Encoded Archival Description

Presentation for the PNC
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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 </did>
  <bioghist> biography/organizational history </bioghist>
  <scopecontent> scope and contents </scopecontent>
  <arrangement> physical/logical ordering </arrangement>
  <accessrestrict> restrictions on access </accessrestrict>
  <custodhist> custodial history </custodhist>
  <controlaccess> controlled access points </controlaccess>
  <relatedmaterial> related materials </relatedmaterial>
  <dsc> description of subordinate components </dsc>
</archdesc>
<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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISAD(G) element</th>
<th>EAD element</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1 Conditions governing access</td>
<td>&lt;accessrestrict&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2 Conditions governing reproduction</td>
<td>&lt;userrestrict&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.3 Language/scripts of material</td>
<td>&lt;langmaterial&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.4 Physical characteristics and technical requirements</td>
<td>&lt;phystech&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.5 Finding aids</td>
<td>&lt;otherfindaid&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAD(G) element</td>
<td>EAD element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1 Existence and location of</td>
<td>&lt;originalsloc&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>originals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.2 Existence and location of</td>
<td>&lt;altformavail&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.3 Related units of description</td>
<td>&lt;separatedmaterial&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.4 Publication note</td>
<td>&lt;relatedmaterial&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;bibliography&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAD(G) element</td>
<td>EAD element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.1 Note</td>
<td>&lt;note&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7.1 Archivist’s note</td>
<td>&lt;processinfo&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7.2 Rules or conventions</td>
<td>&lt;descrules&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3.7.3 Date(s) of descriptions |  <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)

- Contact me:
  kiesling@mail.utexas.edu