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Taking Control of Archdesc: Implementing Spaceport for Special Collections Finding Aids

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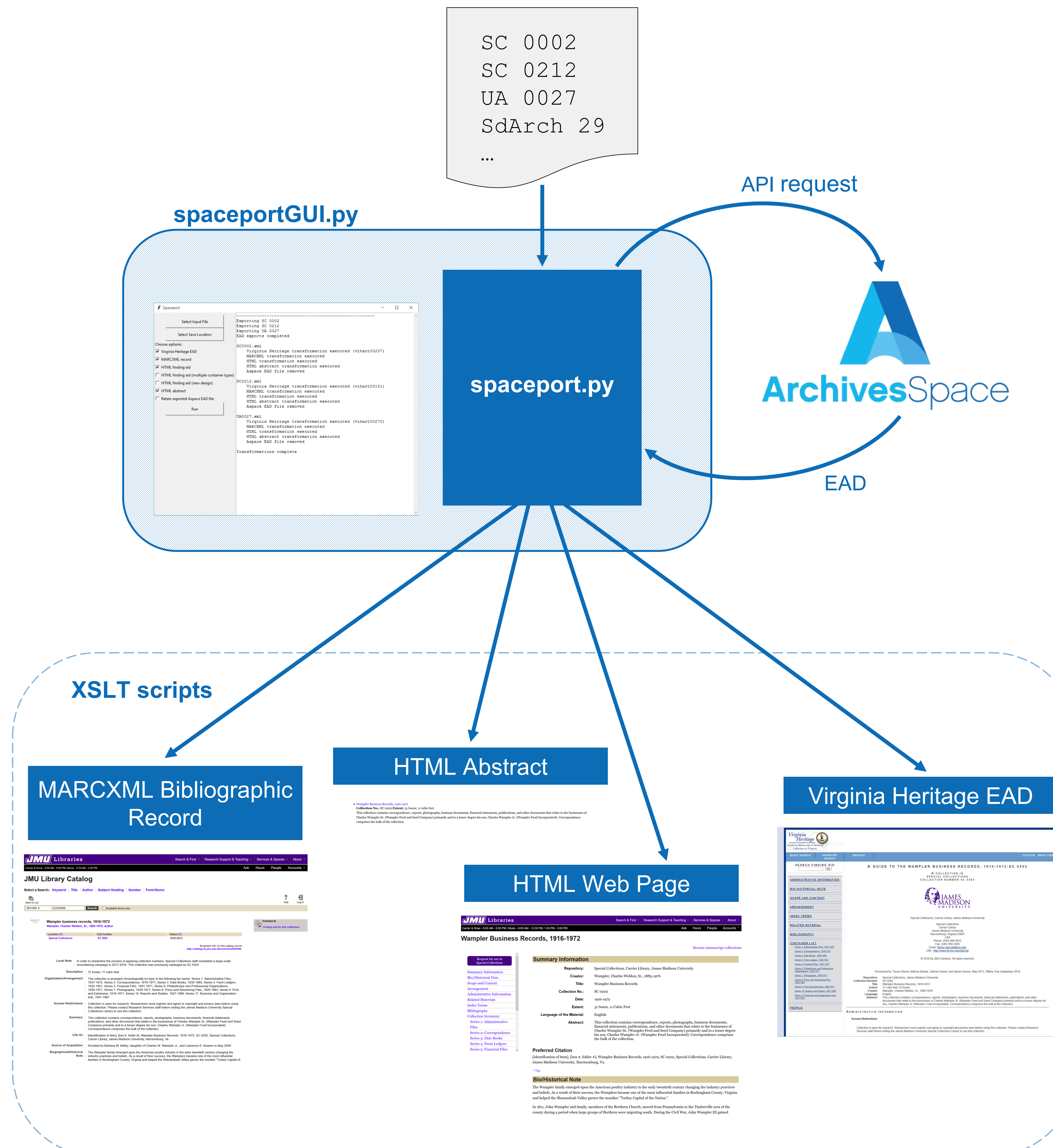
Taking <control> of <archdesc>
Implementing Spaceport for Special Collections Finding Aids

Tiffany Cole, Special Collections Archivist ★ Rebecca B. French, Metadata Analyst Librarian
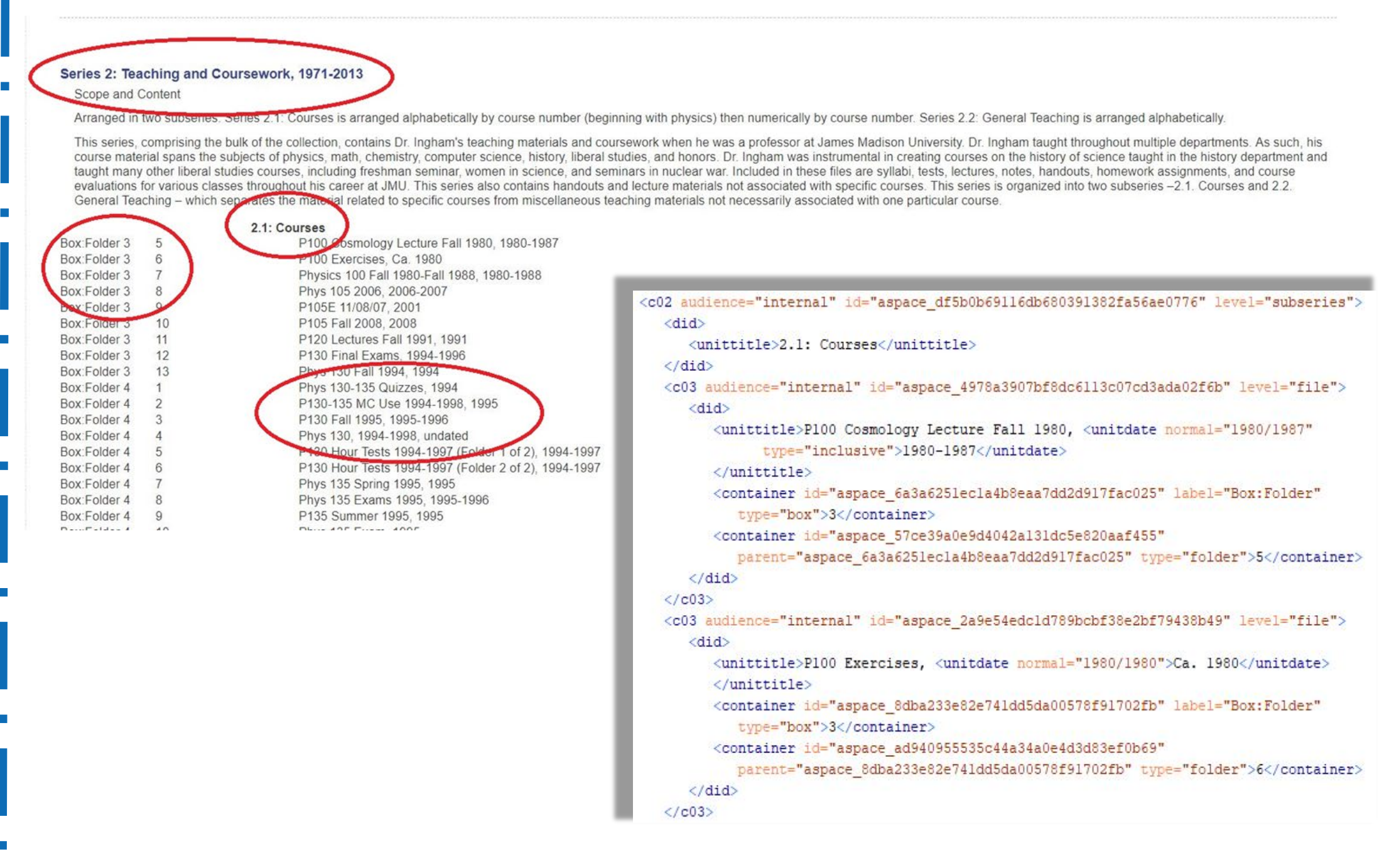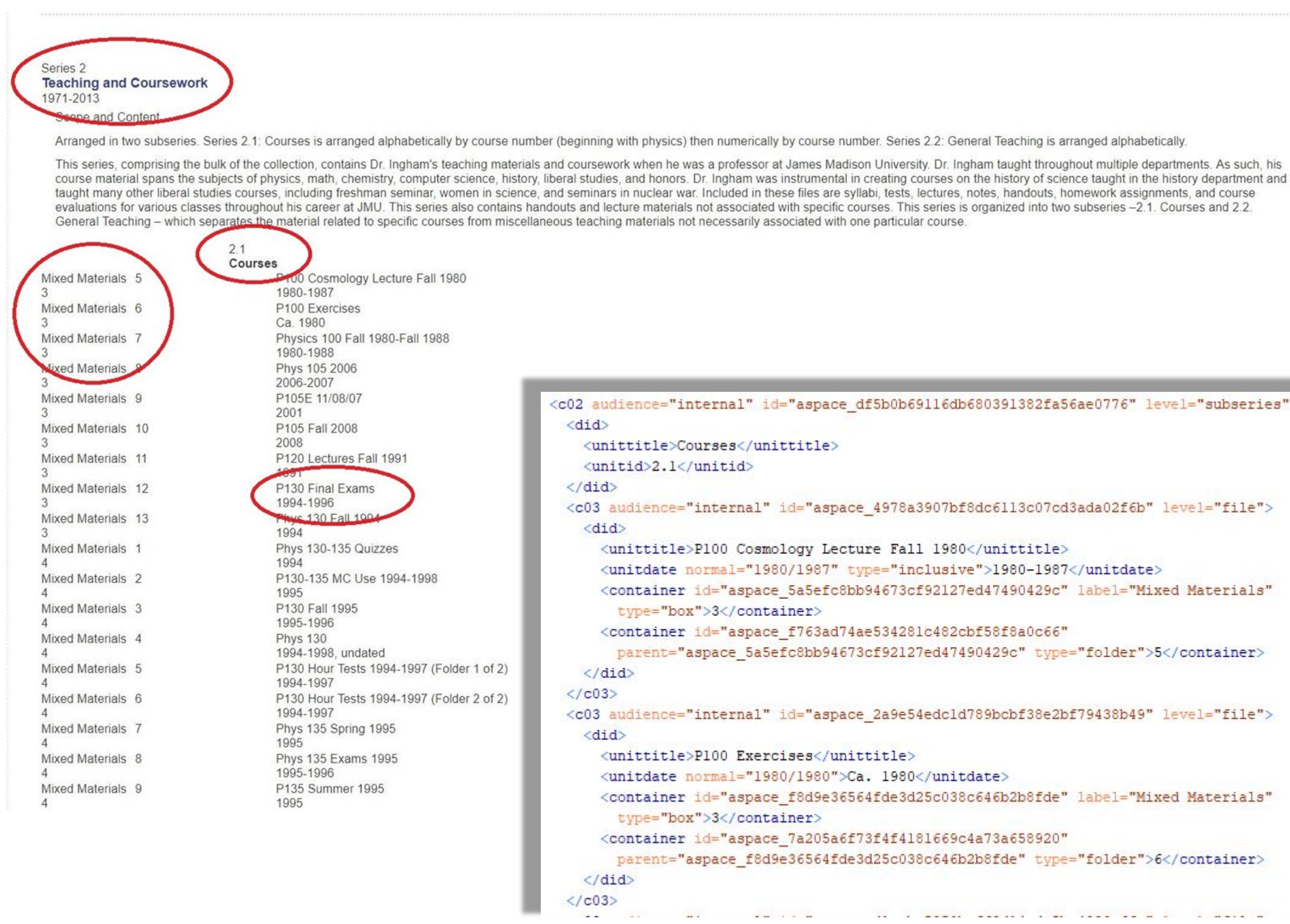
Challenges and Needs

- ★ Depending on their length, FAs could take between **30 minutes** to **SEVERAL DAYS** to format and upload to access platforms
- ★ Manually entering data in multiple platforms made updates time-consuming and created many opportunities for human error
- ★ Migration of all FA web pages to new Libraries CMS

The Solution: Spaceport

SC 0002
SC 0212
UA 0027
SdArch 29
...

spaceportGUI.py

API request

spaceport.py

ArchivesSpace

EAD

XSLT scripts

- MARCXML Bibliographic Record
- HTML Abstract
- HTML Web Page
- Virginia Heritage EAD

Outcome and Benefits

- ★ Only takes **SECONDS** to format and upload a FA to access platforms
- ★ More time to dedicate to redescription, standardizing description
- ★ Nearly all legacy FAs have been updated and standardized
- ★ Improved access to and discoverability of collections
- ★ Ability to easily implement Aeon requesting functionality

99% decrease in time to produce a Virginia Heritage EAD using Spaceport, compared to hand-encoding

can generate web pages for all 340+ collections with Spaceport in only **20 minutes**

Code available at https://github.com/frenchrb/JMU_ArchivesSpace