Nebium is a mobile survey app designed for archivists, collection curators, and preservation professionals. It facilitates the appraisal and assessment of archival collections, making it easy to record information in situ, and seamlessly link recorded data to an enterprise archives management system.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

- Over the past twenty years, archival practice has been transformed by the development of EAD and of open source tools that implement and extend its concepts to create a standardized set of desktop-based workflows for the processing, management and exposure of archival material.

- Archival practice is often a location-based activity, requiring people and materials to circulate through a range of environments, including donors’ homes and offices, conservation labs, and offsite storage facilities.

- Our prototype is an experiment built on the hypothesis that archivists can record their assessment of archival materials anywhere (in the field, conservation facilities, etc.), and that the data they record on site should be able to integrate seamlessly with the ‘back office’ workflows they conduct through the standard ArchivesSpace interface.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

Our research began with casual conversations with colleagues working in preservation and archives, primarily to glean whether there was a demand for a mobile app that facilitated collection assessment. We then did a review of professional literature of preservation surveys and archival collection assessments, with a particular focus on the PACSCL Consorsval Survey Initiative.

Once we had a rudimentary prototype of the app, we formed a small focus group to get feedback on the tool and on desired features.

Throughout the process, we have sought to create a tool that remains adaptable to a variety of needs and workflows, and - while based on standards - is not prescriptive. Nebium aims to be open and flexible.

Our research is ongoing, and our method is to get feedback from you!

**CHALLENGES**

In creating this prototype, we have had to confront the problem of reconciling a sprawling data model with the simplicity and minimalism required for a successful mobile app, as well as the problem of moving data back and forth between a central API service and a device that may have only intermittent access to a network.

**RESULTS**

We have created a simplified, non-prescriptive data model based on ASpace and EAD, which is intended to be flexible enough to support diverse workflows.

- Our development process is ongoing, and we will continue to seek input from the archives community.

- We plan to conduct additional focus groups, beta test our app, and distribute it through Apple and Google platforms.

- We want to learn from archivists who will use this tool in environments that run ArchivesSpace as well as those who will not.

- We seek to learn what formats work best for exporting and preserving data created in the app from archivists who wish to use Nebium as a stand-alone system.

- Future features may include the ability to photograph collection material, scan barcodes, and store Nebium data in ArchivesSpace via an ASpace plugin.

Interested in learning more or contributing to testing? Visit neblummapp.com to be notified when the app is available.