

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

Call for Comments Open Sessions Series, Session 4, 9 July 2024

Call-in numbers: <https://zoom.us/join/zoomconference>  
Meeting ID: 841-5909-5724

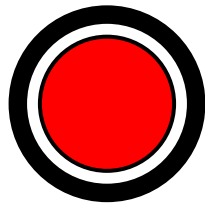
All lines are muted



Feel free to turn your **camera on**



Raise your hand or use **chat** for questions



This webinar is being recorded and will be available on the SAA website with the proceedings of the pre-Annual Meeting sessions.

It will also be available on the YouTube:

<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 3, 18 June 2024

## Presenters

Kerstin Arnold, Archives Portal Europe Foundation (DE), EAD team lead

Mary Samouelian, Harvard Business School (US), co-chair TS-EAS

# TS-EAS

- Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards at the Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Background and work covered in this presentation:
  - <https://youtu.be/9NXNyx9py-I> (status of April 2020)

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](mailto: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>)

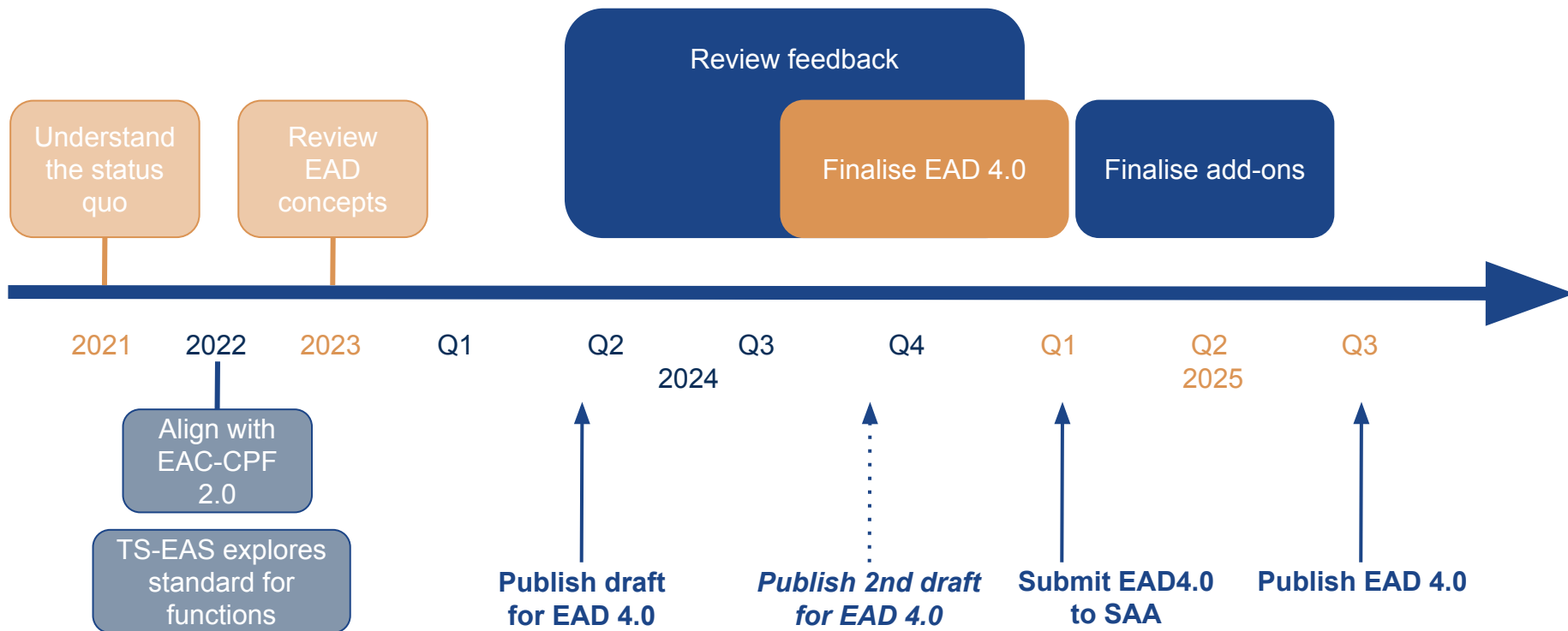
Evaluate standards for potential major revision every five years following guidelines by SAA's Standards Committee (see more:

<https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/Development-and-Review> )

# The major revision of EAD



# Overall timeline



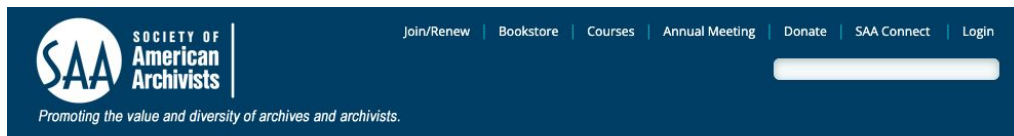
# The Call for Comments



SOCIETY OF  
American  
Archivists

Technical Subcommittee on  
Encoded Archival Standards

# Find all information on the SAA website



[About Archives](#) • [About SAA](#) • [Careers](#) • [Education](#) • [Publications](#) • [Advocacy](#) • [Membership](#)

HOME » GROUPS » TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENCODED ARCHIVAL STANDARDS (TS-EAS) » CALL FOR COMMENTS: REVISION OF ENCODED ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION

## Call for Comments: Revision of Encoded Archival Description

Roster

The [Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards \(TS-EAS\)](#) is pleased to release Encoded Archival Description (EAD) 4.0, a draft updated version of the standard for public review and comment. To ensure the greatest possible input from EAD users around the world, the subcommittee is calling for comments on the proposed changes to the current version, EAD3 (deprecated), [schema](#) and [tag library](#), and the previous version, EAD 2002, [DTD](#), [schema](#), and [tag library](#). The deadline for comments on the change proposals is Sunday, 28 July 2024. An introductory webinar on how to contribute to this call for comments is scheduled for 24 April (twice with the same content to accommodate different time zones around the world) at 10am UTC (open for [registration](#)) and 4pm UTC (open for [registration](#)). We are looking forward to seeing you there!

### Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards (TS-EAS)

#### ABOUT TS-EAS

[Roster](#)  
[Subteams](#)  
[Handbook](#)  
[Contact us](#)

#### TS-EAS AT WORK

[GitHub workspace](#)  
[Submit an EAD or EAC-CPF issue or feature request via GitHub](#)  
[Submit an EAD or EAC-CPF issue or feature request via our webform](#)  
[Meetings](#)

#### TS-EAS STANDARDS

[Official EAD Website](#)  
[Official EAC-CPF Website](#)

<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas/call-for-comments-revision-of-e-0>



Technical Subcommittee on  
Encoded Archival Standards

# Find all information on the TS-EAS GitHub page

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository `SAA-SDT / TS-EAS-subteam-notes`. The repository is public and has 3 forks and 8 stars. The current view is the `major-revision_2021-2025_documents` directory under the `ead-subteam` branch. A commit by `kerstarno` is shown, updating `README.md` 4 days ago.

Name	Last commit message	Last commit date
..		
Editorial_ChangesInEAD4.0.pdf	Add files via upload	5 days ago
FromEAD3toEAD4.0_ChangesInTheSchema_El...	Add files via upload	5 days ago
FromEAD3toEAD4.0_TransformationRoutes.pdf	Add files via upload	5 days ago
Infograph.pdf	Add files via upload	5 days ago
README.md	Update README.md	4 days ago

[https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/tree/master/ead-subteam/major-revision\\_2021-2025\\_documents](https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/tree/master/ead-subteam/major-revision_2021-2025_documents)

# Currently available documentation on EAD 4.0

- Posts on the [Descriptive Notes](#) blog
- Editorial
- Revision notes (compared to EAD3)
- The EAD 4.0 draft schema
- Transformation routes (compared to EAD3)
- Changes in the schema
- Example files

# Publication prepared for today

- A draft Tag Library for EAD 4.0
- Revision notes (compared to EAD 2002)
- Transformation routes (compared to EAD 2002)
- Will become available later on (part of a potential second call for comments)
  - A draft conversion from EAD3 to EAD 4.0
  - Best Practice Guide extensions for EAD 4.0
  - More example files

# Open drop-in sessions

- Informal
- Brief introduction to one major strand of the revision
- Open mic for questions, comments, and suggestions

- First session on how to contribute to the call for comments, 24 April 2024
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGttrBWj9wU>
- Second session on EAD becoming more interoperable, 22 May 2024
  - <https://youtu.be/qkehUmEjB2E?si=OXI6LcW7NXy07q4Q>

## Open drop-in sessions



# Open drop-in sessions

- Third session on EAD becoming more extensible, 18 June 2024
  - [https://youtu.be/3wR\\_tS6mhoE?si=eqwvQjTNfif9XEFx](https://youtu.be/3wR_tS6mhoE?si=eqwvQjTNfif9XEFx)
- Today's session on EAD 4.0's sustainability and exchangeability

# Benefits of EAD 4.0: Exchangeability

# Reasons to consider exchangeability

- Encoding archival descriptions with the aim of sharing them
  - Across different systems within your own institution, e.g. connecting library and archives descriptions
  - Across different departments of the same organisation, e.g. within a university's organisational network
  - In the context of local, regional, national, or international aggregation services
- Increased use of the EAS as an import/export format
  - When moving data to a new collection management system
  - When moving data from a collection management to a preservation system
  - When preparing data for external sharing (see above)

# Benefits of exchangeability

- Makes it **easier to move data** between different systems and contexts
- Lets data from different sources **communicate more easily** with each other
- **Increases discoverability** by supporting more options for linked data inclusion

# Benefits of EAD 4.0: Sustainability

# Reasons to consider sustainability

- Continuous evolution of standards and the necessity to be flexible
  - In the archival sector
  - In related sectors (library, museums, etc.)
  - In the areas of online publication and discovery
- Moving from separate to joint management and use of the EAS
  - Application of a shared model across all the EAS (EAD, EAC-CPF and the new standard for functions)
    - Visible in the management of the schemas, tag libraries, etc.
  - Acknowledgment of an increased number of use cases that work with EAD and EAC-CPF next to each other

# Benefits of sustainability

- Connects the development of EAD to the **latest archival concepts and models**
- Enables linking to existing external resources and vocabularies, thereby **re-using the information already available** therein
- Allows for the **creation and description of richer relations**, specifically between records and agents

# The changes in EAD 4.0

The following slides only mention some higher level changes.  
For the full overview, see e.g. the [Revision notes \(compared to EAD3\)](#).





# A note upfront...

- EAD 4.0 becoming more exchangeable is closely related to the new version becoming more interoperable
  - Check out the slide deck of our previous open session focussing on the topic of interoperability, especially between EAD and its sibling standard EAC-CPF:  
[https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/ead-subteam/major-revision\\_2021-2025\\_documents/20240522\\_EAD4CallForComments\\_Session2.pdf](https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/ead-subteam/major-revision_2021-2025_documents/20240522_EAD4CallForComments_Session2.pdf)

# Another note upfront...

- Exchangeability of EAD 4.0 also builds on the principle of extensibility
  - Check out the slide deck of our previous open session on the topic of extensibility in general: [https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/ead-subteam/major-revision\\_2021-2025\\_documents/20240618\\_EAD4CallForComments\\_Session3.pdf](https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/ead-subteam/major-revision_2021-2025_documents/20240618_EAD4CallForComments_Session3.pdf)
- In the context of, e.g., encoding information about related entities and their relationships with the archival materials this means that
  - You can simply start with naming the related entity
  - You can extend this by referring to external vocabularies with more information
  - You can extend this further by providing more details about the relationship directly in EAD

# Internal referencing

- Extended use of @target, which is now available with all elements
  - Enables creating a pointer to the @id of any other element within the same EAD XML file
  - Allows pointing to several other elements at the same time (data type: IDREFS)
- Introduction of @conventionDeclarationReference, @maintenance-EventReference, and @sourceReference
  - Available with all elements that can contain text, are available outside of the control section, and work in the same as @target
  - Support assertion description by connecting a statement in the descriptive part with a source, a rule, an agent, and a date/time

# External referencing

- reference available to refer to external resources for further reading
- Either analogue or digital resources (`@href`, `@linkTitle`, `@linkRole`)
- As part of the mixed content model in elements such as `abstract` or `p`, but also, e.g., `unitTitle`
- As direct sub-element with `conventionDeclaration`, `localTypeDeclaration`, `rightsDeclaration`, and `source`

# External referencing

- Extended use of attributes to link to controlled vocabularies, thesauri, and authority files
  - Now available with nearly half of the elements in EAD 4.0
- **@identifier** renamed to **@valueURI**
  - Avoiding confusion with **@id**
- **@source** renamed to **@vocabularySource**
  - Being more precise and avoiding an attribute and an element with the same name
- **@vocabularySourceURI** added

# Some numbers

Elements allowing for the inclusion of references or URIs to vocabulary terms or a vocabulary source in general

- In EAD 2002: 10 elements (of 144)
- In EAD3: 16 elements (of 166)
- In the draft for EAD 4.0: 53 elements (of 119)

# The element relations in EAD3

- Introduced in EAD3 following EAC-CPF
  - Has since been adapted for EAC-CPF in the most recent version, to some extent following the implementation in EAD3
- Added directly to archdesc and the component elements
- Aims to encode details about the **relationship** between the materials being described and other entities (persons, organisations, other archival or bibliographic resources, etc.)
  - Allows to naming those entities
  - Allows to provide information about the temporal and spatial dimensions of their relationships with the archival records

# The element relations in EAD 4.0

- Follows the adapted definition in EAC-CPF 2.0
  - Elevated the attribute @reliontype to an element to support multilinguality
  - Exchanged geogname with place now also allowing, e.g., for the encoding of address or contact details next to the name of the place and its geographic coordinates
  - Added new elements to encode information about the type of related entity and the role that the related entity has towards the materials described, e.g., differentiating between the “director” or the “cinematographer” of audiovisual material and the “defendant” or the “plaintiff” in court records



# The element relations in EAD 4.0

- Has been integrated into entity elements, i.e. elements that represent a related entity, instead of being available next to these
  - formAvailable (integrating dao, daoset, altformavail, and originalsloc), otherFindAid, publicationNote (renamed from bibliography), relatedMaterial, and separatedMaterial include relations in itself as an optional child element
  - agent, function, place, and subject include sub-elements of the singular relation element to allow for the extension of their already existing set of child elements

# The element formAvailable

- Integrates four elements (of EAD3) that encode information about different instances (representations or instantiations) of the archival materials including digital objects, copies (e.g. microforms), and originals (in case the materials described are copies themselves)

# The element formAvailable

- Allows for a general narrative description (as was the case for altformavail and originalslloc)
- Allows for referencing external vocabularies or code lists identifying and possibly describing these instances
- Allows for encoding more detailed information about the relationship between these instances and the materials being described

# Example - Simple narrative text

```
<formAvailable>
```

```
<p>Copies of the documents included in Part III of the collection and pertaining to Ginsburg's time as a Circuit Judge are still kept at the United Court of Appeals (District of Columbia Circuit).</p>
```

```
</formAvailable>
```

```
<formAvailable>
```

```
<p>The collection is partially digitised for online use. Researchers in the reading room have access to microfiches of the whole collection via our microfiche readers.</p>
```

```
</formAvailable>
```

# Example - Reference to a PID plus text

```
<formAvailable valueURI="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/ms019019.123456789"  
  vocabularySource="Handle">
```

```
<p>Ginsburg's appointment to the District of Columbia Circuit of the  
  United States Court of Appeals by President Jimmy Carter has been  
  digitised. While both formats are available for download on the  
  Library of Congress website, the TIFF version is predominantly used  
  as a preservation format, while the JPEG version is the dedicated  
  publication format.</p>
```

```
</formAvailable>
```

# Example - Encoding the relationship

(which could also be used  
as an extension to the  
previous example)

```
<formAvailable>
  <relations>
    <relation>
      <targetEntity valueURI="https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/
        service/mss/ms019019.123456789/123456789.jpg">
        <part>Appointment to District of Columbia Circuit, 1979 (JPEG)</part>
      </targetEntity>
      <relationType valueURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/
        ontology#isOrWasDerivedFromInstantiation"
        vocabularySource="RiC-0"
        vocabularySourceURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology">
        derived</relationType>
      <targetType valueURI="fmt/42" vocabularySource="PRONOM">JPEG</targetType>
      <targetRole>Publication format</targetRole>
    </relation>
    <relation>
      <targetEntity valueURI="https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/
        service/mss/ms019019.123456789/123456789.tif">
        <part>Appointment to District of Columbia Circuit, 1979 (TIFF)</part>
      </targetEntity>
      <relationType valueURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology
        #isOrWasDerivedFromInstantiation" vocabularySource="RiC-0"
        vocabularySourceURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology">
        derived</relationType>
      <targetType valueURI="fmt/353" vocabularySource="PRONOM">TIFF</targetType>
      <targetRole>Preservation format</targetRole>
    </relation>
  </relations>
</formAvailable>
```

# A note...

- formAvailable could - conceptually - also be placed in parallel to the component elements rather than being treated as a child element to archDesc, c, and c01 to c12
- In such a scenario, the (physical or born-digital) material described in archDesc, c, and c01 to c12 could be considered an instance of the “record” as well
- This, however, would require an even more substantial restructuring and reconceptualisation

# The element relatedMaterial

(the same applies to the elements otherFindAid, publicationNote, separatedMaterial)

- Keeps the option of a general narrative description
- Additionally allows for referencing external vocabularies or code lists identifying and possibly describing the related resources
- Additionally allows for encoding more detailed information about the relationship between these resources and the materials being described



# A little history of using reference elements

- EAD 2002 allows for archref, bibref, extref, and ref directly in relatedmaterial
- EAD3 allows for archref and bibref directly in relatedmaterial, does not include extref anymore, and has ref only as an “grandchild” element of relatedmaterial e.g. in p, entry, or item
- On the other hand, EAD 2002 allows for linking attributes in archref, bibref and ref, while EAD3 only allows for these attributes in ref
  - I.e. if an online archival or bibliographic reference is to be encoded with a link, this requires the use of ref as a child element to archref or bibref

# Example - Simple narrative text

```
<relatedMaterial>
```

```
<p>The Library of Congress also holds the papers of Ginsburg's predecessor for Seat 3 at the United States Court of Appeals (District of Columbia Circuit), Harold Leventhal, of her successor, David S. Tatel, of one of the Chief Judges during her time at the Court of Appeals, Carl McGowan, plus the papers of Robert H. Bork, Harry T. Edwards papers and J. Skelly Wright papers, some of her fellow Circuit Judges.
```

```
</p>
```

```
</relatedMaterial>
```

# Example - Difference between a PID and a reference

```
<relatedMaterial valueURI="https://doi.org/10.9999/111" vocabularySource="DOI" />
<relatedMaterial valueURI="https://doi.org/10.9999/111" vocabularySource="DOI">
  <p>
    <reference href="https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011104">Harold Leventhal papers</reference>
  </p>
</relatedMaterial>
```

# The entity element agent

- Integrates all elements (of EAD3) that encode information about persons, organisations, families and other types of agents
- Is available as a child element of archDesc, c, and c01 to c12, but can also be used with findAidDesc (renamed from filedesc) and maintenanceEvent

# The entity element agent

- Requires the name of the agent
- Allows referencing external vocabularies or code lists identifying and possibly describing the related resources
- Additionally supports the encoding of the type of agent, the role that the agent has towards the materials being described, and a general type of relation(ship) between both
- Additionally enables the encoding of temporal and spatial dimensions of the relationships

# Example - Creator name with reference to vocabulary term

```
<archDesc level="collection">
  <identificationData>
    <unitTitle>Ruth Bader Ginsburg Papers</unitTitle>
    <unitId countryCode="US" repositoryCode="US-DLC">MSS84318</unitId>
  </identificationData>
  <agents>
    <agent>
      <agentName valueURI="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n50029918"
        vocabularySource="lcnaf" vocabularySourceURI="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names">
        Ginsburg, Ruth Bader, 1933-2020</agentName>
      </agent>
    </agents>
  </agents>
</archDesc>
```

# Example - Creator relationship information

```
<archDesc level="collection">
  <identificationData>
    <unitTitle>Ruth Bader Ginsburg Papers</unitTitle>
    <unitId countryCode="US" repositoryCode="US-DLC">MSS84318</unitId>
  </identificationData>
  <agents>
    <agent>
      <agentName valueURI="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n50029918"
        vocabularySource="lcnaf" vocabularySourceURI="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names">
        Ginsburg, Ruth Bader, 1933-2020</agentName>
      <agentType valueURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology#Person"
        vocabularySource="RiC-0" vocabularySourceURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology"
        languageOfElement="eng">
        Person
      </agentType>
      <agentType valueURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology#Person"
        vocabularySource="RiC-0" vocabularySourceURI="https://www.ica.org/standards/RiC/ontology"
        languageOfElement="fre">
        Personne
      </agentType>
      <agentRole valueURI="cre" vocabularySource="MARC Code List for Relators"
        vocabularySourceURI="https://www.loc.gov/marc/relators/relaterm.html" languageOfElement="eng">
        Creator</agentRole>
      <agentRole valueURI="cre" vocabularySource="MARC Code List for Relators"
        vocabularySourceURI="https://www.loc.gov/marc/relators/relaterm.html" languageOfElement="fre">
        Créatrice</agentRole>
    </agent>
  </agents>
```

# The entity element place

- Integrates all elements (of EAD3) that encode information about places and geographic features as well as their address information
- Is available as a child element of archDesc, c, and c01 to c12, but can also be used with findAidDesc and relation



# The entity element place

- Requires one of the following to be present: the name of the place, its type, its role towards the materials being described, its geographic coordinates, address or contact details
- Allows referencing external vocabularies or code lists identifying and possibly describing the related resources
- Additionally supports the encoding of a general type of relation(ship) between the place and the materials being described
- Additionally enables the encoding of temporal dimensions of the relationships

# The entity elements function and subject

- Function is a shared element (same as agent and place) with EAC-CPF, while subject is only used in EAD
- Both follow the same content model

# The entity elements function and subject

- Both elements require a function resp. subject term to be named
- Both allow referencing external vocabularies or code lists identifying and possibly describing the function resp. subject
- Additionally both support the encoding of the type of “target entity” (i.e. here the function resp. subject, its role towards the materials being described, and a general type of relation(ship) between both
- Additionally both enable the encoding of temporal and spatial dimensions of the relationships

# Your questions, comments, suggestions



SOCIETY OF  
American  
Archivists

Technical Subcommittee on  
Encoded Archival Standards

# We want to hear from you!

Contribute to the Call for Comments by

- Reporting a bug or request a feature
  - On [GitHub](#)
  - Via our [web form](#)
- Sending us a general comment or question
  - Via email to [ts-eas@archivists.org](mailto:ts-eas@archivists.org)

We are also always looking for real-life encoding examples.

# Thanks very much for your attention and your questions / comments!

More possibilities to engage with TS-EAS during the major revision of EAD:

Open session on all things TS-EAS on Wednesday, 14 August (hybrid) and  
a “Bring your own breakfast” session on Friday, 16 August (in Chicago).

Details will be shared soon!