Be part of the major revision of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

Call for Comments Open Sessions Series, Session 1, 24 April 2024

Call-in numbers: https://zoom.us/zoomconference
Meeting ID: 832-7759-3984
All lines are muted

Use chat for questions

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https://www.youtube.com/user/saastaff
Be part of the major revision of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

Call for Comments Open Sessions Series, Session 1, 24 April 2024

Presenters
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TS-EAS

- Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards at the Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Background and work covered in this presentation:

We take care of the formats you use to manage and share archival information

We need your comments, suggestions and bug reports

Your input drives our work forward
Where you can find more

TS EAS
https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas

TS-EAS on GitHub
https://github.com/SAA-SDT

EAD publication
http://www.loc.gov/ead/index.html

EAC publication
https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/

Our mailing list
EAD@LISTSERV.LOC.GOV

Reporting an issue via SAA
https://www2.archivists.org/standards/TS-EAS-report-an-issue
Standards revision

Annual rolling revision cycle for minor releases
(see more on GitHub: https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/rolling-revision-cycle.md)

Evaluate standards for potential major revision every five years following guidelines by SAA’s Standards Committee
(see more: https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/Development-and-Review)
The major revision of EAD
Overall timeline

- Understand the status quo
- Review EAD concepts
- Align with EAC-CPF 2.0
- TS-EAS explores standard for functions
- Publish draft for EAD 4.0
- Publish 2nd draft for EAD 4.0
- Review feedback
- Finalise EAD 4.0
- Submit EAD4.0 to SAA
- Finalise add-ons
- Publish EAD 4.0
Benefits of EAD 4.0
Benefits of EAD 4.0

Developed by and for cultural heritage professionals around the world.
1 Interoperable

Aligns EAD with EAC-CPF 2.0.
Enhances interoperability across standards.
Allows greater data reuse.
2 Sustainable

Implements the latest archival concepts and models.

Improves linking between descriptive elements.

Supports richer relations between records and agents.
Exchangeable

Focuses on EAD as a data encoding and exchange standard.
Enhances linked data support.
Supports relations comprehensively.
4 Extensible
Streamlines specific elements into reusable ones.

Enables reuse of external formatting schemas.

Limits mixed content to three built-in elements.
The Call for Comments - The basics
Find all information on the SAA website

https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas/call-for-comments-revision-of-e-0
Find all information on the TS-EAS GitHub page

How and where to start

● Believe us: we know that there is a lot to go through
  ○ And: there is even more to come
    ■ A draft Tag Library
    ■ New chapters to the Best Practices Guide
    ■ More examples
  ○ Why? We want to offer the information about the new version in different formats to - hopefully - enable all community members to contribute

● Furthermore: encoded standards work is detailed work
  ○ There are parts of our documentation that provide a general overview
  ○ But if you want to, you can dig deep
In short

- Start at the level, you feel most comfortable with
  - General
  - Detailed
  - Somewhere in between
- Wait until other types of documentation become available that might meet your needs better
- Remember: not every type of documentation will work in the same way for everyone, and not everybody will (need to) engage with everything to the same extent and at the same level
The Call for Comments - The documentation
Currently available documentation on EAD 4.0

- Posts on the Descriptive Notes blog
- Editorial
- Revision notes
- The EAD 4.0 draft schema
- Transformation routes
- Changes in the schema
- Example files
The Descriptive Notes blog

- Series of five posts
  - Two have been published so far
- Introducing the general lines of the revision process and the new version
- Starting from the perspective of archival description
- Adding details on encoded archival description where suitable
- Keeping it light
- Providing links for further, more detailed reading and engagement
The Editorial

- Textual description of the **main aspects** of the **new version**
  - What were the drivers behind a change?
  - What did the change result in?
- Providing an overview
- Going into some more detail where necessary and useful
- Linking to single GitHub issues including all the details

→ Use the Table of Contents to navigate to the sub-chapter that interests you

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### Major revision of EAD

1. Introduction
2. A general note to start with
3. Alignment with EAC-CPF
   - 3.1. Introduction of camelCase spelling
   - 3.2. Aligning the definition of shared elements
     - 3.2.1. <control>
     - 3.2.2. Date elements <date>, <dateRange>, and <dateSet>
     - 3.2.3. Elements to encode places and place names
     - 3.2.4. <relations> and shared entity elements
     - 3.2.5. In-line tagging for shared elements
   - 3.3. Aligning the definition of shared attributes
     - 3.3.1. Attributes for internal and external referencing
     - 3.3.2. Other changes regarding attributes
4. Describing various instances of a finding aid
5. Relations and relationships
6. Formatting and in-line tagging
7. Additional changes for existing elements

1. Introduction

The revision of the [Encoded Archival Description (EAD)](https://www.loc.gov/people-and-organizations/encoded-archival-description) was approved by the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) Council according to the SAA's standards revision cycle at the end of 2020. The work of revising EAD is being carried out by a team of the Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards (TS-EAS), a group supported by SAA and overseen by their Standards Committee. The EAD team has been working on the revision since early 2021 to the current date (end of February 2024), which has led to the creation of an initial draft for EAD 4.0.
The Editorial

Mentions the main elements relevant for a specific encoding aspect and explains what type of information they are meant to encode.

Describes the encoding options as defined in the draft for EAD 4.0 by listing sub-elements and attributes and describing their use.

Includes links to relevant GitHub issues with more information.

Includes links to other chapters of the editorial that describe related topics.
The Revision notes

- Textual description of the changes compared to EAD3
- Providing details of the revision
- Explaining what has changed
- Listing elements and attributes affected by a specific change
- Grouping type of changes
- Following the structure of an EAD instance for element-specific changes

→ Use the Table of Contents to navigate to the sub-chapter that interests you
The Revision notes

Starts with a short introduction of the elements and/or attributes in questions.

Explains how the elements and/or attributes work and where they come from (e.g. renamed EAD elements, adopted from EAC-CPF etc.)

Provides further information about the context in which the elements and/or attributes are available.

Referencing external vocabularies, thesauri, or authority files

To support interoperability with linked data EAD 4.0 now includes the attribute group of @valueURI, @vocabularySource and @vocabularySourceURI @valueURI replaces @identifier to avoid confusion with the general @id attribute mentioned above; @vocabularySource replaces @source following the TS-EAS design principle #4, according to which the same name should not be reused for both an attribute and an element.

All three attributes of this group have been adopted from and are shared with EAC-CPF. They serve as optional attributes in all elements that can contain any kind of entity, identifier, code, role or type etc. where links to vocabularies, thesauri, or authority files might be useful. EAD 4.0 thereby extends the linked data support significantly from 16 to 52 elements.

### EAD 4.0 elements with @valueURI, @vocabularySource, @vocabularySourceURI

- accessConditions
- agencyCode
- agencyName
- agent
- agentName
- agentRole
- agentType
- archDesc
- c
- c01 to c12
- container
- conventionDeclaration
- formAvailable
- legalStatus
- localTypeDeclaration
- maintenanceAgency
- materialSpec
- otherAgencyCode
- otherFindAid
- otherRecordId
- physFacet
- place
- placeName
- placeRole
- placeType
- publicationNote
- referringString
- relatedMaterial
- relationType
- rightsDeclaration
- separatedMaterial
- source
- subject
- targetEntity
- targetRole
- targetType
- title
- unitId
- unitTitle
- unitType
- useConditions
The EAD 4.0 draft schema

- The technical expression of the draft for the new version of EAD
- Available in three file formats
  - .xsd
  - .nvdl (to combine EAD 4.0 and XHTML validation)
  - .rng (wrapped into the zip and tar.gz packages)
- Comes with a schematron for more specific validation

→ Download your preferred schema type or get the GitHub URL (e.g. .xsd)
The EAD 4.0 draft schema - Option 1

- For the hand-coders and hands-on reviewers
- Open an existing EAD XML file (either EAD3 or EAD 2002) in your XML editor
  - Start with a short file first and maybe move on to a longer file in a next step if wanted
- Associate your EAD XML file with the EAD 4.0 schema, by changing from

```xml
<ead xmlns="urn:isbn:1-931666-22-9" xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
     xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
     audience="external" relatedencoding="MARC21">
```

to

```xml
<ead xmlns="https://archivists.org/ns/ead/v4" xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
     xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
     xsi:schemaLocation="https://archivists.org/ns/ead/v4
                        https://raw.githubusercontent.com/SAA-SDT/eas-schemas/release_2024_03/xml-schemas/ead/ead-4-dev.xsd
                        http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink http://www.loc.gov/standards/xlink/xlink.xsd"
     audience="external" relatedencoding="MARC21">
```
The EAD 4.0 draft schema - Option 1

- Your XML editor will start showing you those elements and attributes in your existing file that do not conform to the new version
- Your XML editor will also show you what might need to be changed
- Follow the validation messages step by step, including comments about your changes, until you get to a valid EAD 4.0 file
The EAD 4.0 draft schema - Option 1

Manually adapted EAD 2002 XML file now valid against the EAD 4.0 draft schema

Note that adapting an EAD 2002 XML file will, by default, also require the changes that would already apply for a transformation to EAD3, e.g. changing from eadheader to control.
The EAD 4.0 draft schema - Option 2

- For the technically well versed
- Search for an element of interest in the EAD 4.0 draft schema and compare its definition with the one in EAD3 or EAD 2002

```xml
<x:simpleType name="unitId" mixed="true">
  <xs:choice minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
    <xs:element type="ead:reference" name="reference"/>
    <xs:element type="ead:referringString" name="referringString"/>
    <xs:element type="ead:span" name="span"/>
  </xs:choice>
  <xs:attribute name="audience" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute name="id" type="xs:ID"/>
  <xs:attribute name="target" type="xs:IDREFS"/>
  <xs:attribute name="vocabularyOfElement" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute name="scriptOfElement" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute name="localType" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute name="localTypeDeclarationReference" type="xs:IDREFS"/>
  <xs:attribute name="vocabularySource" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute name="vocabularySourceURI" type="xs:anyURI"/>
  <xs:attribute name="ValueURI" type="xs:anyURI"/>
  <xs:attribute name="conventionDeclarationReference" type="xs:IDREFS"/>
  <xs:attribute name="maintenanceEventReference" type="xs:IDREFS"/>
  <xs:attribute name="sourceReference" type="xs:IDREFS"/>
  <xs:attribute name="countryCode" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute name="repositoryCode" type="xs:token"/>
  <xs:attribute namespace="#other" processContents="lax"/>
</xs:simpleType>
```

```xml
<x:simpleType mixed="true" name="unitid">
  <xs:choice minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded" ref="m.phrase.basic"/>
  <xs:attributeGroup ref="a.common"/>
  <xs:attribute name="label"/>
  <xs:attribute name="type"/>
  <xs:attributeGroup ref="am.countrycode"/>
  <xs:attribute name="repositorycode" type="xs:NMTOKEN"/>
  <xs:attribute name="identifier"/>
  <xs:attribute name="encodinganalog"/>
</xs:simpleType>
```

[unitId] in EAD 4.0 (left side) versus [unitid] in EAD 2002 (right side)
The Transformation routes table

- Tabular and detailed overview of how a specific element needs to be transformed to get from EAD3 (deprecated) to EAD 4.0
- Listing all EAD3 elements in alphabetical order and naming their EAD 4.0 equivalents
- Providing a transformation route for each element, its content, and attributes

→ Search for an the element of interest to see which changes would need to be applied to adapt it to EAD 4.0
The Changes in the schema table

- Tabular and detailed overview of how the definition of a specific element changes in EAD 4.0 compared to EAD3 (deprecated)
- Listing all EAD3 elements in alphabetical order and naming their EAD 4.0 equivalents
  - If an element is replaced by or integrated with another and thereby removed from the EAD 4.0 schema, consult the Transformation routes table for more details
- Also listing all new EAD 4.0 elements
- Including some statistical counters e.g. about attribute groups and their usage across EAD 4.0 or about the coverage of specific content models
- Linking to relevant GitHub issues that document these schema changes

→ Search for an the element of interest to see how its definition changes in EAD 4.0 compared to its definition in EAD3 (deprecated)
The Changes in the schema table

- Less technical version of Option 2 for reviewing the EAD 4.0 draft schema
- Note that “removing” an element and attribute from the schema does not necessarily mean that there is no transformation route for it
  - Always check the Transformation routes table to get the full picture

| function | function (referringString) | Y | Y | Moving function out of controlaccess, indexentry, and namegrp and make it an entity element within the plural functions element (note that if function is used as a mixed content element, an alternative transformation route to referringString applies, see Transformations tab for details) Adapt to content model of EAC-CPF Replace the required and repeatable sub-element part with the required and repeatable sub-element term Add an optional choice between date, dateRange, and dateSet Add placeName, targetType, targetRole, and relationType as optional and repeatable sub-elements Add descriptiveNote as optional, not repeatable sub-element Replace @identifier with @valueURI and @source with @vocabularySource Add @vocabularySourceURI Remove @rules (replaced by @conventionDeclarationReference) Remove @normal Remove @relation (replaced by targetRole) Remove @encodinganalogs | #61, #68, #63, #69 |
| functions | | | | |
The Example files

- **ead4-starter-file.xml**
  - An EAD 4.0 file including all mandatory elements with some test information
  - Already associated with the .nvdl schema and the schematron for validation
  - Use for some hand-coding to get a feeling for EAD 4.0 from scratch

- **LoC_EAD3exampleAdapted.xml**
  - An EAD3 file downloaded from the LoC catalogue on 24 January 2024
    - For the current version of the EAD3 source file, see: [https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3master/mss/2003/ms003077.xml](https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3master/mss/2003/ms003077.xml)
  - Manually adapted to EAD 4.0 (same approach as in Option 1 for reviewing the EAD 4.0 draft schema)
  - Changes have been commented in the file itself
  - Review the comments to get an understanding of how a transformation to EAD 4.0 could look like
The Example files (EAD3 example adapted)

<!-- Moving <filedesc> out of <control>, renaming it to <findAidDesc> and adapting its content model -->

<!-- <filedesc> -->
<findAidDesc>
  <!-- <titlestmt> -->
  <titleproper encodinganalog="245$a"> -->
  <!-- Adding @tag from the MARC21 namespace -->
  <title xmlns:marc21="http://www.loc.gov/MARC21/slim" marc21:tag="245$a">
    <part>National Woman's Party Records</part>
  </title>
  <!-- </title> -->
  <!-- <subtitle> -->
  <!-- Adding @localType -->
  <title localType="subtitle" localTypeDeclarationReference="LTD1"> 
    <part>A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress</part>
  </title>
  <!-- </title> -->
  <!-- <subtitle> -->
  <!-- Adding encodinganalog="245$c" -->
  <!-- Adding @tag from the MARC21 namespace -->
  <agent xmlns:marc21="http://www.loc.gov/MARC21/slim" marc21:tag="245$c">
    <agentName>Prepared by</agentName> Manuscript Division Staff
    <agentRole>author (prepared by)</agentRole>
  </agent>
  <!-- </agent> -->
  <!-- </titleproper> -->
  <!-- </subtitle> -->
</findAidDesc>

Comments on changes applied to an element (moving, renaming, etc.)

Removed elements are commented out (i.e. kept for reference)

Comments about new or alternative encoding options having been added

Some of these changes are only suggestions and there might be other ways, too
The Call for Comments - Submitting a comment
How you can contribute

There are three ways to contribute to the Call for Comments, i.e. three ways to submit a comment on the draft of EAD 4.0.

● Two formal options, if you want to report a bug or request a feature:
  ○ Submitting a comment on GitHub
  ○ Submitting a comment via our web form

● One informal option, if you have a general comment or question:
  ○ Sending us your comment via email
A comment submitted on GitHub

Go to https://github.com/SAA-SDT/eas-schemas/issues and click the button "New issue"

In the next step, click the button "Get started"
A comment submitted on GitHub

This will open our "New issue" template

- Make sure to add a title (otherwise you won't be able to save the issue)
- Add your name, your organisation, and some way to contact you like an email address or your GitHub name (in case we have follow-up questions)
- Use an "x" to replace the whitespace inside the brackets saying "EAD schema issue" (once you save the issue, this will be displayed as a checked check-box)
A comment submitted on GitHub

- In the lower part of the template you will find various sections that allow you to describe the feature you want to suggest or the bug you have found.
- These sections include pointers of what type of information you might want to include.
- Not each of these sections will apply to the comment you would want to make - you can simply leave those sections empty.
- The more precise or detailed you can be, the easier it will be for TS-EAS to address your comment.
- Once you are content with your comments, click the "Submit new issue" button.
A comment submitted via our web form

Go to https://www2.archivists.org/standards/TS-EAS-report-an-issue

- You will find the same fields in this form as in the GitHub issue template
- Start with providing your name and email address, so that we can contact you in case of questions
- Then click the radio button next to "EAD Schema"
A comment submitted via our web form

- In the lower part of the web form you will find the fields "Description" and "Details" to add a short statement or title for your comment and provide some more details about the feature you want to suggest or the bug you have found.
- Following these fields, there are some more sections that allow you to add further details as applicable.
- Once you are content with your comments, click the "Submit" button.
A comment sent via email

- For general comments or questions or any type of "I just wanted to say…" feedback, you can also send us an email at ts-eas@archivists.org

For a general recap on submitting a bug report or feature request see our "How to..." video
What happens next?

● Whichever way you have chosen to submit your comment, TS-EAS will let you know it’s been received
  ○ On GitHub, we will simply comment on your issue and let you know the next steps
  ○ For submissions via the web form or email, we will reply to you via email
  ○ We will aim to do so within two weeks from when you submitted your comment

● All comments will be transformed into GitHub issues
  ○ This is our central hub for all aspects of the revision and internal management tool
  ○ We will add the issue to the "Major revision project", assign it to a specific milestone, add labels to indicate which part of EAD it refers to (e.g. <control> or <archDesc>) and at which stage it is (all issues will start under "Review")
What happens next?

- The EAD team of TS-EAS will review and discuss all comments submitted step-by-step during their monthly meetings (the last Friday of every month).
- Once decided, the GitHub issues will be updated with the decision and put into the next processing stage if confirmed.
- If rejected, the update on GitHub will include the EAD team’s reasoning and potentially an alternative solution.
  - For comments submitted via the web form or email, we will provide this reasoning via email to you directly as well, so that you are kept in the loop.
What happens next?

- While GitHub is our central tool, we will aim to provide an overview of comments received and their status in regular intervals also in a non-GitHub context.
- Keep an eye on our page at the SAA website for news in this regard: https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas/call-for-comments-revision-of-e-0
Questions?
Use **chat** for questions

**Raise your hand** to request to unmute
Thanks very much for your attention and your questions / comments!

More Open Sessions as part of the Call for Comments are planned on:

- Wednesday, 22 May, 8am UTC
- Tuesday, 18 June, 6am UTC
- Tuesday, 9 July, 4pm UTC

Registration information will be shared the week commencing 29 April.