

# 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>
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  relatedencoding="MARC21" dateencoding="iso8601">
    <eadid countrycode="us" mainagencycode="XXX" publicid="
    -//us::MUM//TEXT us::MUM::XXX00000.xml//EN" url="http://
    www.xyz.edu/archives/" encodinganalog="856$u">MUM00329.xml
    </eadid>
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      <titlestmt> <titleproper>Finding-Aid for the John Doe Collection(XXX00000) </titleproper><titlestmt>
      <publicationstmt>
        <date normal="20050000">2005</date>
        <publisher id="XXX">University of XYZ</publisher>
        <address>
          <addressline id="place">University of XYZ, Department of Archives and Special Collections</addressline>
          <addressline id="streetcity">P.O. Box 000, Somewhere, Somestate, 00000, USA</addressline>
        </address>
      </publicationstmt>
    </filedesc>
  </eadheader>
  ><archdesc level="collection">
    <did>
      <head>Descriptive Summary</head>
      <langmaterial>Languages: <language encodinganalog="546" langcode="eng">English</language></langmaterial>
      <unitid>XXX00000</unitid><unittitle>Example Collections</unittitle>
      <physloc>L-6</physloc>
      <repository label="Repository"><corpname>The University of XYZ</corpname>
    </did>
    <bioghist encodinganalog="545$a">
      <p>Personal and/or corporate history .....</p> </bioghist>
      <scopecontent encodinganalog="520$a"> <head>Scope and Contents Note</head> <p> Scope info...</p> </scopecontent>
    >
    <dsc type="combined">
      <head>Box and Folder Listing</head>
      <c01 level="series"> [see detail next slide] </c01>
    </dsc>
  </archdesc>
</ead>

```

```
<c01 level="series">
  <did>
    <unittitle>Example Series 1</unittitle>
    <unitdate>1922-1935</unitdate>
    <physdesc>12 cubic ft. (Archival Cartons)</physdesc>
  <did>
    <c02 level="subseries">
      <did>
        <unittitle>Business Correspondence</unittitle>
        <unitdate>1923-1930</unitdate>
        <physdesc>3 Cubic Feet (Archival Cartons)</physdesc>
      </did>
      <c03 level="file">
        <did>
          <container type="box-folder"> 33/4 </container>
          <unittitle>Correspondence with ACME corporation</unittitle>
          <unitdate>1925-1933</unitdate>
          <physdesc>1 file folder</physdesc>
        </did>
      </c03>
      <c03 level="file">
        <did>
          <container type="box-folder"> 33/5-6 </container>
          <unittitle>Correspondence with Winkin, Blinken, & Nod [law firm]</unittitle>
          <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.archivesspace.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 international standards and put forth by the ICA, this is a tool to watch

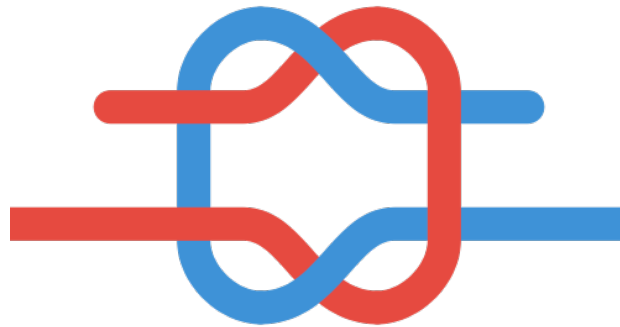
An interesting assessment of tools, done by Lisa Spiro for CLIR, can be found at:

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

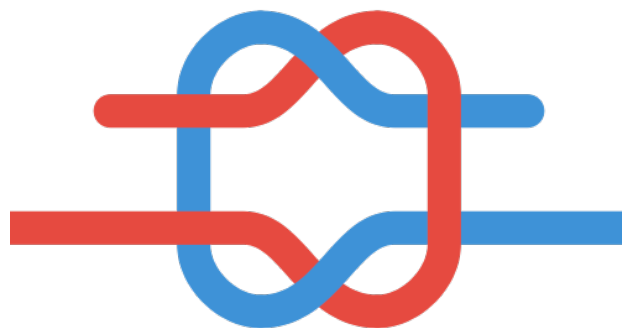
- MARC (<http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/>)
  - Example: 856 Links to finding-aids (<http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/8xx/856.shtm>)
  - Example: 773 Analytic (<http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/7xx/773.shtm>)
- DCMI (Dublin Core) (<http://dublincore.org/>)
  - Example: relation tag (<http://dublincore.org/documents/usageguide/elements.shtml>)

## Data Content Standards

- DACS ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Describing\\_Archives:\\_A\\_Content\\_Standard](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](http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/dcrm/dcrmmss/dcrmmss.html))
- AMREMM ([http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic\\_standards/amremm.shtml](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-ISAAR-CPF (<http://www.ica.org/en/node/30230>)
  - ICA-ISDF and ICA-ISIAH ([www.archivists.org/saagroups/descr/ICACBPS.rtf](http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/descr/ICACBPS.rtf))
- Tools for EAC
  - SNAC <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/>

RDA?! (<http://www.rdatoolkit.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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