

Encoded Archival Context Working Group
Annual Report
August 2010
Katherine M. Wisser, Chair

EAC Working Group membership

- Anila Angjeli, Bibliothèque nationale de France (National Library of France)
- Lina (Vasiliki) Bountouri, Ionian University
- Karin Bredenberg, Riksarkivet (National Archives of Sweden)
- Basil Dewhurst, National Library of Australia
- Wendy Duff, University of Toronto, Faculty of Information
- Hans-Jörg Lieder, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library)
- Dennis Meissner, Minnesota Historical Society
- Victoria Peters, University of Strathclyde
- Daniel Pitti, University of Virginia, Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities
- Chris Prom, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Jennifer Schaffner, RLG Programs (OCLC Programs and Research)
- Bill Stocking, British Library
- Stefano Vitali, Soprintendenza archivistica per l'Emilia-Romagna (Bologna)
- Kathy Wisser, Chair, Simmons College, Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Accomplishments:

- EAC Working Group released the penultimate draft of the schema and tag library of EAC-CPF following the SAA annual meeting in August 2009 for a review period
- With support from OCLC Research, hosted two webinars during the review period and solicited feedback from a number of American and international email lists.
- EAC-CPF 2010 was released on March 5, 2010. Website: <http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/>
- Submitted for consideration to the Standards Committee, July 2010

At the 2009 annual meeting a session on the emerging standard was presented, "The Whole World is Watching: Contextual Information in Descriptive Systems in EAC-CPF." This included presentations by Katherine M. Wisser (Simmons College), Christopher Prom (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Basil Dewhurst (National Library of Australia) with Daniel Pitti (Institute for the Advancement of Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia) as moderator. Prom and Dewhurst could not attend the meeting so their presentations were read by Dennis Meissner (Minnesota Historical Society) and Kathy Wisser respectively. The announcement that the penultimate draft was to be released for a comment period until October 31st, 2009 was made at the SAA in several venues, including the Description Section, the EAD Roundtable, and the EAC-CPF session, and the schema and tag library were released for review on August 21st, 2010.

OCLC Research hosted two webinars to encourage the review process of the standard. Due to scheduling issues, the second webinar could not be held until early November so the review period was extended until November 15th. The format of the webinars included a 15-minute overview of the standard for participants done by Kathy Wisser and 45 minutes of discussion and questions by participants. The first webinar, held on October 8th, included Jennifer Schaffner (OCLC Research), Pitti and Wisser. The second webinar, held on November 3rd and targeted for the Pacific Rim and Australia,

included Schaffner, Wisser and Dewhurst. The webinars were very successful, with approximately 150 registrants (multiple participants could be at one registration site). Discussion focused on the technical issues of the standard, relationships with other standards and projects, and implementation strategies within the United States archival community.

The EAC-CPF standard was released on March 5th, 2010. Numerous international email lists were used to disseminate information about the standard throughout its development and its subsequent release. In July 2010, the EAC Working Group submitted to the Standards Committee a proposal for official endorsement by the Society of American Archivists. If EAC-CPF is approved by the Standards Committee and adopted by SAA Council, the Standards Committee will form a Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Context – Corporate bodies, Persons, and Families (TS-EAC) and maintenance and review will follow the pattern established for Encoded Archival Description.

EAC-CPF XML schema and tag library are published on the EAC website at hosted by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (<http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/>).

The EAC Working Group will be holding an open meeting at DC 2010 on Sunday, August 15, 2010, 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm.

Katherine M. Wisser
Chair, EAC Working Group