

STANDARDS COMMITTEE CALL RE: DACS CHANGE PROPOSAL

Monday, March 21, 2016 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Pacific

Attendees:

- Maureen Callahan (co-chair of TS-DACS)
- Meg Tuomala
- Tim Pyatt
- Carrie Hintz
- Beth Davis-Brown
- John Bence
- Kate Bowers
- Caitlin Christian-Lamb

Agenda/Meeting invite

Setting up a Skype meeting for us to discuss the DACS preface revision submitted by TS-DACS. Monday, March 21 at 10 am Pacific/1 pm Eastern worked for everyone who responded to the poll.

In advance of the meeting, please review the proposal and supporting documentation found below to (1) ensure that it is complete and that adequate consultation and review have taken place, and then (2) decide upon whether or not we will recommend adoption of the change to Council or take it back to TS-DACS for additional work.

We will discuss and vote during the meeting.

Discussion

Maureen Callahan, co-chair of TS-DACS joined to introduce the change and give additional context.

She outlined TS-DAC's rationale behind the change—namely they would like to shift to a “coaching” training model—revising the existing “Intro to DACS” workshop and creating complimentary webinars rather than building a companion website.

TS-DACS decided that shifting their focus to education as opposed to gathering a repository of prescriptive examples will better meet the community's long-term needs. Expanding education offerings is also in alignment with SAA's strategic goals related to professional growth (2), advancing the field (3), and meeting member's needs (4).

Examples will still be included in the print version of DACS.

Maureen's points addressed the committee's primary concern—that the shift from using the companion website as a training tool (free) to offering courses (usually fee-based through SAA) would be a barrier for the DACS user base. Future DACS training offerings (workshops + day-long coaching sessions) will most likely be free, and Maureen confirmed that the SAA education department is on board with this.

After a brief discussion, the Standards Committee agreed that this is a logical change and that adequate consultation and review took place.

SAA Council liaison to the Standards Committee Tim Pyatt noted that because this is a change to the preface only and not the standard itself, this does *not* need to go through Council and that Standards can approve and hand directly back to TS-DACS to make the change and updates.

There was some discussion about using Git Hub for managing changes to DACS moving forward. Standards Committee member Kate Bowers noted the community's unfamiliarity with the Git Hub software and that this could pose a high barrier to participation. Maureen Callahan acknowledged this and that TS-DACS would offer support for getting the community on-board and/or use of complimentary methods/systems for documenting changes to DACS. She also noted that using revision control and management software (i.e., Git Hub) would allow for more transparency and documentation around changes to DACS.

Action Items

TS-DACS will proceed with making the proposed change and updating all relevant documentation.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) change proposal

November 2015

DACS elements to change

“Examples” section of Preface

Proposed change

Remove reference to companion website as follows:

Examples

Another recurring theme in the community feedback was the desire for more examples to be included in DACS. The subcommittee agreed that extensive and varied examples would be a valuable help in using DACS. However, several factors pushed the subcommittee’s response in a different direction. The DACS revision cycle is coinciding with that for EAD; MARC is undergoing revisions as a result of RDA implementation and will eventually be replaced; and EAC-CPF examples are just now becoming widely available. The subcommittee decided that the best way to respond to the desire for more examples would be to ~~create a companion website to DACS where community members could submit examples and best practices. It was decided to move the encoding examples to this website as well. This will allow TS-DACS to respond more rapidly to changes in encoding standards and to keep these examples current and up to date.~~ **focus its efforts on improving and expanding DACS education offerings.** The print edition of DACS retains text examples illustrating specific rules, and additional examples have been supplied as needed.

Justification of proposed change

After consideration, TS-DACS has decided to focus its efforts on improving DACS education offerings, both revising the existing one-day “Intro to DACS” workshop as well as creating additional webinars, rather than building an additional companion website. In the committee’s opinion, thoughtfully revised education offerings have a far greater likelihood of fulfilling the archival community’s desire for application of DACS rules than a website with expanded examples.

Removing this text from the preface will reduce confusion among readers looking for the nonexistent companion website referenced.

Impact of proposed change

The impact of this change proposal should be minimal.

APPENDIX 2: DACS CHANGE PROPOSAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community Feedback for DACS Preface Change Proposal

Submitted on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 4:46pm

Name: Leslie Wagner

Email: leslie.wagner@uta.edu

Affiliation: University of Texas at Arlington

Phone: 817-272-6209

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: I believe that a companion website which allowed members to post examples would not be helpful. I feel that previous DACS content has been sufficient, and I prefer to make my decisions based on the source and not some else's interpretation of it.

Submitted on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 4:55pm

Name: Gordon Daines

Email: gordon_daines@byu.edu

Affiliation: Brigham Young University

Phone: 801-422-5821

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: I am supportive of this change given the direction that TS-DACS has chosen to go.

Submitted on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 5:16pm

Name: Mike Rush

Email: michael.rush@yale.edu

Affiliation: Yale University

Phone:

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: This is sensible and practical.

Submitted on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 7:30pm

Name: Lydia Tang

Email: ltang5@msu.edu

Affiliation:

Phone:

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: I think more DACS training sessions and webinars would be great, because it is so helpful to have an engaging and interactive way to learn so many rules. However, it would be great if there still could be some sort of free informal web community (like a Google forum) to pose questions and show examples, because there may be some people who would not be able to afford attending a training session. Thanks for your consideration!

Submitted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 3:53am

Name: Karin Bredenberg

Email: karin.bredenberg@riksarkivet.se

Affiliation: National Archives of Sweden

Phone:

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: Do this change!

Submitted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 6:52am

Name: Anne

Email: aryckbost@gmail.com

Affiliation:

Phone:

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: I think a website with examples would be more beneficial because workshops and webinars created by SAA are very cost-prohibitive.

Submitted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 8:42am

Name: Natasha Margulis

Email: nmargulis@astate.edu

Affiliation: Arkansas State University

Phone:

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: Expanding educational offerings as opposed to developing a companion website for DACS seems to be counter-intuitive, especially if the educational offerings are going to be offered at a charge. By whom would they be offered and how many people would actually have the time/\$ to take advantage of this? I would prefer to be able to look up something on the web and decide for myself if this is applicable than to sit through a class/webinar to find out the new "secret" changes to DACS. By promoting the understanding of changes and usage of DACS entirely via educational offerings rather than online components is going to further remove DACS professionals from finding common ground and hinder the work on the making DACS the best standard and practices it should be by isolating it and its users from the rapidly growing and extremely effective international community of archivists.

Submitted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 10:27am

Name: Ruth Tillman

Email: ruthtillman@gmail.com

Affiliation:

Phone:

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments:

I think overall DACS education efforts are important and am pleased to see those are being expanded. Making the language more generic and removing the website reference makes perfect sense in terms of the goals TS-DACS has laid out.

A website with best practices could be useful (I should send y'all a question we got for you EAD3 FAQ which is actually a DACS question), but I don't think it should be a priority over more interactive education and it falls under "education offerings" anyway.

Submitted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - 3:29pm

Name: Jackie Dooley

Email: dooleyj@oclc.org

Affiliation: OCLC Research

Phone: 9494925060

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: It might be useful to at least retain a brief mention that the authors of DACS consciously decided not to include examples, and why, rather than leaving people to wonder why they're not present. Perhaps it's mentioned elsewhere in DACS--I didn't look.

Submitted on Monday, December 7, 2015 - 11:04am

Name: James Cross

Email: jcross@clemson.edu

Affiliation:

Phone: 864-656-5182

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: This appears to be a logical change to make and it will have minimal effect on DACS. I would be in favor of going ahead and making the change.

Submitted on Thursday, December 24, 2015 - 12:12pm

Name: Elizabeth Nielsen

Email: elizabeth.nielsen@oregonstate.edu

Affiliation: Oregon State University

Phone: 541-737-0543

Does this represent an official comment from your affiliated group? No

Comments: I am fully supportive of this change and appreciate TS-DACS' eagerness to focus on expanding training for DACS implementation, with one caveat: While a companion website would have been open access, I expect that training (in-person or on-line) will be fee-based (at least initially). I encourage SAA to consider how that training can be as low cost (and preferably "open access") as possible.