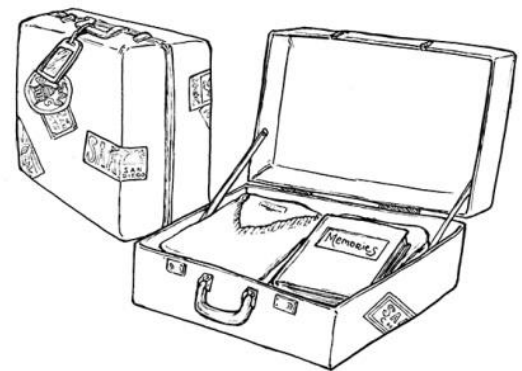*Descriptive NOTES*

From the Chair

Kira A. Dietz

It's almost time for me to hand over the reins to the incoming Chair of the Description Section. Before I do, I have the chance to write one more column-and run our section meeting! First, I want to thank our members for, well, being members. Without you, we wouldn't be here, doing what we do! The evolution of description continues to amaze me and I'm glad to be part of the dialogue. Second, I want to thank the Steering Committee for all their hard work this year. There are a several members rotating off the committee, so we'll be welcoming some new leaders, too.

For those of you attending the SAA 2014 Annual Meeting in a few weeks, I hope you'll join us for the section meeting. I know schedules can always be hectic, but we have a great program planned, along with the election announcements and usual business and updates. This year, we have opted to try out a 90 minute meeting, rather than a two hour one. We will be meeting in Washington 4 (Exhibition Level) on Thursday, August 14, from 3:30-5pm (which should get us out in plenty of time to make the Exhibit Hall opening). Our guest speakers will include Karin Bredenberg from the Swedish National Archives, who will talk about a project called eARD (Electronic Records Management and E-Archiving) and Daniel Pitti, chair of the ICA Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD!), a group working on developing a conceptual model for archival description based on existing ICA standards. We may also have other members of EGAD! joining us, too. If you have an update, news, or announcement you'd like to share at the section meeting, please drop me an email (kadietz@vt.edu) and let me know. I'm happy to add you to the in-progress agenda.

In addition to the section meeting, there will be plenty of opportunities to talk description in formal and informal settings. I encourage you to look at the conference schedule, if you haven't already. From pre-conference events to individual sessions to posters, you won't have to look hard to find people talking about describing and accessing content.

See you at SAA!

From the Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Gordon Daines

The second edition of Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) was released a little over a year ago. I hope that you've all had the chance to start using it and are beginning to get a feel for how it impacts your descriptive efforts. I'm positive that some of you have noticed things that need to be tweaked or changed. Following the SAA annual meeting last year, SAA Council approved a change to the charge for the Technical Subcommittee on Describing Archives: A Content Standard (TS-DACS) that put DACS on a continuous revision cycle. This means that when you notice something that you think needs to be changed in DACS, you can submit a proposal to TS-DACS to consider the change. The proposal needs to include a brief description of the component of DACS to be changed as well as the proposed change, a justification for the proposed change, and the impact of the proposed change. Upon receipt of a change proposal, TS-DACS will evaluate the proposal and decide whether it merits further community discussion. If TS-DACS feels that the change proposal has merit, it will make the proposal available for community feedback in as many ways as possible. TS-DACS will then review the community feedback and make a decision about whether or not to revise DACS. If TS-DACS decides that revision is merited, they will revise the corresponding component of DACS and make the revision available for community feedback. TS-DACS will then review the community's feedback and finalize the proposed revision. The finalized revision proposal will be submitted to the Standards Committee and then SAA Council for approval. Once the revision proposal is approved by the Standards Committee and SAA Council, TS-DACS will update the online version of DACS (available at http://www2.archivists.org/standards/DACS). So take a look at the second edition of DACS and let TS-DACS know of any potential revisions that you believe are necessary.

On another note, I am excited to be stepping into the role of chair of the Description Section following this year's SAA annual meeting. I look forward to working with all of you and hope that you will share your thoughts and ideas about where the Description Section should be heading over the next year with me.

Web archives

EAD Revision Progress Report

Michael Rush

The revision of EAD is on schedule to be completed by winter 2015. The Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description (TS-EAD) released the Beta version of EAD3 in August 2013. After incorporating feedback on the Beta version and making additional modifications to the schema, TS-EAD released a Gamma version of EAD3 in February 2014.

Since the end of the Gamma comment period in March, TS-EAD has finalized the feature set for EAD3 - no additional requests for changes to the schema will be accepted. Remaining work includes schema design improvements to support the derivation of a W3C schema and a DTD from the core RELAX NG schema, completion of the tag library, and the development of the migration stylesheet and other supporting code.

Interested archivists may follow the development of EAD3 on GitHub at https://github.com/SAA-SDT/EAD-Revision. Any questions or concerns should be directed to TS-EAD co-chair, Mike Rush (michael.rush@yale.edu).

Changes in EAD3 Gamma Release
By Michael Rush EAD Digest - 5 Feb 2014 to 9 Feb 2014 (#2014-21)

Since the beta release of EAD3 in August of last year, the Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description (TS-EAD) has been busy resolving issues, listening to community feedback, squashing bugs, and improving documentation. Significant changes to EAD3 since the beta release include the following:

- For EAD3 <relations> will be considered an "experimental" element, and not included in the official schema. A separate schema is available that includes <relations> for those EAD implementations that choose to use it. This arrangement is a compromise between the desire to provide the more robust Linked Data functionality introduced by <relations> in EAC-CPF and the concerns that <relations> may duplicate functionality already available within <controlaccess> and that the successful implementation of <relations> may be dependent upon as yet undeveloped external vocabularies.
- The <table> model from EAD 2002 was restored.
- Pattern validation for date normalization attributes was removed. A separate Schematron schema will be provided for validating date attributes against ISO 8601. Patterns were removed to allow the use of alternate date normalization standards.
- To better support lightweight Linked Data applications, the <controlaccess> elements (persname, corpname, famname, name, subject, geogname, function, occupation, and title) were all given the following attributes:
    - @source [URI or string for name of vocabulary from which term is taken]
    - @rules [URI or string for rules by which a term is devised]
    - @identifier [URI or string for the term]
    - @relator [URI or string for a relator term, and a migration path for @role from EAD 2002, which is now removed from these elements, eliminating semantic collision with the xlink definition of @role]
    - @localtype [URI or string for any other local subclassing]

- Within the <controlaccess> elements, which now consist of one or more <part> element, <part> now has the @source, @rules, and @identifier attributes available for post-coordinated terms which combine terms from multiple vocabularies.
- In response to beta feedback requesting the restoration of <daogrp>, we created <daoset> which wraps two or more <dao> elements. This acknowledges the need to bind multiple <dao> elements, but still eliminates the burdensome and little used extended linking model of <daogrp>.
- Within <dao>, <daodesc> was replaced with <descriptivenote>. This was done for simplicity: <descriptivenote> was already available elsewhere in the schema and it allows one or more <p>, rather than <daodesc>, which allows <head>, <list>, <table>, and other block elements, and for which we could find nearly zero evidence of use.
- Restored @langencoding, @scriptencoding, @dateencoding, @countryencoding, and @repositoryencoding to <control>. Each of those attributes may have either their default values from EAD 2002, or "other".
- Within <physdescstructured>, <physfacet> and <dimensions> can now occur in any order.
- Added @approximate (with values "yes" or "no") to <quantity>.
- Rejected proposals to make <quantity> optional.
- Enumerated element values for <publicationstatus>, <maintenancestatus>, <agenttype>, and <eventtype> were moved to a "value" attribute to allow for alternate languages to be used in the elements themselves.
- <descriptivenote> was removed from <origination> and <repository> for lack of a use case.
- Added @coverage (with values "whole" or "part"> to <dao>.
- Adopted a CC0 license for the EAD3 schemas and migration stylesheet, CC-BY for the tag library.
- Created <foreign> for inline tagging of language and script.
- Added <geographiccoordinates> as a child of <geogname>
- Replaced all instances of <placeentry> with <geogname>.

Invitation to review METS 2.0

EAD Digest - 31 Jul 2014 to 1 Aug 2014 (#2014-83)

All are invited to participate and provide feedback to the METS Editorial Board on a new draft version of the METS schema, METS 2.0, at a workshop being held in London as part of Digital Libraries 2014, an event organized by the ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2014) and the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL 2014).

The Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS) 1.x schema has an established community of users many of whom are moving toward the use of newer technologies such as those of the Semantic Web and linked data for their digital content and metadata. In this workshop, entitled *METS Now, and Then*... Discussions of Current and Future Data Models, participants will develop an understanding of the data models underlying some canonical uses

of the existing METS schema as illustrated by a panel of experienced METS implementers. The explication of data models will provide a contextual basis for the description of a next generation METS (2.0) data model. Participants will be invited to participate in the refinement of the METS 2.0 data model being developed by the METS Editorial Board, and discuss options for serialization of the data model.

The workshop will take place over two half days: Thursday, September 11 (afternoon) and Friday, September 12. For more information and registration, please visit the Digital Libraries 2014 (http://www.dl2014.org/workshops.html) site or contact Betsy Post (betsy.post@bc.edu).

iPRES 2014

SAA Electronic Records Section Discussion List digest for January 28, 2014.
The 11th annual iPRES conference on digital preservation will be held from 6 to 10 October 2014 at the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne. http://ipres2014.org/
The 2014 conference is canvassing contributions along two primary axes -Research and Innovative Practice.
See the Information for authors page<http://ipres2014.org/author-information-and-guidelines> for more information
Key dates:

- 01 September 2014 - early bird registrations close
- 30 September 2014 - registrations close
- 6 October2014 - iPRES conference at State Library of Victoria
  http://ipres2014.org/state-library-victoria begins
- 10 October2014 - iPRES conference ends

Conceptual Model for Archival Description
By Daniel Pitti EAD Digest - 31 Jul 2014 to 1 Aug 2014 (#2014-83)

The International Council on Archives Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD!) is working on a conceptual model for archival description. One of the primary objectives of this work is to position the archival community to be able to take advantage of semantic technologies, including Linked Open Data.

If you are interested in knowing more about the work of EGAD, please see Gretchen Gueguen, Victor Manoel Marques da Fonseca, Daniel Pitti, and Claire Sibille-de Grimouard. "Toward an International Conceptual Model for Archival Description: A Preliminary Report from the International Council on Archive Experts Group on Archival Description." The American Archivist. Vol. 76, No. 2, 2013. pp 566-583. You will find the article in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish here: http://www.ica.org/13851/egad-resources/egad-resources.html

BIBFRAME AV Modeling Study: Defining a Flexible Model for Description of Audiovisual Resources

EAD Digest - 28 Jul 2014 to 29 Jul 2014 (#2014-80)

Recently posted on the BIBFRAME (BF) web site is a study carried out by Audiovisual Preservation Solutions for the Library of Congress concerning an appropriate model for AV material and relating that to the BF model: BIBFRAME AV Modeling Study: Defining a Flexible Model for Description of Audiovisual Resources: http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/pdf/bibframe-avmodelingstudy-may15-2014.pdf

It discusses the special characteristics of AV material that make it different from textual and other media and makes some general recommendations. With the increasing impact of AV as information resources and the need to preserve material in those media, special attention to it is appropriate as we develop BIBFRAME.

This report was carried out in close consultation with the Library of Congress's National Audiovisual Conservation Center (NAVCC) staff in Culpeper, Virginia, a vast archive that preserves and serves AV resources. The report examines a number of proposed community models such as FRBR/RDA, FIAF, OLAC, indecs, Variations, PBCore, EBCore and others that inform the analysis. The recommendations will become considerations for the BF model development as there are various ways the special attributes of these media could be accommodated.

The report is composed of a base document (the analysis, AV model, and recommendations) with appendices that give more detail about situations encountered with AV material.

As usual, comments, concerns, and discussion are encouraged via the BIBFRAME listserv (see the BIBFRAME home page/contacts at: http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/contact/index.html) or direct to bfcomment@loc.gov .

2014 D-SIP Project Showcase
By Kyle Nowels, D-SIP Program Assistant (SAA Metadata & Digital Object Roundtable Discussion List)

Join the 2014 Development Summer Internship Program in celebrating the completion of the eighth summer of this award-winning internship program. Interns will exhibit what they have accomplished, learned, and developed in their three month internships around the University of Michigan development community, as well as the Ann Arbor community.

- **When**: Friday, August 8 from 3:30-5:30 pm
- **Where**: Alumni Center (Founders Room), 200 Fletcher Street

Want more info about D-SIP? Visit leadersandbest.umich.edu/careers/student/dsip

2014 MDOR meeting

By Sarah Dorpinghaus (SAA Metadata & Digital Object Roundtable Discussion List)

Curious about metadata enhancement? Interested in versioning? Stumped by digital collection management?

If so, consider attending the Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable (MDOR) meeting on Wednesday, August 13 from 5:15-7:15 pm at the 2014 COSA-NAGARA-SAA Joint Annual Meeting.

After a brief business meeting, we'll have three presentations on metadata-related topics followed by three more on management and workflows. For further information, including a detailed agenda and presentation abstracts, visit the MDOR 2014 meeting page.

Those unable to attend in person can follow the meeting real-time via Twitter (#mdor14) and Google Docs. We'll be tweeting/posting highlights from the meeting as well as taking questions.

Hope to see you there!

Invitation: lunch meeting of archival consortia and networks at the SAA Annual Meeting

SAA Metadata & Digital Object Roundtable Discussion List

How can we work together effectively to accomplish what we can't do alone? Consortia and networks in North America, the Antipodes and Europe have developed exemplary infrastructure and workflows to ensure archives can be discovered by researchers. These consortia have matured considerably in the past ten years. Now we have an imperative for new directions.

Everyone attending SAA's annual meeting in Washington next month is invited to our third informal and participatory meeting of consortia, networks and aggregators of archival materials and digital content. Bring your own lunch on Thursday, August 14 at noon to room Washington 1 on the Exhibition Level (http://www2.archivists.org/2014/schedule#.U9BCzrEdElM).

The purpose of this meeting is to share concerns and future plans for our collaborative archival organizations. We discuss issues that are larger than one consortium or network.

Traditionally we begin with a round robin of "What just happened?" or "What's next?" in your organization. Topics on the agenda so far include:

1. Opening archival metadata for (re-)use by others? How to establish good community practices?

2. Trends in aggregation of digital content driving directions in aggregations of archival descriptions?

3. Who maintains the definitive list of archival consortia, networks and aggregators?

In consortial fervor, your faithful co-organizers:

Jodi Allison-Bunnell, Orbis Cascade Alliance

Jennifer Schaffner, OCLC Research

Adrian Turner, California Digital Library

SAA 2014 Digital Preservation Drop-in Center

What? A space where you can stop by anytime to ask questions you have about digital archives, including best practices, tools, standards, training, and how to get started.

Where? SAA 2014 in Washington D.C., at a table in the Career Center.

 When? August 13th - 16th during Career Center hours:

    Wednesday | noon-6 pm

    Thursday | 8 am-5:30 pm

    Friday | 8 am-6 pm

    Saturday | 8 am-10 am

MTSR 2014 - Special Track on Metadata & Semantics for Cultural Collections & Applications EAD Digest - 24 Jul 2014 to 28 Jul 2014 (#2014-79)

Part of the 8th International Conference on Metadata and Semantic Research (MTSR 2014),

27 - 29 November 2014, Karlsruhe, Germany

AIM AND SCOPE

Cultural Heritage collections are essential knowledge infrastructures that provide a solid representation of the historical background of human communities. These knowledge infrastructures are constructed from and integrate cultural information derived from diverse memory institutions, mainly museums, archives and libraries. Each individual community has spent a lot of effort in order to develop, support and promote its own metadata as tools for the description and dissemination of cultural information, mainly related to its particular resources and use.

The exposure of cultural information into the Semantic Web makes clear that metadata have to be accurate and deeply interpretable in the semantic level. Conceptual Reference Models could facilitate these procedures since they constitute conceptualizations - according to the specific point of view of a memory institution or its particular community - providing at the same time the context for interpreting the respecting metadata to their domain of discourse. CRMs have also been viewed as global schemata in order to map different metadata specifications. At the same time, there are also inter-domain efforts targeted to semantically align data (research data, educational data, public sector information etc.) to cultural information. The management of the cultural information provides challenges associated with (i) metadata modeling, specification, standardization, extraction, evaluation, mapping, integration and effective use, (ii) knowledge representation as conceptualization to provide the context for unambiguously interpreting metadata, and (iii) information integration from different contexts for the provision of integrated access and advanced services to the users.

The aim of this Special Track is to maintain a dialogue where researchers and practitioners working on all the aspects of the cultural information will come together and exchange ideas about open issues in all stages of the metadata life cycle. The track also welcomes works for the connection and interlinking of the Cultural Heritage metadata to any other dataset published in the Semantic Web universe.

TOPICS

The papers in this special track will address issues in areas such as:

- Cultural heritage metadata models, standards, interoperability, mappings and integration
- Automated metadata extraction
- Ontologies and knowledge representation for the cultural heritage domain
- Extracting semantics, entities, and patterns from Cultural Heritage collections
- Collection models and item - collection relationships representation
- Collection - level metadata modeling and management
- Linked open data approaches for the cultural heritage domain
- Composite content-discovery and management of components and interrelationships
- Large volume content management - high resolution image data sets
- 3D models-indexing, storage and retrieval approaches
- Federation of repositories/data infrastructures
- Integration of intra or inter disciplinary heterogeneous resources
- Infrastructures for sharing content
- Digital Curation workflows and models
- Preservation metadata for cultural heritage digital objects
- Metadata quality metrics
- Case studies

SPECIAL TRACK CHAIRS

- Michalis Sfakakis, Dept. Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece (sfakakis@ionio.gr)

- Lina Bountouri, Dept. Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece, and General State Archives, Greece (boudouri@ionio.gr)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- Trond AalbergNorwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway

- Anila Angjeli, Bibliotheque National de France, France

- Karin Bredenberg, The National Archives of Sweden, Sweden

- Costis Dallas, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, Canada

- Manolis Gergatsoulis, Ionian University, Greece

- Antoine Isaac, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Sarantos Kapidakis, Ionian University, Greece

- Irene Lourdi, Libraries Computer Centre, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

- Maria Emilia Masci, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy

- Carlo Meghini, National Research Council of Italy (ISTI-CNR), Italy

- Christian-Emile Ore, University of Oslo, Norway

- Christos Papatheodorou, Ionian University and Digital Curation Unit, IMIS, Athena RC, Greece

- Daniel Pitti, Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia, USA

- Stephen Stead, Paveprime Ltd., UK

- Chrisa Tsinaraki, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Italy

- Andreas Vlachidis, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science, University of South Wales, UK

- Katherine Wisser, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, USA

- Maja Dumer, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

DC-2014 CfP - Metadata Intersections: Bridging the Archipelago of Cultural Memory (Austin, Texas) EAD Digest - 27 Mar 2014 to 30 Mar 2014 (#2014-43)

14th International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications

8-11 October 2014, Austin, Texas, USA.

Metadata is fundamental in enabling ubiquitous access to cultural and scientific resources through galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM). While fundamental, GLAM traditions in documentation and organization lead to significant differences in both their languages of description and domain practices. And yet, the push is on for "radically open cultural heritage data" that bridges these differences as well as those across the humanities and the natural sciences. DC-2014 will explore the role of metadata in spanning the archipelago of siloed cultural memory in an emerging context of linked access to data repositories as well as repositories of cultural artifacts.

Conference Chairs:

--William Moen, University of North Texas - william.moen@unt.edu

--Amy Rushing, University of Texas at San Antonio - amy.rushing@utsa.edu

Second Workshop on "Archives in the digital age: standards, policies and tools"
EAD Digest - 12 Jul 2014 to 16 Jul 2014 (#2014-71)

Part of the IC-ININFO 2014 - 4th International Conference on Integrated Information

5-8 September 2014, Madrid, Spain (http://icininfo.net/)

Proceedings will be published in AIP Conference Proceedings
<http://scitation.aip.org/content/aip/proceeding/aipcp>

 AIM AND SCOPE

The description and dissemination of the archival collections has changed over the last twenty years, mostly due to the standardization of the archival description. The use of the archival standards and metadata schemas, such as ISAD(G), ISAAR(CPF), ISDF, EAD, EAC-CPF, METS, PREMIS etc., has expanded to many archival services worldwide. Currently, we find ourselves at a turning point where new versions of these tools have been created and new technologies are being used in the archives world, such as Linked Open Data and Semantic Web tools.

In addition, the latest years archivists are facing the big challenge of developing a formal conceptual model for archival description that identifies and defines the essential components of archival description and their interrelations. Furthermore, archivists have changed their daily professional routine, trying to be more public and to other institutions by using the Social Media platforms in order to disseminate information related to their institutions, collections, but also in order to share experiences and to discuss the important issues of the archival profession (such as the ICA OKE - Open Knowledge Exchanges).

The aim of this session is a) to document the use of standards and schemas, present their implementation, and their strong and weak points, b) to introduce all the current efforts related to the definition of a conceptual model for the archival description, c) to observe the

use and evaluation of archival information systems, and d) to present the use of Social Media in Archives and the policies followed by them.

The objective of this workshop is to generate a community in which archivists, information and computer scientists working on relevant issues will meet and exchange ideas about the main open issues.

 TOPICS

We welcome papers that deal with, but are not limited to, the following issues:

  - the use and evaluation of standards, metadata schemas and content description rules implemented by the Archives in order to describe, disseminate and preserve their material in the digital world
  - implementation of principles, policies, guidelines and best practices as part of the digitally manipulated archival tasks
  - use and evaluation of archival information systems
  - implementation of Semantic Web technologies in Archives
  - use of Social Media in Archives

Collective Conference and Call for Proposals

Take a look at the website for a new conference coming in **February 2015 to Knoxville, Tennessee**. The Collective will provide attendees with new ways to learn, network and kickstart ideas with other change-oriented archivists and librarians by emphasizing in-depth discussions and workshops. Call for Proposals: Session Proposals are now being accepted via our website. http://www.thelibrarycollective.org/

MDOR Calendar of Events

Checkout and Contribute to the new MDOR Calendar of Events

This is a space for members to share metadata related events going on around the world. An event can be a workshop, a webinar, a conference, or a talk. An event is anything metadata related that you think your MDOR colleagues would like to know about.

Would you like to add an event to the calendar? Simply create a meeting in your preferred calendar application - google, yahoo, outlook - and invite mdor.saa@gmail.com to the meeting. It's that simple. Remember to include the event title, date(s), time, location, and a url to more information (if possible).

Additional resources such as the Metadata Directory and Sample Metadata are also available on the MDOR website. And you can get great news and information @mdor_tweets and MDOR LinkedIn.

Invitation to participate in a study of metadata training

We are conducting a study of the training received by those creating metadata for digital collections in cultural heritage institutions. This study aims to provide a better understanding of how professionals are being prepared for digital collections metadata creation, and provide information that can be analyzed it in conjunction with knowledge gained from other types of studies in order to help the community determine which types of training are most effective.

The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and is voluntary and anonymous. We would like to know about the type of institution and the state in which you work, but these responses will not be attributed to specific respondents. There are no direct risks or benefits from participation. If you consent to participate in this research, you may access the survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3J9NYN7. You may withdraw from participation at any time, by simply exiting the survey.

For questions about the study or survey, please contact Ingrid Schneider at 575-646-4707 or ingschne@nmsu.edu. For questions about your rights as a research subject, contact the NMSU Office of Compliance at 575-646-7177 or ovpr@nmsu.edu.

Please feel free to forward this invitation to colleagues who may be interested in participating.

Ingrid Schneider, Metadata Librarian, New Mexico State University

Nathan Brown, Digital Projects Librarian, New Mexico State University