ARK as a Bridge Between Digital Access and Preservation

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OVERVIEW

In line with the **Marriott Library**'s mission to present digital collections online as well as preserve them long term, a multi-departmental team collaborated to create an information and metadata packaging and submission tool (**SIMP**) for the purpose of ingesting the Library's digital collections into its new digital preservation system (ExLibris **Rosetta**), while simultaneously maintaining its longstanding digital asset management system (**CONTENTdm**). The parallel use of two disparate systems for access and preservation posed a unique challenge to the team – what exactly should be ingested into each system and how? The full metadata record could not be placed into each as any alteration to the metadata in one would not sync across systems and invariably result in multiple outdated versions. In response to the question, the team designed the SIMP tool to assign an **Archival Resource Key** (**ARK**) to both the access and preservation copies in order to identify and locate matching content across systems. This poster visually represents the collaborative efforts of various Library divisions in developing an adaptable tool for the packaging of files, creation of metadata, and ingest of data into different information systems, always with the ARK as a bridge between digital access and preservation.

ARCHIVAL RESOURCE KEY (ARK)

An ARK is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that serves as a multi-purpose identifier for information objects. The Marriott Library is currently using the SIMP tool to assign the ARK solely as an internal persistent identifier, though consideration has been given to its use in external search mechanisms.
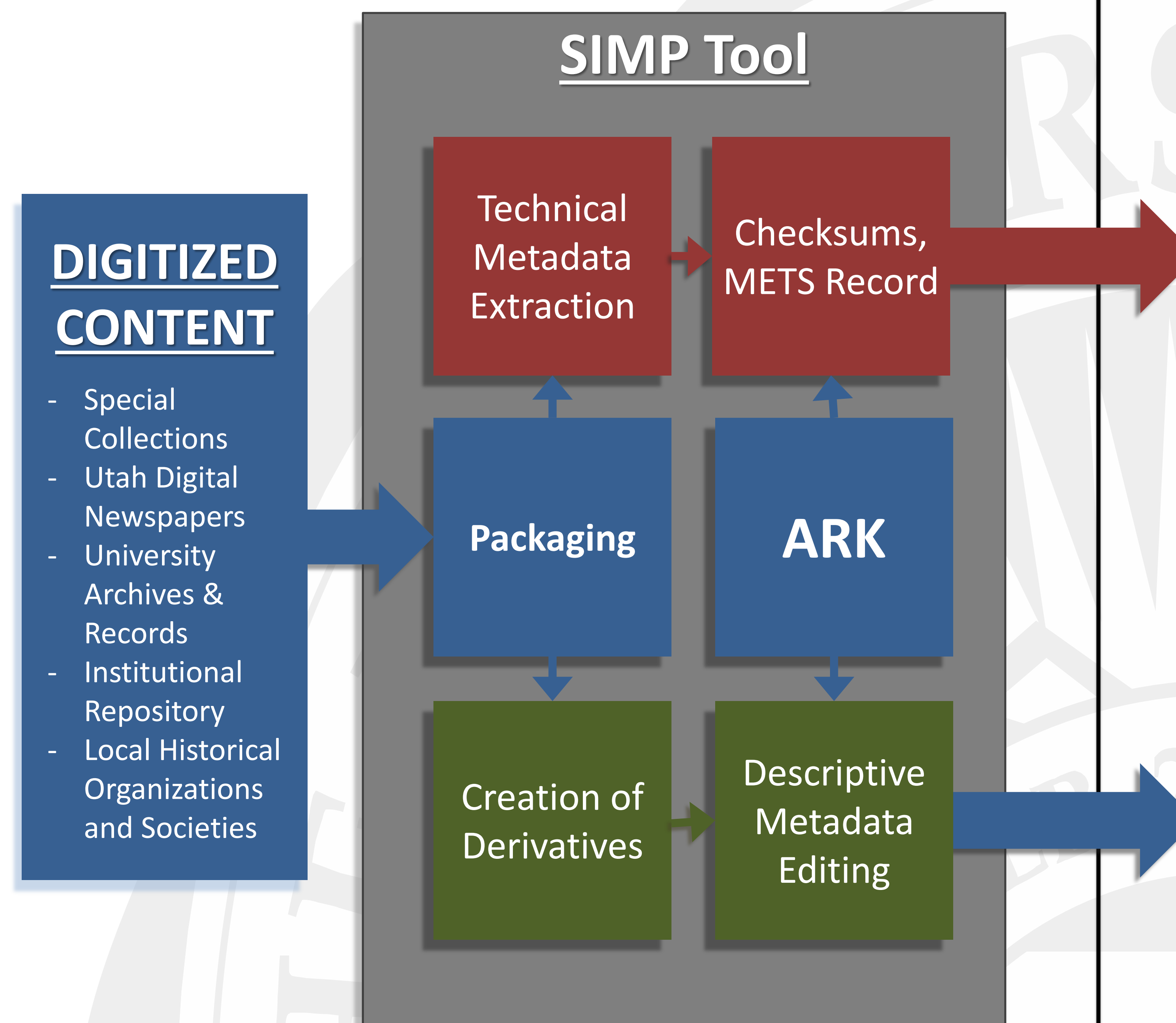
Example
[http://www.utah.edu/…] **ark:/87278/s6fr0rzs**

The Library chose EZID (http://ezid.cdlib.org/), a service of the UC Curation Center of the California Digital Library, to provide ARKs as persistent identifiers for the library's digital collections as it offered key advantages such as reasonable pricing structure, a clearly documented API, and the ability to store ARK identifier information both with EZID and on a local database.

SIMP TOOL

The SIMP tool is platform agnostic and designed to accommodate multiple ingestion processes modularly. Although the Library currently utilizes the Rosetta and CONTENTdm systems, this design allows the Library to easily modify the tool to be compatible with any digital asset management system, preservation software, or enterprise repository. The diagram below provides a very basic summary of the tool's functionality, the ingestion workflow, and departmental participation.

SIMP Tool

DIGITIZED CONTENT
- Special Collections
- Utah Digital Newspapers
- University Archives & Records
- Institutional Repository
- Local Historical Organizations and Societies

Technical Metadata Extraction — Checksums, METS Record

Packaging — ARK

Creation of Derivatives — Descriptive Metadata Editing

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CONTRIBUTORS to SIMP TOOL

Marriott Library divisions directly involved in SIMP development and workflow
- **Digital Operations** (digitization, CONTENTdm admin)
- **Cataloging and Metadata Services** (metadata)
- **Digital Preservation** (Rosetta admin)
- **Application Programming** (SIMP development)
- **Systems Development** (systems support)
- **Digital Ventures** (project management)

DIGITAL PRESERVATION / ROSETTA

- ExLibris **Rosetta** digital preservation system
- Preserve Master Copy (.tif, .avi, .aif, etc.)
- Though Rosetta supports wide array of metadata, currently only Technical Metadata maintained
- ARK searchable via *dc:identifier* field

0001.tif, 26.2 MB

↑
INCOMPATIBLE SYSTEMS
↓

746.pdf, 174 KB

DIGITAL LIBRARY / CONTENTdm

- **CONTENTdm** digital asset management system
- Web access to derivative copy (.pdf, .mp4, .jpg, etc.)
- Descriptive Metadata + ARK in a searchable field
- Metadata record can be edited in CONTENTdm