Encoded Archival Description Roundtable Demonstrations

ARCHIVES*RECORDS / DC 2010: Joint Annual Meeting of CoSA, NAGARA, and SAA

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

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Abstracts and contact information for each presentation appear on the following pages.
1. Finding Aid Filtering

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http://webdev.lib.ncsu.edu/jnronall/ead_filter/mc00102.html

2. Joyner Library Collection Guides

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3. New Discovery Application for LC Finding Aids

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The Library of Congress is beta testing a new discovery application for its EAD finding aids. Built using EADs wrapped in METS, the new application stores, indexes, and displays finding aids from a native XML data store platform (currently eXist). LC now makes more than 1035 of its approximately 2500 finding aids available online, giving both remote and onsite researchers access to more than 31 million archival items.

Through a Java and XSL workflow, EADs are transformed to the EAD XML schema and merged with descriptive MARCXML metadata derived from EAD elements and the associated LC collection-level bibliographic and holdings records. Unique structMap identifiers are assigned to several levels of finding aid series and subseries, facilitating the logical subdivision of these often large XML documents for retrieval and display. The new application replaces two separate InQuery-based search systems, which have been pushed to the breaking point by the growing number and size of LC's finding aids.

Finding aid displays have been completely redesigned to offer users a clearer, simpler presentation of important collection information. Both keyword and browse searches are now constructed using XQuery. Keyword searching has been expanded to support queries across all finding aids as well as within a single finding aid, with results showing keywords "in context." Browse lists provide cross-finding aid access to names, titles, subjects, dates, and LC repositories. On individual finding aid pages, an Index Terms tab links these controlled terms to parallel entries in "All Finding Aids" as well as to headings in the LC Online Catalog. Close integration between finding aids and the LC Online Catalog is maintained by updating EAD controlaccess elements each week from collection-level record catalog exports.

Based on metadata extracted from the collection's bibliographic and holdings records, finding aid displays now alert users to access restrictions and onsite storage conditions.
JQuery Treeview is used to present Container List menus, with displays supplemented by a page-level navigation through the Container List that preserves "you are here" anchors. When available, folder lists link researchers to digitized LC archival content. PDF versions of LC finding aids generated using XSL FO also continue to be harvested by Google and Yahoo, connecting remote users back to the Library's finding aid search system through handle identifiers and LCCN Permalinks.

4. EADitor: XForms for EAD

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EADitor is an XForms-based application for creating, editing, and publishing finding aid collections. Many institutions have faced challenges in the efficient creation of electronic finding aids since the introduction of EAD in 1998. For finding aids to be useful to patrons of archives, robust metadata is required to adequately describe the archival collection. EAD is a complex descriptive schema, and not all archivists or subject specialists can (or should) be required to be competent in XML encoding. The use of XForms, a W3C standard, to create true XML through a next-generation web form removes barriers for subject specialists to create EAD guides and reduces the potential for human errors in semantic usage or invalid XML.

5. Ead McTaggart

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A Microsoft Access (VBA) based tool to convert Microsoft Excel container lists to properly tagged EAD container lists.

6. APEnet – Interoperability Issues in an Archival Portal Project

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7. AXAEM

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Our APPX-based Archives Enterprise Manager (AXAEM) system has been developed in-house over the last couple of decades using a commercial application development tool. It manages all of our records management and archival workflow in identifying records and their creators, offers public interaction through our website, facilitates the ingest of metadata for electronic records and associated preservation tasks, plus produces output such as retention schedules, MARC, EAD, and now EAC. We have made our code open-source and it is available to other institutions through our vendor.

8. Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Project

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