Encoded Archival Description

Where it came from, what it is now, and where it is going
What is EAD?

http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/ead/aboutEAD.html
<ead>
</ead>
<c01 level="series">
  <did>
    <unititle>Example Series 1</unititle>
    <unitdate>1922-1935</unitdate>
    <physdesc>12 cubic ft. (Archival Cartons)</physdesc>
  </did>
  <c02 level="subseries">
    <did>
      <unititle>Business Correspondence</unititle>
      <unitdate>1923-1930</unitdate>
      <physdesc>3 Cubic Feet (Archival Cartons)</physdesc>
    </did>
    <c03 level="file">
      <did>
        <container type="box-folder">33/4</container>
        <unititle>Correspondence with ACME corporation</unititle>
        <unitdate>1925-1933</unitdate>
        <physdesc>1 file folder</physdesc>
      </did>
    </c03>
    <c03 level="file">
      <did>
        <container type="box-folder">33/5-6</container>
        <unititle>Correspondence with Winkin, Blinken, & Nod [law firm]</unititle>
        <unitdate>1923-1935</unitdate>
        <physdesc>2 file folders</physdesc>
      </did>
    </c03>
  </c02>
</c01>
Where EAD came from

http://www.loc.gov/ead/eaddev.html
http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/metadata/standards/ead.html
Current State of EAD

http://www.loc.gov/ead/
http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/ead/

• Widely implemented nationally and internationally.
• Actively maintained and monitored.
  – Transitioning from DTD to schema.
  – Preparing for SAA cyclic review.
• Fits in with many new developments in cataloging and archives.
Tools for EAD

The ones to be aware of:

ArchivesSpace (http://www.archivespace.org/)
  Archives space will seek to integrate the work of two projects
  – Archon (http://www.archon.org/)
  – Archivist’s Toolkit (http://www.archiviststoolkit.org/)
ICA Atom (http://ica-atom.org/)
  Looking to internationals standards and put forth by the ICA, this is a tool to watch

An interesting assessment of tools, done by Lisa Spiro for CLIR, can be found at:
Archival Software Wiki (http://archivalsoftware.pbworks.com/)

Further information on tools to use can be found at:
EAD Help Pages (http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/ead/)
Integrating EAD with common metadata standards

Data Structure Standards
- MARC (http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/)
  - Example: 856 Links to finding-aids (http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/8xx/856.shtm)
- DCMI (Dublin Core) (http://dublincore.org/)

Data Content Standards
- DACS (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Describing_Archives:_A_Content_Standard)
- ISAD-G (http://www.ica.org/en/node/30000)
- AACR2 (http://www.aacr2.org/)
- DCRM (http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/dcrm/dcrmmss/dcrmmss.html)
- AMREMM (http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/amremm.shtml)
Integrating EAD with emergent standards

EAC-CPF (http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/)

• Content Standards for EAC
  – ICA-ISDF and ICA-ISIAH (www.archivists.org/saagroups/descr/ICACBPS.rtf)

• Tools for EAC
  – SNAC http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/

RDA?! (http://www.rdataoolkit.org/)
Future of EAD

As a standard developed for describing analog, mostly paper based archives it is very effective.

Tools will continue to develop that make it easier and easier to implement.

A question looms: How will the insights into the structure of records inherent in EAD play out in the long run?
Conclusions

As a practical matter, EAD must be the choice.

– It is widely implemented
– It is community owned and maintained
– Material appropriate
– Can be quite inexpensive to implement

Implementors will have to monitor developments

– Revisions in DTD
– Changes in software tools
– Developments in related standards
Q &A

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