

FROM THE CHAIR

Jennifer Meehan

It seems like an understatement to say that there is a lot happening in the world of archival description and access. This year alone has seen the continued evolution and revision of data content and structure standards for archival description (DACs, EAD, EAC-CPF), and the development and launch of new systems for archives management ([ArchivesSpace](#)) as well as new models for archival access ([Princeton University Library Finding Aids](#)). In short, there will be a lot to consider and discuss together at the upcoming SAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and hope you can join us for the Description Section Meeting. Details about the section meeting and description-themed conference programs follow.

Enjoy the summer newsletter!

Jennifer



Description Section Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 15 ; **Time:** 3:30-5:30pm ; **Location:** Grand Ballroom C

The meeting program will include the following panel presentation, followed by the business meeting.

Networking and Mapping Literary Archives: How New Tools Can Facilitate New Practices

Speakers:

Kathy Wisser, Simmons College

Exposing the Small World of Literary Collections through Archival Description

Kathelene McCarty Smith, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

North Carolina Literary Map

Elizabeth Russey Roke, Emory University

Networking the Belfast Group through the Automated Semantic Enhancement of Existing Digital Content

Pre-conference programs

Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs) [REVISED], Monday, August 12, 9am-5pm

Encoded Archival Context – Corporate Bodies, Persons & Families (EAC-CPF), Monday, August 12, 9am-5pm

EAD Hackathon, Monday, August 12, 1-4:30pm

Conference programs

Session 103, “Archives Without Walls: The Value of Networks, Consortia, and Aggregations,” Monday August 15, 10-11:30am

Session 104, "Disruptive Components: Reimagining Archival Access Systems," Thursday, August 15, 10-11:30am

Session 109, "Pushing the Envelope: Using Object Collections Management Systems to Catalogue Archives," Thursday, August 15, 10-11:30am

Session 307, "Mapping the Course for a National Archival Authorities Cooperative," Friday, August 16, 9:30-10:30am

Session 402, "Accessions Confessions: Exposing Accessions in the Era of Minimal Processing," Friday, August 16, 10:45-11:45am

Session 510, "It's a Con(text) Job: Contrasting EAC-CPF Projects," Friday, August 16, 2:45-3:45pm

Session 601, "ArchivesSpace: A Next-Generation Archives Management System," Saturday, August 17, 8-9:30am

Session 701, "It's All About the Items: Digital Objects and Aggregations in Archival Description and Access," Saturday, August 17, 9:45-11:15am

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Kira Dietz

Summer is here, the 2013 Description Expo is upon us, and we're looking for entries! Consider sharing your projects, tool, technologies, and techniques for improving description by submitting them to the Expo. If you've found a new and/or resourceful way to share collections, your colleagues want to hear about it! Entries for this year will be collected through **July 31, 2013**. Projects will be exhibited on the section website beginning in August 2013.

You can see previous Expos on the Description Section website:

<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/description-section/description-expo>. If you have a project you would like to submit, please send a description (300 words or less), along with a link to Kira Dietz at kadietz@vt.edu.

In other news, this has been a busy year for description and descriptive standards, including revisions to DACS and EAD, and increasing use of EAC-CPF. Change can be scary, but it is also exciting. I'm looking forward to hearing the latest at the Annual Meeting in August, and I hope you are, too. It should be a great chance to start some new conversations we can continue throughout the year. Look for me in New Orleans (I'll have a cocktail or a beignet in hand!), say hi, and let's chat!



SECTION LEADSHIP

Jennifer Meehan, Chair

Kira Dietz, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Joyce Chapman, Immediate Past Chair

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Patricia Rettig, Secretary

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Olga Virakhovskaya, Newsletter Editor



NEWS AND NOTES

New Edition of DACS

By Gordon Daines

The Technical Subcommittee on *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (TS-DACS) has spent the last three years working on a revision of *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS) and is proud to announce that the second edition of DACS is now available. Copies may be purchased through the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) bookstore or the standard may be freely downloaded from the TS-DACS webpage. More information is available at <http://www2.archivists.org/standards/describing-archives-a-content-standard-second-edition-dacs>.

Many archivists have asked what differences exist between the first edition of DACS and the second edition. The two major changes are the removal of Part III (Forms of Names) and the augmentation of Part II (Archival Authority Records). Part III was removed because another existing standard covers the formulation of names and members of TS-DACS felt that archivists should use that standard. That standard is *Resource Description and Access* (RDA). Using RDA to formulate the forms of names has the added benefit of allowing the names in archival records to be compatible with those in bibliographic records. This facilitates users' ability to locate related materials. In many ways, Part II is a new frontier for archivists. With the adoption of Encoded Archival Context (EAC) as a standard by SAA, TS-DACS felt that it was important to provide guidance on crafting the content that goes into EAC records. Part II is based on the International Standard Archival Authority Record For Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (ISAAR (CPF)) and provides guidance on the creation of archival authority records. Another small, but important change, made to DACS is the revision of the rules governing titles to allow for institutions to use terms for the nature of the archival unit other than papers, records, or collection—particularly when describing electronic materials. The term(s) selected for use to describe the nature of archival materials should be comprehensible to the institution's users and should be well documented. The goal of this rule change is to improve users' ability to understand the types of materials that they are discovering.

Another exciting development is that DACS will be available as a website. TS-DACS would like to include additional examples to augment those that are part of the standard and would like to encourage Description Section members to submit potential examples to TS-DACS. Examples can be sent to Gordon Daines at gordon_daines@byu.edu. Please be sure to indicate what rule the example is illustrating. We hope that you find the second edition of DACS useful.

Boston College completes a processing project

By Adrienne Pruitt, Processing Archivist, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

The John J. Burns Library at Boston College is pleased to announce the completion of a yearlong backlog processing project, resulting in the processing of over 415 linear feet of manuscript collections related to Boston history. Collections now available include: the records of John Donnelly & Sons, one of the most prominent outdoor advertising companies on the east coast; the personal and professional papers of penologist Howard Belding Gill, superintendent of Norfolk Prison Colony from 1927-1934 and founder and director of the Institute of Correctional Administration in Washington DC; the New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing records,

documenting the school's history from its inception in 1896 to its closure in 1989; the Citywide Coordinating Council records, detailing the activities of the independent, autonomous body created by the courts to oversee desegregation in Boston Public Schools, 1975-1978; and the Elizabeth Hayward collection of Ursuline Academy materials, containing materials relating to the August 11, 1834 burning of the convent and school by an anti-Catholic mob, including unpublished firsthand accounts. The Hayward collection has been completely digitized and is fully available online. To explore finding aids for all of the recently processed collections, please see <http://bclib.bc.edu/libsearch/archive/collection/BPP2013>. For more information, contact the Burns Library at burnsref@bc.edu or 617-552-4861, or see our Libguide at <http://libguides.bc.edu/Burns>.

Newly-available collections at the Harvard University Archives

From the NEA newsletter, 5/8/2013

Collections Services staff at the Harvard University Archives has recently completed work on the following collections:

Records of the Hasty Pudding Club, 1795-2011: Founded on September 8, 1795, the Hasty Pudding Club is best known today for its annual theatrical productions starring male members in drag, a tradition that began in 1844. The collection consists of administrative records; records of club activities such as annual dinners, celebrations, and initiations; theatrical programs, playbills, and posters, along with scattered vocal scores, scripts, and photographs; catalogs of members; and histories compiled by the Club. The collection finding aid is available online at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.ARCH:hua13012>.

William Cameron Blackett personal archive, 1900-1937: Blackett (1890-1925) was a member of the Harvard College Class of 1912. The collection, consisting of a scrapbook, loose photographs and ephemera, and a lacrosse medal, documents his undergraduate social life; hiking and canoeing trips in New England and Canada; his work as a counselor at

Brantwood, a summer camp for boys in Greenwood, New Hampshire; an extended visit to Ontario, Canada; and his service in artillery and aerial observation units in France during World War I. The collection finding aid is available online at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.ARCH:hua02013>.

Gerald James Holton personal archive, 1919-2011: Holton, Professor of Physics and History of Science at Harvard since 1976, has focused his research on the physics of matter at high pressure, the history and philosophy of science, the role of science in contemporary America, and science education. The collection (70 cubic feet, 1919-2011) contains correspondence, research notes, project files, articles, and course materials, as well as biographical information about Holton's wife, Nina, a sculptor. The archive is a valuable resource for research on science education and the relationship of science to public policy. The collection finding aid is available at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.ARCH:hua12012>.

The Harvard University Archives has also forged ahead in the realm of born-digital content, focusing efforts on the acquisition and description of 128 Harvard web sites in two collections, both of which are available in WAX, Harvard's web archive collection service at <http://wax.lib.harvard.edu/collections/home.do> :

A-Sites: Archived Harvard Web Sites consists of web sites created by Harvard schools, academic departments, administrative offices, museums, and research centers.

H-Sites: Harvard Life and Learning holds web sites created by the diverse individuals and groups who form the broader Harvard community, such as the student group Occupy Harvard. The Occupy Harvard web site is part of the group's archive, a hybrid collection that includes analog archival materials in addition to the web site and other born-digital content. The collection finding aid is available at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.ARCH:hua06012>

DC-2013 Conference

EAD Digest - 5 Jun 2013 to 9 Jun 2013 (#2013-60)



The DC-2013 conference theme explores questions regarding the persistence, maintenance, and preservation of metadata and descriptive vocabularies. The need for stable representations and descriptions spans all sectors including cultural heritage and scientific data, eGovernment, finance and commerce. In addition to the theme, presentations and discussion will cover a broad range of topics on innovation in metadata design and practice.

DC-2013 will be collocated with iPRES-2013. Both conferences will take place in the same venue and run in parallel. During the collocated events, delegates are welcome to choose sessions that best fit their interests from either conference. Keynotes are held in common plenaries; and, social events are shared, providing an excellent opportunity for DCMI and iPRES delegates to socialize, share common interests and network. Delegates of the two conferences may separately register for a mix of pre- and post-conference events organized by the conference committees of both iPRES and DCMI.

DC-2013 speakers and tutorial leads include: Gildas Illien, Ivan Herman, Richard Wallis, Steven Miller, Kai Eckert, and Daniel Garijo, among many others. Full-day workshops include: (1) VocDay 2013: Managing Vocabularies, sponsored by the DC-Vocabulary Management Community and DC-Bibliographic Metadata Task Group; and (2) CAMP-4-Data: Cyber-infrastructure and Metadata Protocols, sponsored by DC-Science & Metadata Community (DC-SAM) & the Research Data Alliance (RDA).

To learn more about the conference program and to register, go to the conference website <http://purl.org/dcevents/dc-2013>. DC-2013 and iPRES-2013 share a common registration.

Post-Alpha EAD Revision Update

EAD Digest - 10 Jun 2013 to 11 Jun 2013 (#2013-62)

By Mike Rush

On behalf of the Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description, I want to update the community on the progress of the EAD revision.

First, I want to thank everyone who provided feedback on the Alpha version of the revised schema. Your testing, comments, and encoded examples were extremely helpful to us. We are in the process of making numerous changes in direct response to those comments. If you would like to review the comments received on the alpha version, they have all been logged in the revision's GitHub site. See <https://github.com/SAA-SDT/EAD-Revision/issues>.

Second, because of the number of issues raised by the alpha feedback that need to be addressed, the delivery of the Beta version of the revised EAD schema will be pushed back until August 1st. Our bottom line is to have the Beta available in advance of the SAA annual meeting and accompanied by sufficient documentation. Finally, I want to alert you that documentation relating to the revision that was previously available on the SAA Standards Portal has been moved to the TS-EAD website (<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-description-ead/ead-revision>).

File attachments to the EAD page on the Standards Portal (<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-description-ead/encoded-archival-description-ead>) is now limited to official documentation of the standard. As always, please do not hesitate to send any questions regarding the EAD revision process to the EAD list or to me directly.

ALCTS Call for 2014 Proposals

AUTOCAT Digest - 10 Jun 2013 to 11 Jun 2013 (#2013-157)

The ALCTS Program Committee invites program and pre-conference proposals for the ALA Annual Conference 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 26 - July, 1. The committee will also accept proposals from those interested in planning virtual symposiums to be held before Midwinter 2014 and virtual pre-conferences prior to Annual 2014.

If you are interested in planning a pre-conference or program, please submit the appropriate web form (see below), and plan to meet with the Program Committee during ALA Annual 2013 in Chicago. You will be contacted to make an appointment for a 15 minute session during one of the committee's meetings on Saturday, June 29th, 8:30-11:30 or Monday July 1, 1:00-5:30.

The committee and ALCTS staff will help you develop your ideas and plan logistics. It isn't necessary to have all the details when you initially fill out the proposal form or visit the committee. The Program Committee welcomes topics that will remain current and of interest in 2014, and encourages you to employ different program formats: lightning rounds, learning lounge style, debates, an "unconference" model, etc. Programs and pre-conferences often originate with ALCTS sections or interest groups, but they can also come from individuals or other groups.

Proposal forms are located at:

Pre-conference: <http://alctsprogram.wufoo.com/forms/alcts-preconference-proposal/>

Virtual pre-conference: <https://alctsprogram.wufoo.com/forms/alcts-virtual-preferencesymposium-proposal/>

Program: <http://alctsprogram.wufoo.com/forms/alcts-program-proposal/>

More information about the planning process can be found at <http://www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/howto/plan> <<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/mgrps/howto/plan/index.cfm>>

Please contact the ALCTS Program Committee at alcts-program@ala.org <<mailto:alcts-program@ala.org>> with questions.

Now Available: Open Source Code and Web Service for EAC-CPF

EAD Digest - 11 Jun 2013 to 14 Jun 2013 (#2013-63)

By Daniel Pitti

The Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) project is pleased to announce the release of open source code that extracts names and related identifying information from MARC21 XML archival descriptions and assembles Encoded Archival Context-Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) identity records. We are also pleased to announce a Web Service to perform the same function taking as input MARC21 or MARC21 XML records and returning EAC-CPF records for download for local use.

The SNAC project has been generously funded by the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities (2010-2012) and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2012-2014).

The MARC to EAC-CPF code can be downloaded here: https://github.com/twl8n/snac_eac_cpf_utils

The MARC to EAC-CPF Web Service will be found here: <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/dev/>

The open source code and Web Service are based on code developed to process WorldCat 2.2M MARC encoded archival descriptions made available to the SNAC project by OCLC. From the WorldCat records, the SNAC project has created 4.5M EAC-CPF records. The code processes each record one-by-one in order to create the EAC-CPF records, and thus many of the resulting records describe the same entity (duplicates). The records extracted and assembled in this first stage of SNAC processing will now be matched against one another and records in the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF). Records deemed to be for the same entity will be combined in this process, with data in matching VIAF records used to enhance data extracted from the WorldCat data. Finally, the resulting set of records will be made available in the public SNAC prototype access and resource. The SNAC project is in the final stages of refining the merge/combine processing, and so records created from the WorldCat data will not be available for at least a few weeks. The project will announce the availability of the data in the SNAC prototype, and we will very much appreciate your exploring the prototype and providing feedback.

Currently under development is code to convert agency history records that were created using the MARC bibliographic format when no dedicated format for such existed. While only a few archives and libraries participated in this activity, the SNAC project will also make the code developed to convert these MARC records into EAC-CPF records as open source and to provide a Web Service. The Smithsonian Institution and the New York State Archives provided the MARC-encoded records used to develop this code.

Also under development is code that extracts names and related identifying information from EAD instances and assembles EAC-CPF records. This code, when completed, will also be made available as open source.

For more information on the SNAC project, please visit

<http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/index.html>



3rd International Workshop on Semantic Digital Archives (SDA)

EAD Digest - 14 Jun 2013 to 17 Jun 2013 (#2013-64)

3rd International Workshop on Semantic Digital Archives (SDA) in conjunction with the 17th Int. Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL), 26th September 2013 in Valetta, Malta <http://sda2013.dke-research.de>

OBJECTIVES:

The Semantic Digital Archives (SDA) workshop series fosters innovative discussion of knowledge representation and knowledge management solutions specifically designed for improving Archival Information Systems (AISs). Novel applications of semantic Web technologies and Linked Data offer possibilities to advance approaches to digital curation and preservation.

During the last quarter of a century the explosion in digital content creation and use has transformed the relationship individuals and society have with information. Therefore, sustainable long-term curation approaches to our digital cultural heritage are essential. Handling digital content in secure ways poses many socio-cultural and technological challenges. Changing technologies and shifting user communities as well as the increasing complexity of digital content being enriched with software and multimedia attachments are a couple of examples. Addressing the obstacles to curation and preservation is the central theme of the workshop. This full day workshop is an exciting opportunity for collaboration and cross-fertilization between the Digital Libraries, the Digital Preservation and the Semantic Web community.

A closer dialogue between the technical oriented communities and researchers from the (digital) humanities and social sciences as well as cultural heritage institutions is encouraged.

TOPICS OF INTEREST:

We intend to have an open discussion on topics related to the general subject of Semantic Digital Archives. Hence, we welcome contributions that focus on, but are not limited to:

- * Archival information systems (AIS)
- * AIS Architectures
- * Archival information infrastructure frameworks (AII)
- * Ontologies & linked data for AIS, AII and digital libraries
- * Logical theories for digital archives & digital preservation
- * Knowledge evolution
- * (Semantic) provenance models
- * Contextualization of archives
- * Semantic long-term storage & hardware organization for AIS & AII
- * Semantic extensions of emulation/virtualization methodologies tailored for AIS/AII
- * Semantic multimedia AIS, AII & multimedia libraries
- * Implementations & evaluations of (semantic) AIS, AII & semantic digital libraries
- * Preservation of scientific and research data
- * Preservation of work flow processes
- * Semantic search & semantic information retrieval in digital archives and digital libraries
- * Implementations and evaluations of semantic digital archives
- * User studies focusing on end-user needs and information seeking behavior of end-users (document triage)
- * Web Archives
- * (Semantic) Preservation Processes and Protocols

- * Semantic (Web) services implementing AIS & AII
- * Information integration/semantic ingest (e.g. from digital libraries)
- * Trust for ingest & data security/integrity check for long-term storage of archival records
- * Semantic extensions of emulation/virtualization methodologies for digital archives
- * Migration strategies based on Semantic Web technologies Submission Details

SAA 2013 "EAD Consortia / Digital Content and Digital Preservation Consortia" brown bag lunch (Thursday, Aug 15, 2013. 12:00-1:15 pm)

EAD Digest - 22 Jun 2013 to 23 Jun 2013 (#2013-68)

By Jennifer Schaffner, OCLC Research; Jodi Allison-Bunnell, Orbis Cascade Alliance / Northwest Digital Archives ; Adrian Turner, California Digital Library / Online Archive of California

Archival networks, EAD consortia, and aggregators have gathered informally at SAA meetings for the past several years to exchange information and offer mutual support. This lunchtime gathering will expand to include consortial activities pertaining to digital content and digital preservation.

It's a venue for lightly facilitated conversation to follow up on the lightning talks in Session 103.

Planned topics include sustaining programs, to size and scale of infrastructure. Below are discussion points for the upcoming meeting:

- Looking to the future: how are changes to the archival network ecosystem changing our activities?
- Collaborative archival management activities: at what size and scale?
- Revisiting the value of consortia: are we doing enough?

Please see the conference program for location details.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

OCLC-MARC Bibliographic, Authority, and Holdings Formats Update 2013 OCLC-CAT Digest - 18 Jun 2013 to 19 Jun 2013 (#2013-141)

OCLC has now implemented the changes related to the OCLC-MARC Bibliographic, Authority, and Holdings Formats Update 2013, which are detailed in OCLC Technical Bulletin 262

(<http://www.oclc.org/support/services/worldcat/documentation/tb/262.en.html>), now available.

This installation includes MARC 21 Update No. 15 (dated September 2012), code list additions and changes published chiefly since May 2012, and other suggestions from WorldCat users and OCLC staff. Many of these elements, including those from MARC 21 Update No. 15, are related to Resource Description and Access (RDA). Among the points of interest:

- *In Bibliographic Scores 008/20 and 006/03 (FMus), existing codes "c" (Accompaniment reduced for keyboard), "d" (Voice score with accompaniment), and "h" (Chorus score) have been "re-described" and a new code "k" for "Vocal score" has been defined.
- *In Bibliographic field 024, both old-style (ten-character) ISMNs and new style (thirteen-character) ISMNs may now be input and coded correctly.
- *In Bibliographic field 028, new subfield \$q for "Qualifying information" has been validated.
- *Bibliographic fields 261 (Imprint Statement for Films (Pre-AACR1 Revised)) have been converted to field 260 and are no longer valid for input.
- *Bibliographic fields 262 (Imprint Statement for Sound Recordings (Pre-AACR2)) have been converted to field 260, to the extent that was safely possible. Field 262 is no longer valid for input. Due to incorrectly coded or contradictory data, many 262 fields remain unconverted. Any

unconverted or incorrectly converted 262 fields should be corrected when possible or reported to OCLC via bibchange@oclc.org.

*In Bibliographic field 511, long-obsolete First Indicators blank, 2, and 3 have been converted and invalidated.

*New Bibliographic and Holdings fields 883 for "Machine-Generated Metadata Provenance" have been validated, but are intended for future use. Please do not use field 883 at this time.

*Authority field 368 (Other Attributes of Person or Corporate Body) has been renamed; existing subfield \$c (Other designation) has been redefined; and new subfields \$d (Title of person), \$s (Start period), \$t (End period), \$u (Uniform Resource Identifier), and \$v (Source of information) have been validated. NACO participants should not input these new subfields in the Authority 368 field until an announcement regarding their use is made by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

*New indexes will be implemented at a future date, including several involving Dewey Decimal Classification data in Bibliographic fields 082, 083, and 085; several to account for recently-implemented subfields in Bibliographic field 502 (Dissertation Note); and an Action Note Authorization index for both Bibliographic and Holdings fields 583 subfield \$f. There will also be some additions to various existing indexes. OCLC will announce availability via logon Messages of the Day, Connexion News, and the OCLC-CAT discussion list.