Annual Report: Standards Committee and Technical Subcommittees
(Prepared by: Kira Dietz)

Membership
Kira Dietz (2017-2023, Co-chair, 2021-2022)
Wendy Pflug (2019-2022)
Emily Toder (2019-2022)
Faith Charlton (2020-2023)
Rory Grennan (2020-2023)
Gina Strack (2020-2023)
Jodi Allison-Bunnell (2021-2024)
Lara Michels (2021-2024)
Alexander Waterman, Early Career Member (2021-2022)
Meg Tuomala, Council Liaison (2019-2022)

Ex Officio:
Lindsay Wittwer (Immediate past Co-Chair)
Matthew Gorham (TS-DACS Co-Chair)
Greg Wiederman (TS-DACS Co-Chair)
Karin Bredenberg (TS-EAS Co-Chair)
Mark Custer (TS-EAS Co-Chair)
Dara Baker (TS-GRD Chair)
Susanne Annand (TS-AFG Co-Chair)
David Owens (TS-AFG Co-Chair)
Bethany Anderson (Rep to ICA-EGAD)
Sharry Watson (Rep from CCA CCAD)

Incoming Members:
Heather Lember (2022-2025)
Susan Luftschein (2022-2025)
Wendy Pflug (2022-2025)
COMPLETED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Governance

The Standards Committee met monthly throughout the year and held a meeting in advance of the Annual Meeting via Zoom (July 2022).

Technical Subcommittees and Task Forces

**TS-GRD**, with support and discussion with Standards and our Council liaison, following up on last year’s concerns, submitted a request for an extension and new members to SAA Council in July 2022. We will work together on recommended new members and hopefully resuming the TS’s work when this is approved, beginning in fall 2022.

**TS-DACS** completed several activities, including updates and advancement on existing projects. This includes a planned update to a tutorial video to incorporate the revised Statement of Principles into the online DACS primer videos; three major and two minor change requests completed in GitHub; and efforts to prioritize action items related to the Principles Project.

**TS-EAS** has had a busy year, with the release of EAC-CPF 2.0 this year! The sub-team on this work also developed multiple best practices guides. Major revision work for EAD has been approved and begun, and several minor changes were also approved by Standards. The Function team as begun work on a possible schema for functions. The webinars on the new version of EAD were also hosted, recorded, and are now available online.

**TS-AFG** has had new leadership step up. The Standards Committee co-chair and liaison have continued to get updates, but we are aware that the TS has had issues meeting and has had to deal with some non-committee related issues. We know that they are making progress on sections of the AFG and that several sections are close to completion. We will continue to work with them in the coming year.

Liaisons

The committee continues to use liaisons to SAA component groups for such purposes as calls for comments on draft standards, staying connected to groups that maintain standards, and bringing questions to co-chairs' attention.

Endorsements and Comments
Standards Committee did encourage individual members to provide feedback on RiC-CM over the past year, and we have followed the feedback supplied by TS-DACS. TS-DACS hopes to receive updates on their feedback, and we will work with them to encourage communication.

We received a request to approve an external standard this year, as well (see “A4BLiP Recommendation” in the next section).

Standards development and revision

*Describing Archives: A Content Standard (New required elements)*
- Minor changes approved by Standards Committee (see Appendix A)
- Major change submitted to SAA Council in May 2022: Dates of Existence (11.1)
  - Approved in May 2022 and promoted through various channels

*Museum Archives Guidelines (Revision)*
- Revised guidelines submitted in February 2022 and approved by SAA Council
- Guidelines have been updated on the Standards Portal

*EAC-CPF (Revision)*
- EAC-CPF revision submitted to Standards in April 2022
- Revision submitted to Council in April 2022
- Approved by SAA Council in May 2022
- EAC-CPF 2.0 released and promoted through various channels

*EAD (Revision)*
- EAD team held several virtual events to launch the approved revision process

*College and University Guidelines (Revision)*
- Revision is in progress
- We hope to see a revision in the upcoming year

*TS-GRD (Revision)*
- TS-GRD has submitted a request for an extension and additional membership
- Pending approval from SAA Council

*TS-AFG (Revision)*
- Work is on-going

*Guidelines for Accessible Archives for People with Disabilities (Revision)*
- Custodianship of this standard was moved to the Accessibility and Disability Section
- Standards has assigned a liaison
- Revision is in progress

*Best Practices in Accessioning (Proposed Standard)*
• Standards has assigned a liaison
• Revision is in progress

**Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies (Revision)**
• GPAS revision was started in 2020 through an SAA Experts Group track
• This past year, it was submitted to Standards Committee for review
• Standards has provided some feedback and is working with the subcommittee managing the revision
• We hope to submit a recommendation in the fall of 2022

**Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia Anti-Racist Description Resources (A4BLiP) (Request for approval)**
• Request submitted to Standards Committee in May 2022 for approval as an external standard
• Submitted to SAA Council in July 2022
• Awaiting Council decision

**ONGOING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Continuous revision procedures**
• Since we implemented the new process for minor changes, both TS-DACS and TS-EAS submitted minor changes this year, allowing us to test out our workflow. Multiple minor changes were approved by the Standards Committee and are detailed in Appendix A of our report.

**Procedures for Review and Approval of as SAA-Developed Standard Revision/De-Mystifying the Revision Process**
• Since this has been a particularly busy year for standards creation and revision, with many things in different stages, committee conversations have produced questions about the procedures document. Currently, Standards is working on a draft revision of the procedures that we hope will accomplish several things:
  o Provide additional guidance on what the committee would like to see both on proposals for creation/revision and in submission packets (particularly in summaries)
  o Provide additional guidance on gathering feedback, which we know has been a concern from Standards and Council in the past
  o Encourage collaboration/feedback gathering from other SAA committees (in particular, the Diversity Committee) and other relevant sections during a review process
  o Provide a worksheet/cheat sheet for the process (not to replace the procedures, but to offer a list of “to-dos” and “things to think about”)
• We were excited to focus much of our 2022 annual meeting on the standards creation/revision process and hosted a series of lightning talks about this. We hope this will be some of the groundwork

**Standards Portal/Managing Maintenance**
• We are still working on plans for standardizing the way items are displayed on the portal pages, as well as a sustainability plan for the portal. There are some challenges around providing information to the committee each year about what standards may be due for revision and what the notification process should be.

INITIATIVES ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2020–2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth
The Standards Committee hosted its first early-career member in 2021-2022 (2.1) to provide experience in SAA.

Improving the continuous revision cycle by allowing Standards Committee control over approving minor changes means we are facilitating more up-to-date, accurate information to archivists doing the work and using the standards (2.2). For the first time this year, Standards Committee approved minor changes to TS-DACS and TS-EAS (see Appendix B for this list).

Goal 3: Advancing the Field
We recommended approval of two revisions and are shepherding four revisions/one standard creation through the process, and we are in conversation with the Diversity Committee to improve the process of revision/creation to reflect DEIA efforts within standards, where appropriate (3.1 + 3.3). This work also builds on recommendations from the diversity strategic plan.

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs
Planning for improved management and sustainability of existing standards and the Standards Portal reflects our committee’s commitment to facilitating communication among members of new and revised standards (4.1).

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR COUNCIL ATTENTION

Given some of the delays with TS-AFG, Standards Committee will work with them in the fall to see if they will be able to finish or whether they will need to request an additional extension of terms.

Standards Committee has received additional inquiries into the 2020 dissolution of representation on CC:DA and MAC. Our documentation suggested there was a recommendation that these seats not be filled, but we aren’t clear on what grounds. Given that we have had questions again, we would like to work with Council on identifying and appointing new representation.

Standards Committee, in collaboration with the Diversity Committee, have opened a conversation about the role of the Diversity Committee in the creation and revision process of new and existing standards. In addition, given the large number of standards we have seen in the last year, our committee is working on recommendations for updates/revision to the Procedures for Review and Approval of an SAA-Developed Standard.
Appendix A: TS-DACS and TS-EAS Minor Changes Summary

BACKGROUND

Following SAA Council’s approval of the revisions to the Procedures for Review and Approval of an SAA-Developed Standard regarding minor revisions for standards on a continuous revision cycle, Standards Committee has begun receiving minor revision for approval. As part of the revised procedures, we are expected to keep Council informed of minor changes that the committee approves.

Folder to minor revisions noted in this report

DISCUSSION

In order to keep track of minor changes and their approval, and to provide information to Council, the Standards Committee has developed a spreadsheet (for internal purposes) and is testing a workflow for this process. We expect to submit a report of minor changes 3-4 times a year, depending on the volume of changes received. Links below include copies of documentation submitted to Standards Committee.

Recent approved minor changes include:

- **TS-DACS PR2**: Modifications to Appendix C: DACS-EAD-MARC crosswalk
- **TS-DACS PR23**: Modifications to Appendix C: Crosswalk for RDA

Please note: If Council would prefer that Standards Committee keep them informed in a different way, we are happy to oblige. We expect to see minor changes on a fairly regular basis now that we are getting the process off the ground and we are continuing to refine how we will manage these activities.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

No action item required.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** In general, minor changes to do not have significant impact on strategic priorities. However, they do reflect a desire to support Goal #3 by providing faster updates to existing technical subcommittee-managed standards.

**Fiscal Impact:** No known fiscal impact
Appendix B: Annual Report: Technical Subcommittee on Guidelines for Reappraisal and Deaccessioning (TS-GRD)  
August 2022

Membership
Dara Baker, TS-GRD chair
Dainan Skeem
Danielle Emerling
Elizabeth Russell

Activities/Summary

Note: Due to the annual report deadline, this summary was compiled by the Standards Committee from recent updates and the report provided at the Standards Committee Annual Meeting in July.

TS-GRD is nearing the end of its originally chartered terms. Over the course of this year, the TS has expressed interest in adding new members (including those with particular expertise), extending some terms, and getting an overall extension. The TS has been working some restructuring and amending of goals and outcomes. A request was formally submitted to SAA Council for the August meeting and the TS and Standards are happy to move forward when we have news.
Appendix C: Technical Subcommittee on Describing Archives: A Content Standard (TS-DACS) Annual Report

Introduction

TS-DACS has had a productive year in 2021-2022. We made progress in a number of areas, including companion standards, education, maintenance, user community outreach, and evolving DACS toward the future.

Membership for the 2021-2022 term

Matthew Gorham (co-chair)
Greg Wiedeman (co-chair)
Kelli Bogan
Maristella Feustle
Regine Heberlein
Donnelly Lancaster Walton
Erin McBrien (Early Career Member)
Katy Rawdon
Suzanne Reller
Rebecca Wiederhold
Sue Luftschein (immediate past co-chair ex officio)

Companion Standards: RiC-CM feedback

This year TS-DACS provided feedback to the ICA Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD) on version 0.2 of the Records in Context Conceptual Model (RiC-CM). Our feedback was not positive, and we hope that EGAD changes course and engages more meaningfully with stakeholders about the impacts and effects of RiC if they expect their work to be widely implemented. We noted that the path RiC is pursuing does not seem to be aligned with the ArchivesSpace and AtoM communities which actively work with archival description as data in practice, and suggests that EGAD focus on engagement with these groups. Additionally, we had more specific concerns about the decisions the Content Model currently makes, such as a major shift from common Units of Description to different units for groups and singular records. This feedback is less fundamental, but perhaps a larger issue is that EGAD’s outreach strategy seems to be really outdated. They have released versions of both RiC-CM and RiC-O with deadlines for overall feedback. At this stage, where there are severe differences between EGAD’s vision and current practice, a more continuous and open conversation with stakeholders is warranted. For example, in TS-DACS’s feedback to RiC-CM 0.1 in 2016 we noted that the Content Model has a very problematic use of gender, which was not addressed in the 0.2 update. We think that EGAD just didn’t understand our concerns. Some of the more egregious issues, like treating “female” as a gender would have been easily addressed in a more open process. TS-DACS has not received any communication back from EGAD regarding our feedback.
Education: DACS Primer Video updates

Maristella Feustle, Donnelly Walton, and Rebecca Wiederhold, the TS-DACS Education Leads, updated a tutorial video to incorporate the revised Statement of Principles into the online DACS primer videos. Previously, TS-DACS had created a series of primer videos on DACS that were used for the SAA Arrangement and Description certificate which overview the original Statement of Principles, so it was outdated. The course instructors no longer use the video, but it still gets substantial traffic on YouTube. Thus, we decided to write and create an updated video overviewing the new Principles. A draft of the updated video is complete and will be available online in late 2022.

Change Request Maintenance

TS-DACS continued to openly maintain DACS on Github. This year our Change Request Leads, Katy Rawdon and Erin McBrien, merged three change requests into DACS. Two minor change requests were submitted by community members (one a bug fix pertaining to a display issue; the other an update to RDA crosswalks in Appendix C). The one major change was submitted by TS-DACS in response to an issue submitted by a community member. This change updates element 11.1 (Dates of Existence for Archival Authority Records) to accommodate the creation of “not before” and “not after” approximate dates. This change makes DACS more compatible with EAC-CPF. These three changes are included in DACS Version 2022, which was released July 15.

Principles Project

TS-DACS also continued to work on updating DACS to better align the standard with the revised Statement of Principles. We worked to create Github issues for all of the problems or changes proposed during the multiple brainstorming sessions TS-DACS held in 2020-2021. These vary from specific actionable issues to broad complaints with no clear solution. Now, each issue is permanently documented where community members can comment. While we still hope that this encourages community-submitted issues, TS-DACS is also planning to move forward on some changes to the standard next year. We held an “impact-effort” prioritizing exercise among TS-DACS members this Spring, the results of which are documented on Github. Our Communication Lead, Suzanne Reller, also wrote a blog post describing the project for the SAA Description Section’s Descriptive Notes Blog. At the TS-DACS annual meeting on August 8, we held some public prioritization exercises with attendees. We also created a Qualtrics survey for prioritizing issues that we plan to distribute to the TS-DACS user community in later summer/early fall.

Annual Meeting

TS-DACS held its 2022 annual meeting on July 8 at 2 pm EST over Zoom. This year, 63 SAA members RSVP’d for the meeting, and between 30 and 40 members ultimately attended the meeting. The subcommittee dedicated the bulk of the meeting to discussions about the Principles Project, including some exercises to help us prioritize upcoming revisions to the standard to better align it with the revised Statement of Principles. Overall, the meeting was very successful, and the subcommittee received valuable advice from the user community about its work.
Appendix D: TS-EAS Report, Standards Committee
August 31, 2022

Membership
2021-2022

- Karin Bredenberg, co-chair
- Mark Custer, co-chair
- Silke Jagodzinski
- Cory Nimer
- Alexander Duryee
- Kerstin Arnold
- Ailie Smith
- Glenn Gardner (ex officio, EAD Web liaison)
- Anna-Maria Underhill (ex officio, EAC Web liaison)
- Iris Lee
- Anna McCormick
- Ricardo Eito Brun
- Andrew Janes
- Ypapanti Kytta
- Mpho Ngoepe
- Venkat Srinivasan
- Elizabeth Russey-Roke
- Mary Samouelian
- Lori Lindberg
- Marie Elia
- Edwina Murphy (Early career member)

Glenn Gardner and Anna-Maria Underhill, who replaced Gerhard Müeller, continue to serve as ex officio members and maintain the websites for EAD and EAC-CPF at the Library of Congress and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, respectively. Both also participate in one of the TS-EAS sub-teams.

We also had three liaison positions this year:

- Bo Doub (EAS Section liaison)
- Larissa Krayer (Collection Management Section liaison)
- Lara Michels (Standards liaison)

For the upcoming year, we have four reappointments: Karin will continue to serve as our international co-chair (term extended two years), and Marie, Lori and Silke have also been reappointed (with three-year, three -year and one-year terms respectively). Additionally, we will be welcoming two members to TS-EAS (both International), replacing those members who are rotating off, as well as a new early-career member.
General Meeting Schedule
TS-EAS continues to meet at the SAA Annual meeting and to meet virtually as an entire group three times per year. Additionally, each of the working sub teams set their own meeting schedules throughout the year, with most teams meeting once per month.

Annual Meeting, 2021
TS-EAS will hold its open meeting in collaboration with the EAS Section. That meeting was scheduled for 6 July. TS-EAS hosted its all-member meeting the following day, on 7 July. TS-EAS also shared updates during other section meetings, such as the Collection Management Section.

Highlights since 2021 meeting

- The committee participated in SAA’s early-career member program this year for a third time. Edwina Murphy assisted the co-chairs in planning meetings and posting minutes to GitHub. Edwina also participated in the Outreach sub team and assisted with webinars.

- The EAC-CPF team (led by Jagodzinski) released the EAC-CPF 2.0 schemas and new Tag Library following the approval (May 2022) from the Standards Committee and SAA Council on the 3rd of August 2022. In addition to achieving this major milestone, the group is also working to develop a Best Practice Guide for EAC-CPF 2.0 and EAD. The lead for the EAC-CPF team is with the release of the new version transferred to Marie Eila.

- The EAD team (led by Arnold) drafted a minor revision of the EAD3 tag library, which was approved by the Standards Committee this year. The group started the work with a major revision for EAD, after its approval by the Standards Committee and the SAA Council. Right now, most of the EAD team’s work is focused on that major revision process, specifically by reaching out for community feedback about EAD and meetings around SAA 2022.

- The Schema team (led by Custer) assisted the EAC-CPF and EAD teams with schema updates as usual. The team has worked with the updated version of EAC-CPF and provided updated schemas as well as Schematron rules for a more refined validation. The Best Practice Guide is being set up in GitHub by the Schema Team and filled with content from the EAC-CPF and EAD team.

- The Functions team (led by Bredenberg) has started its work and taken over the preparatory work carried out by Joost van Koutrik. The team have examined the preparatory work and with guidance from ISDF [https://www.ica.org/en/isdf-international-standard-describing-functions](https://www.ica.org/en/isdf-international-standard-describing-functions) and the updated version of EAC-CPF started the work of modeling a possible schema for functions.
Last, the Documentation and Outreach team (led by Nimer and Murphy as junior team lead), continued to assist the entire TS-EAS Committee with outreach efforts. This team also planned, transcribed, and released the following online webinars this past year, all of which are now hosted on SAA’s Youtube account:

- Archival Description — Preparing for a New Version of EAD (2022-03-09): [https://youtu.be/5PaGgXKGa3o](https://youtu.be/5PaGgXKGa3o)
- "Records in Contexts Update" (2021-12-13): [https://youtu.be/MIZN1CQ2IVk](https://youtu.be/MIZN1CQ2IVk)

Schedule for Annual Meeting, 2022

This year, TS-EAS will hold its open meeting in collaboration with the EAS Section. That meeting is scheduled for 3 August. TS-EAS will host its all-member meeting on 18 August. TS-EAS will also share updates during other section meetings, such as the Collection Management Section.

To: SAA Standards Committee
From: Technical Subcommittee on Archival Facility Guidelines (TS-AFG) RE: Annual Report to the SAA Standards Committee
Date: September 1, 2022

Summary Report, 2021-2022

This past year the Subcommittee held several meetings to discuss getting things back on track in the absence of our previous chair, Michelle Pacifico. We successfully made contact with Michele, who was able to provide us with the most recent versions of all the chapter drafts while also sharing substantive notes on each chapter’s status. The chapters, as well as her notes, were uploaded to a shared Google Drive to facilitate work by the committee. According to Michele, five chapters are almost completed:

- Building Site
- Functional Spaces
- Storage Equipment
- Prohibited Materials List
- Bibliography

The committee reviewed these chapters this year to give them one final look in hopes of moving them through the peer review process while work continues on other chapters. Moving forward on this process, we have established a standing monthly meeting on the second Friday of every month. Our next scheduled meeting is on September 9th.

Summary of Standards Progress

The following chapters are nearly finalized and we are hopeful to begin the peer review process on them soon:

- Building Site
- Functional Spaces
- Storage Equipment
- Prohibited Materials List
- Bibliography

Topics of discussions moving forward include:

- Rethinking Formatting
- Renumbering lists to make it easier to cite specific guidelines
- More overview text to reduce redundancies in lists. For example, lists often repeat requirements for areas to be accessible, secure, have wifi, etc…

- How can we better utilize data-visualization techniques?
  - More graphics, charts, diagrams
  - Utilize presentation in an electronic format
  - Interactive content, hyperlinks, etc…

- Rethinking Prohibitive Materials list
  - Be a bit more generous for different contexts

**Roster Updates**

No new members were added this year and no current members have resigned. The full membership roster includes:

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>David Owings</td>
<td>Co-chair</td>
<td>2017-05-03 – 2022-09-01</td>
<td>Columbus State University</td>
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<td>Susanne Annand</td>
<td>Co-chair</td>
<td>2020-11-05 – 2022-09-01</td>
<td>Gates Archive</td>
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<td>Scott Teixeira</td>
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This report is respectfully submitted
by, David Owings and Susanne Annand
Co-chairs, SAA Technical Subcommittee on Archival Facilities Guidelines
Appendix F: ICA Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD)
Report to the SAA Standards Committee

Prepared by Bethany Anderson, Steering Committee Member, ICA EGAD, and
SAA representative to ICA EGAD

Overview
Since 2012, the International Council on Archives (ICA) Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD) has been developing a standard for archival description that will replace the current ICA standards: ISAD, ISAAR, ISDF, and ISDIAH.

The standard under development, Records in Contexts (RiC), will have four parts when completed:

- Introduction to Archival Description (RiC-IAD)
- Conceptual Model (RiC-CM)
- Ontology (RiC-O)
- Application Guidelines (RiC-AG)

Recent Developments
The first draft of RiC-CM was released for public comment in September 2016. Comments were received from 62 individuals and groups representing 19 countries. 200 pages of comments were compiled and reviewed by EGAD. After reviewing this feedback, RiC-O 0.1 and a preview of RiC-CM 0.2 were released for public review on December 12, 2019. RiC-O 0.2 was released in February 2021 (https://www.ica.org/en/public-release-of-records-in-contexts-ontology-02 and https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/RiC-O_v0-2.html).

The consultation draft of RiC-CM 0.2 was released in July 2021 (https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/ric-cm-02_july2021_0.pdf). The call for comments was open through January 31, 2022, and could be submitted either through EGAD’s GitHub or by email. This version includes substantial revisions based on initial feedback to the first draft of RiC-CM. These changes include revising the introduction to help contextualize RiC within a broader discussion of archival description; reorganizing and making several additions to the Entities section; retitling properties as attributes; and condensing and reorganizing the Relations section. More details about these revisions can be found in the announcement about the release (https://www.ica.org/en/public-release-of-records-in-contexts-conceptual-model-02).

The consultation draft for RiC-IAD 0.2 was released in December 2021 and made available on the ICA website in January 2022 (https://www.ica.org/en/public-release-of-records-in-contexts-introduction-to-archival-description-02-ric-idad-02). Much of the content in RiC-
IAD was originally part of RiC-CM 0.1, but the decision was made to make it a separate document. This document was created to describe the intellectual foundation for RiC that builds and expands on traditional notions of provenance.

EGAD continues to do outreach through presentations and workshops. On September 21, 2022, several members of EGAD will be hosting a workshop titled “Basic RiC: A Practical Workshop for Using “Records in Contexts” by Beginners” at the ICA’s annual conference in Rome. More information can be found here: [https://www.ica.org/en/ica-roma-2022-preliminary-programme](https://www.ica.org/en/ica-roma-2022-preliminary-programme). Since the last report, Florence Clavaud and Tobias Wildi, who are both EGAD members, recently gave presentations on RiC.¹ Clavaud and Daniel Pitti also gave a webinar on RiC for SAA TS-EAS in December 2021.²

**Future Work**

EGAD is still in the process of reviewing community feedback on RiC-CM 0.2 and have begun drafting RiC-AG. In addition, the group is working on a glossary for RiC-CM.

**Resources and Recent Projects**


Examples of archival description using RiC, based on the 2019 preview of RiC-CM ([https://icae.esrc.info/](https://icae.esrc.info/)).

EAC-CPF and EAD XML RiC-O converter (converts to RDF datasets), from the Archives Nationales France ([https://github.com/ArchivesNationalesFR/rico-converter](https://github.com/ArchivesNationalesFR/rico-converter)).


For questions or to contact EGAD, email: egad [at] ica [dot] org (egad@ica.org).
