Exploring Pathways to RiC Implementation

2022 SAA RESEARCH FORUM
Who are we?

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Background

- Our group met and began working together during the IMLS funded Lighting the Way Working Meeting
- We were grouped together because we all expressed an interest in linked data
- We wrote “The Power of Parallel Description: Wikidata and Archival Discovery”
- During this process we solidified our view that linked data must be done in a pragmatic way
- We found the Lighting the Way format helpful for collaborative research and continue to meet to discuss ways to incorporate linked data in an archives setting
Records in Context (RiC)

Conceptual model and associated ontology that harmonizes the four ICA description standards:

- ISAD(G)
- ISAAR(CPF)
- ISDF
- ISDIAH

106 classes; 238 core object properties


Ontology: https://github.com/ICA-EGAD/RiC-O
Transition to RiC

Changes in standards require careful planning and resourcing:

● To assess the feasibility of transitioning
● To account for impacts on current and future labor
● To reconfigure systems
● To build knowledge and support for the new standard

The bottom line: What does RiC offer? How do we get there? What is the cost/benefit?
Convert sample EAD files to RiC-O

- EAD exported from ArchivesSpace: Penn State, Princeton, New York University
- AToM EAD export: University of Toronto
- EAD files: Emory

ArchivesNationalesFR/rico-converter

A tool to convert EAC-CPF and EAD 2002 XML files to RDF datasets conforming to Records in Contexts Ontology (RiC-O)

https://github.com/ArchivesNationalesFR/rico-converter
Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library

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This artificial collection of items from or associated with the Abbey Theatre was begun in 1986 with a group of twenty-two play parts purchased by the

Organized into three series: (1) Plays, (2) Programs, and (3) Other materials.

William Butler Yeats collection, Gregory family papers, Cuala Press collection, and in the rare book collection.
Histories are framed as literals rather than structured series of events.

Histories can be found within events.
Preliminary observations

- Scripts are not a magic solution!
- Much of our archival description does not translate to meaningful RDF without significant intervention.
  - EAD is heavily text-based (i.e. scope notes, historical notes, folder titles, etc.)
  - Lack of entities/URIs/identifiers in source data results in stringed RDF.
  - See also *Archives and Special Collections Linked Data: Navigating between Notes and Nodes*
- We all use standards differently, even within systems such as ASpace.
Future work and research

- Development of use cases for RDF-based data in archives
- Gaining a deeper understanding of where current data could be enhanced to take advantage of graph-based data structures.
- Determining which conversions are scriptable...and which aren't
- Mappings to/from RiC-O to existing archival systems
Thank you!


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