



# Ingest of Born-Digital Transfers at the Rockefeller Archive Center

# Introduction

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# Background

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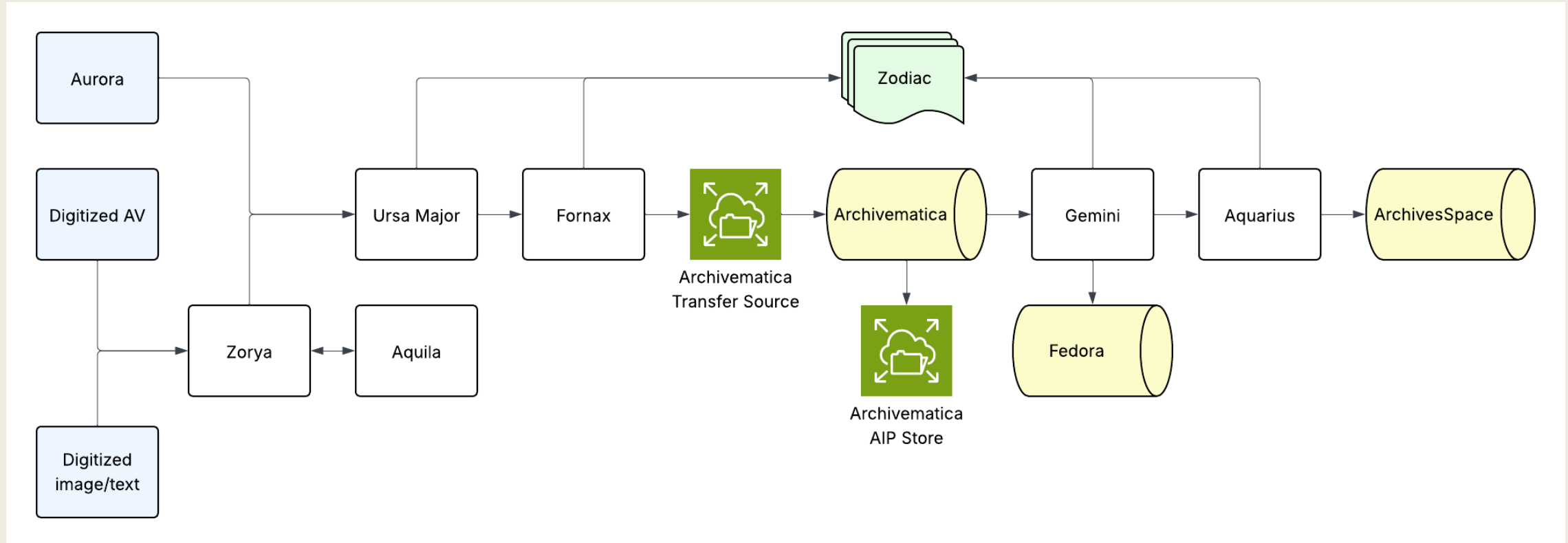
## Digital Processing Collaborative (RAC-DPC)

- Cross-team collaboration, including non-processing archivists
- Year 1: [The Digital Processing Collaborative 2024: Laying the Groundwork for Collaborative Learning](#)
- Year 2: [The Digital Processing Collaborative 2025: Wait but How? Our Year of Asking Better Questions](#)

## Project Electron

- support acquisition, management, and preservation of digital materials
- Designed for born-digital collections but expanded to include digitized image and a/v materials
- Aurora is a locally built, open source platform for receiving, virus checking, and validating BagIt packages deposited by our donors

# Background: Original Pipeline Architecture



# Current

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## Where RAC-DPC stands now:

- Updated our [processing manual](#) to include digital processing
- Clarified where digital workflows differ from paper-based ones
  - o Researchers will use a copy of the digital item rather than the original
  - o All material is checked for viruses and personally identifiable information (PII)
- Our manual is tool agnostic, potential to develop separate, tool-specific documentation as we identify the "HOW"

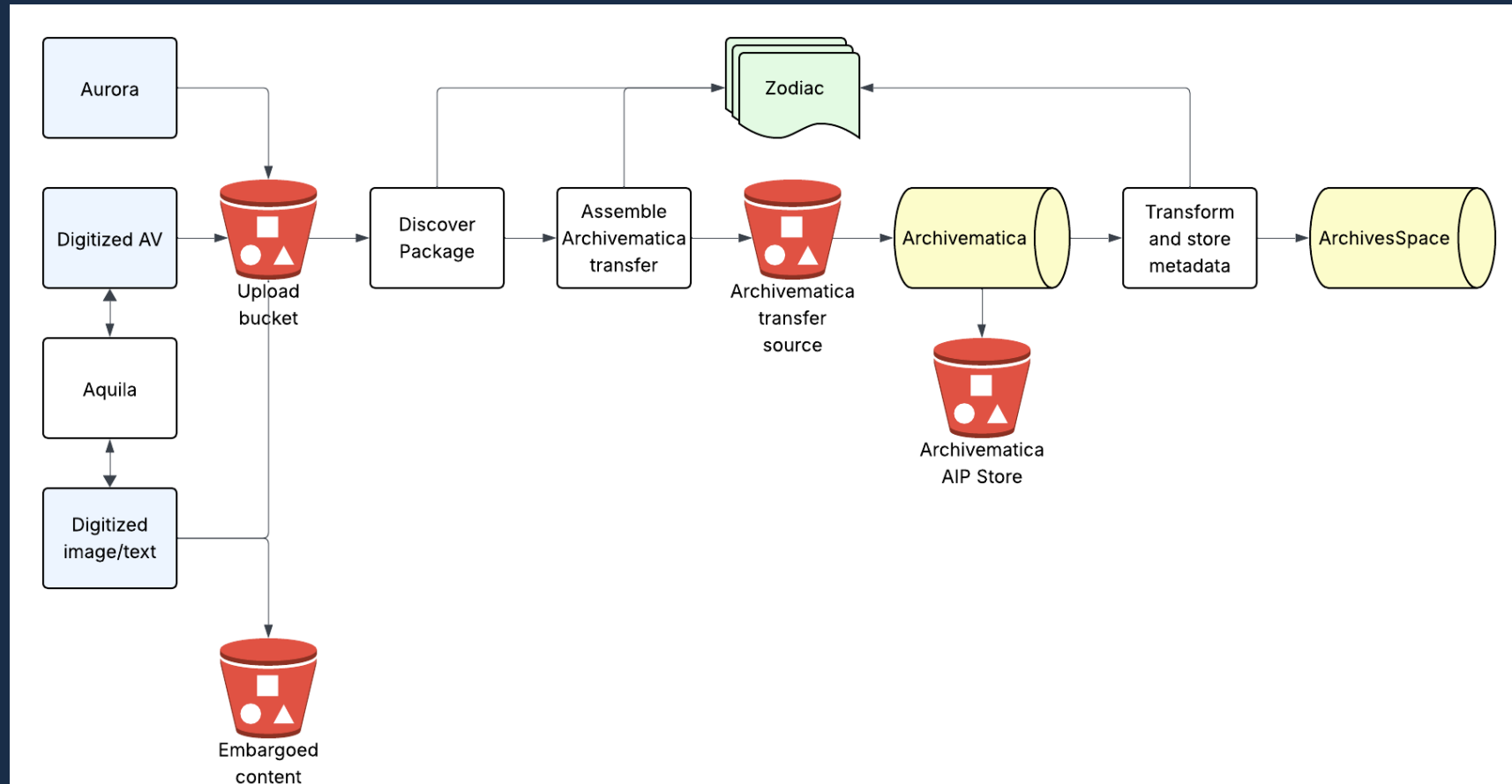
## Digital Infrastructure and Preservation:

- IT infrastructure moved to cloud environments
- Rearchitecting data pipelines for serverless services
- Filled in a staff role focused on digital preservation



Source: "Computer-Assisted Instruction." 1968.  
Ford Foundation records. Rockefeller Archive Center.

# Current Pipeline Architecture



# Future

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## Access:

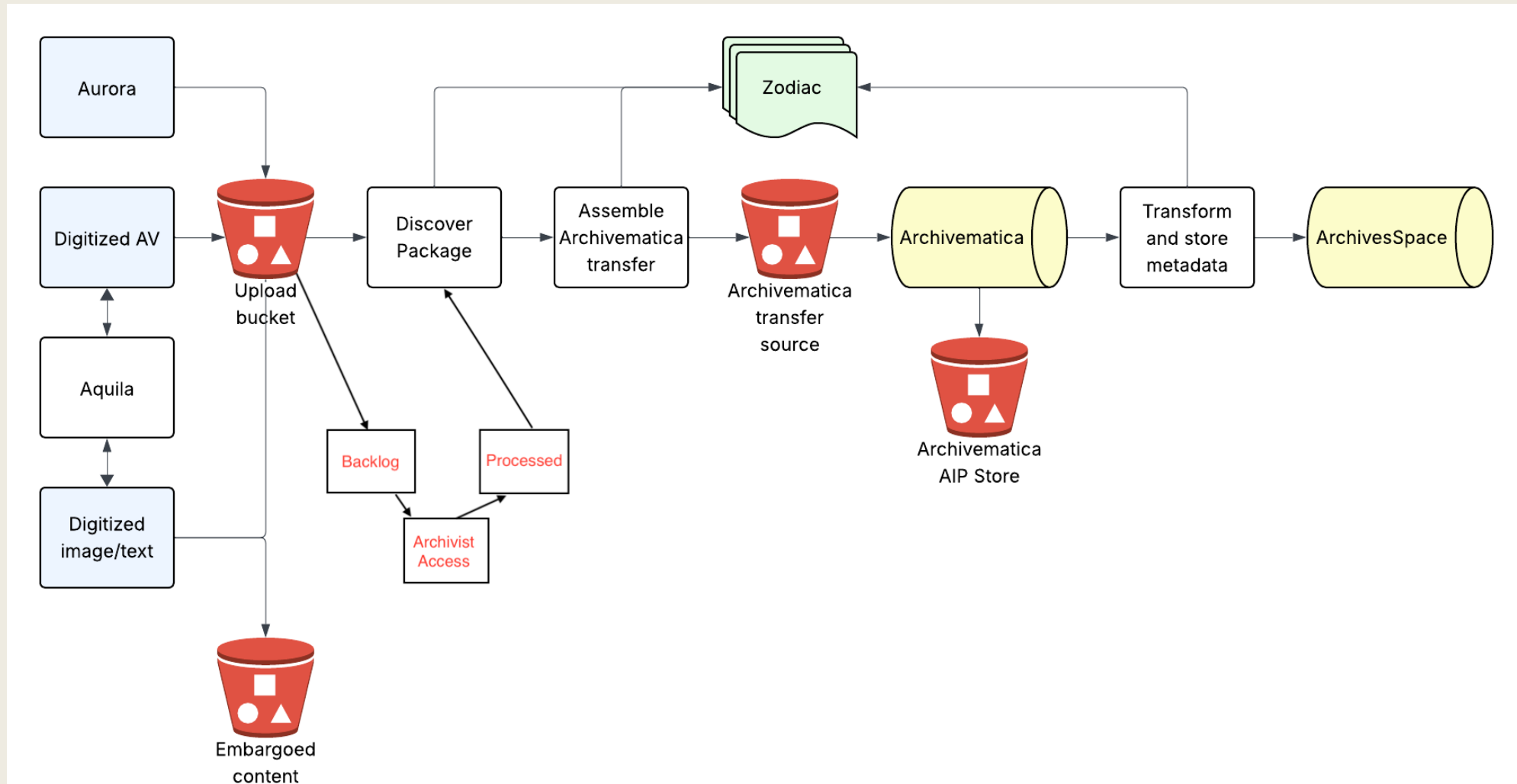
- We know what want to do, but how do we do it?
- How (and when) should processing archivists interact with collection material?
- Access is not a single concept (access for processors v. access for users)

## Digital Ingest Pipeline:

- Rethinking backlog storage of born-digital materials: should they be in preservation storage?
- In the process of migrating AWS storage services to entirely S3
- Envision diverting current pipeline to allow archivists to perform processing tasks



# A Vision for the Future?



# Call for Assistance

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Our biggest question:

Where do archivists intervene to perform processing tasks?

Help us!

- Is anyone else using a workflow to automate and standardize online transfers of born-digital collections?
- What systems are you using to facilitate access for processing archivists?



# Resources

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- Bits & Bytes Blog — [Updating Digital Ingest Services](#)
- [Project Electron Github](#)
- Bits & Bytes Blog — [DPC Collaborative Learning](#)
- Bits & Bytes Blog — [DPC 2025: Wait, But How?](#)
- [RAC Processing Manual](#)



Thank you

[rockarch.org](http://rockarch.org)

Source: "Program Related Investments: A Different Approach to Philanthropy" booklet photographs, 1974. Ford Foundation records, Rockefeller Archive Center.