with LYRASIS
- On the way soon!

User Documentation



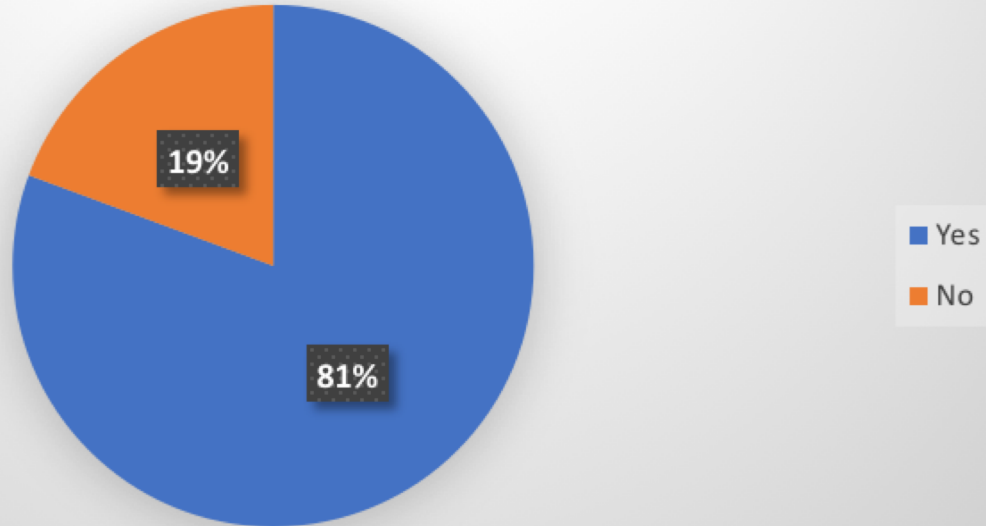
User Documentation

Did you consult the User Manual when writing your local documentation?



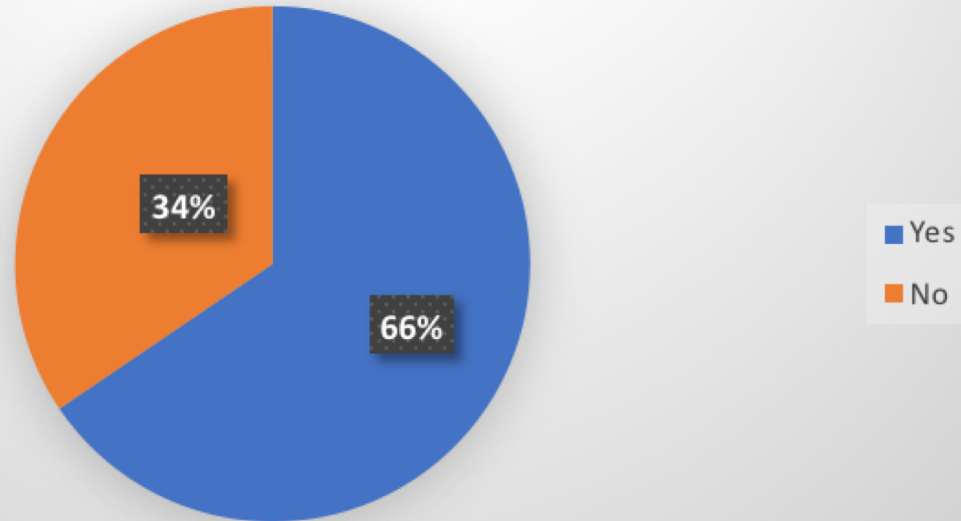
User Documentation

Do you use the User Manual in addition to your local documentation?



User Documentation

Would you be willing to share your documentation with others?



Technical Documentation

- Provides instructions for deploying ArchivesSpace from a technical standpoint
- Intended to be useful for installing, configuring, updating, and otherwise maintaining the ArchivesSpace application
- Also encompasses information for accessing ArchivesSpace via the API or doing development work related to the application (such as building plugins).
- Mostly in written form, but includes videos on YouTube that supplement/illustrate technical concepts
- Publicly available - does not require membership to access

Technical Documentation Sub-Team

- Maintains and facilitates contributions to the technical documentation
- Identifies gaps and conducts surveys of the community to identify additional technical documentation needs.
- Works closely with the ArchivesSpace Technical Lead
- Recent projects
 - Converting technical documentation from being embedded in core code of application to its own Github repository
 - Approving improvements submitted by others
 - Building a list of people interested in contributing to the documentation

Some links

- Searchable technical documentation: <http://archivesspace.github.io/archivesspace/>
- Github repository for technical documentation: <https://github.com/archivesspace/tech-docs>
- API documentation: <http://archivesspace.github.io/archivesspace/api/>
- Developer screencasts (by Hudson Molonglo, original developers for ArchivesSpace):
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJFitFaE9AY_DDIhl3Kq_vFeX27F1yt6I
- Other screencasts:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFJ6yAaPa3A&list=PL3cxupmXL7Wioy2zMaE4KQP8yf8wVXR9I>

Open discussion (with some questions to get us going)

How many have used the user documentation for ArchivesSpace? How many have used the technical documentation for ArchivesSpace?

Do you know where to look (or where to point your system administrator or developer) when you have a question about how to do something in ArchivesSpace?

What kinds of questions do you (or your system administrator or developer) have that could be answered in documentation but aren't currently?

What do you think could be better about the documentation?

Open discussion (with some questions to get us going)

Do you keep local documentation?

Would you be interested in improving the ArchivesSpace documentation for the community? What would make it easier to do so?