Adapting Archival Descriptions to the New Technology Environment

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Abstract:
Notwithstanding criticisms leveled at EAD and the shifting technology environment, the most recent revisions of EAD by the Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description and the Schema Development Team are mostly minor adjustments and do not address more fundamental problems. This presentation provides suggestions for transforming the current EAD based finding aids and alternative methods that could be or have been used for archival description. More specifically, it talks about how the Australian series system can be used to transform EAD, and how METS, OAI-ORE and general web design technologies can be used to produce archival descriptions that are more flexible, powerful and interoperable than EAD based finding aids.

About the Author:

Jinfang Niu is an associate professor at the School of Information, University of South Florida. She received her Ph.D. from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Prior to that, she worked as a librarian at the Tsinghua University Library for three years. She is recently interested in the convergence between library science, archival science and museum studies, more specifically the integrated access to various kinds of cultural heritage materials through innovative means.