



Encoded Archival Description

Presentation for the PNC

22 September 2002

Kris Kiesling



Presentation Outline

- What EAD is and is not
- Development and use
- Structure
- Comparison with ISAD(G)
- Where to find more information



EAD is...

- an XML encoding standard for archival finding aids (metadata for archival materials)
- maintained jointly by
 - Society of American Archivists EAD Working Group
 - U.S. Library of Congress
- multilevel description, compliant with ISAD(G)



EAD is not...

- a data content standard
- a data value standard
- an archival management system



Development of EAD

- Berkeley Finding Aid Project, 1993-1995
- Bentley Project, 1995
- Release of Version 1.0, 1998
- Release of EAD 2002 this month



Who is using EAD?

- National archives and libraries
 - Archives de France
 - Netherlands National Archives
 - Public Record Office
 - Library of Congress
 - National Library of Australia
 - National Archives of Sweden
 - Bundesarchiv
 - Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais

- 
-
- Religious archives
 - Historical societies
 - University archives and special collections
 - Public libraries



- Consortial projects

- Online Archive of California (OAC)

- Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO)

- Northwest Digital Archive (NWDA)

- Access to Archives (A2A)

- Archives Hub

- Research Libraries Group (RLG)--Archival
Resources



EAD enables

- Use of finding aid content as data
- Standardized data exchange
- Data longevity and migration
- Structured display, navigation, and searching



Key Concept

- EAD markup focuses on the intellectual content of finding aids— not on how the information is presented on a computer screen or a printed page



Encoding Standards

- EAD is very flexible, therefore
 - the use of content standards is important for user comprehension
 - the use of common markup standards is important for data exchange

<ead>

<eadheader> describes the electronic finding aid

<frontmatter> for formal publication elements

<archdesc> the description of the archival unit
(the finding aid itself)

</ead>

<archdesc>

<did>

descriptive identification of unit

<bioghist>

biography/organizational history

<scopecontent>

scope and contents

<arrangement>

physical/logical ordering

<accessrestrict>

restrictions on access

<custodhist>

custodial history

<controlaccess>

controlled access points

<relatedmaterial>

related materials

<dsc>

description of subordinate
components

<did>	descriptive identification of the unit
<repository>	name of the institution
<origination>	creator of the materials
<unittitle>	title of the materials
<unitdate>	date(s) of the materials
<physdesc>	physical description
<unitid>	unique identifier
<abstract>	abstract
<langmaterial>	language of the materials
<physloc>	physical location
<container>	container
<materialspec>	material specific details

<dsc> description of subordinate components

<c01> component (first level)

<did>

<bioghist>

<scopecontent>

<arrangement> etc.

<c02> component (second level)

<did>

<bioghist>

<scopecontent>

<arrangement> etc.



Identity Statement Area

ISAD(G) element

- 3.1.1 Reference codes
- 3.1.2 Title
- 3.1.3 Date(s)
- 3.1.4 Level of description
- 3.1.5 Extent and medium

EAD element

- <eadid>
- <unittitle>
- <unitdate>
- level attribute
- <physdesc>



Context Area

ISAD(G) element

3.2.1 Name of creator(s)

3.2.2 Administrative/
biographical history

3.2.3 Archival history

3.2.4 Immediate source of
acquisition or transfer

EAD element

<origination>

<bioghist>

<custodhist>

<acqinfo>



Content and Structure Area

ISAD(G) element

3.3.1 Scope and content

3.3.2 Appraisal, destruction
and scheduling information

3.3.3 Accruals

3.3.4 System of arrangement

EAD element

<scopecontent>

<appraisal>

<accruals>

<arrangement>



Conditions of Access and Use Area

ISAD(G) element

3.4.1 Conditions governing
access

3.4.2 Conditions governing
reproduction

3.4.3 Language/scripts of material

3.4.4 Physical characteristics
and technical requirements

3.4.5 Finding aids

EAD element

<accessrestrict>

<userrestrict>

<langmaterial>

<phystech>

<otherfindaid>



Allied Materials Area

ISAD(G) element

3.5.1 Existence and location of originals

3.5.2 Existence and location of copies

3.5.3 Related units of description

3.5.4 Publication note

EAD element

<originalsloc>

<altformavail>

<separatedmaterial>

<relatedmaterial>

<bibliography>



Notes and Description Control Areas

ISAD(G) element

3.6.1 Note

3.7.1 Archivist's note

3.7.2 Rules or conventions

3.7.3 Date(s) of descriptions

EAD element

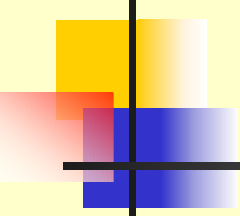
<note>

<processinfo>

<descrules>

<processinfo>

<date>

- 
-
- EAD is an international standard, adaptable to a variety of descriptive practices
 - Documentation has been translated into Spanish, French, and Dutch, and soon... Chinese?



Participate in EAD

- Subscribe to the EAD listserv
ead@loc.gov (listserv address)

To subscribe, send a message to:
listserv@loc.gov

In the body of the message:
sub ead <your name>



EAD Publications

Available from the Society of American Archivists at:

<http://www.archivists.org/catalog/index.asp>

- EAD 2002 Tag Library
- EAD Version 1.0 Application Guidelines
- Encoded Archival Description: Context, Theory, and Case Studies



For more information

- Official EAD web site
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/ead/>
- EAD Help Pages (maintained by the SAA EAD Roundtable)
<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/ead/>
- Contact me:
kiesling@mail.utexas.edu