Silo-Busting: Interoperability of Content Standards and Descriptive Frameworks

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I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THESE ACRONYMS MEAN
Definitions

- Archives: “the whole of the documents, regardless of form or medium, organically created and/or accumulated and used by a person, family, or corporate body.”
- Rare books and manuscripts: may be part of a collection, or may be acquired individually.
- Special collections: an umbrella term for archival collections, rare and antiquarian materials, and collections created by the library.
Overarching categories

- Content standards
  - RDA (supersedes AACR2r)
    - DCRM(M)
  - DACS (superseded APPM)
- Descriptive frameworks
  - MARC21
  - EAD/EAC
  - Bibframe
Interconnections
Content standards: What’s the difference?

- Libraries: Generally describing one large, overarching collection, organized hierarchically

- Archives: A collection of collections organized hierarchically unto themselves, with widely varying characteristics
  - DACS addresses the need for a flexible, hierarchical descriptive structure
  - Very easy to find! Google “DACS PDF.”
DACS Statement of Principles

- Principle 1: Records in archives possess unique characteristics.
- Principle 2: The principle of respect des fonds is the basis of archival arrangement and description.
- Principle 3: Arrangement involves the identification of groupings within the material.
- Principle 4: Description reflects arrangement.
- Principle 5: The rules of description apply to all archival materials, regardless of form or medium.
- Principle 6: The principles of archival description apply equally to records created by corporate bodies, individuals, or families.
- Principle 7: Archival descriptions may be presented at varying levels of detail to produce a variety of outputs.
  - Principle 7.1: Levels of description correspond to levels of arrangement (“description is an iterative and dynamic process”).
  - Principle 7.2: Relationships between levels of description must be clearly indicated
  - Principle 7.3: Information provided at each level of description must be appropriate to that level
- Principle 8: The creators of archival materials, as well as the materials themselves, must be described.
Required, optimal, added value

- Flexibility and consistency: one size does not fit all
- “Dynamic and iterative process”
- MPLP as project management tool
  - “I am discoverable, therefore I am.”
  - Usage/demonstrable impact drives funding and new acquisitions
  - User feedback can inform processing priorities.
  - MPLP and DACS evolved independently, but complement each other remarkably well.
Familiar organization of topics by chapter number and decimal number representing subheading:

Reference Code Element [unique identifier] (2.1)
Name and Location of Repository Element (2.2)
Title Element (2.3)
Date Element (2.4)
Extent Element (2.5) - number of boxes, linear feet, etc.
Name of Creator(s) Element (2.6) (if known)
Scope and Content Element (3.1)
Interoperability and DACS Part I

- Discipline/format-specific companion standards: Appendix B
  - Music: an ongoing discussion
- Crosswalks: Appendix C
  - DACS and RDA (collection-level)
  - DACS and ISAD(G)
  - DACS to EAD, DACS to MARC (also collection-level)
- Cory Nimer on DACS and RDA
Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

- Framework counterpart to DACS Part I.
- Developed separately, but both descended from ISAD(G).
- Written in eXtensible Markup Language (XML).
- Flexible hierarchical structure
- Minimal and added-value tiers of detail
- Encoding analogues with MARC
- Interoperability: ArchiveGrid.org
- Import/export from finding aid platforms
Web-based Archival Platforms

- Finding aids, differentiated from “catalogs”
  - Built to comply with DACS and other descriptive standards
  - Archon, Archivists’ Toolkit, ArchivesSpace
  - Access to Memory (AtoM), XTF, CuadraStar
  - Aeon
Interoperability

- Interoperability through multiple avenues maximizes discoverability
  - Import of finding aids (EAD, CSV)
  - Export of EAD finding aids (schema compliant), collection-level MARC records
    - Import MARC records into OPAC
    - Export EAD finding aids to ArchiveGrid and other consortia (OAC, TARO, etc.)
  - Variable interfacing with citation platforms, email, potentially social media
  - Linking to digital assets
  - Other authority and metadata standards
  - Linked data possibilities not yet fully explored in these platforms
Describing the materials is not enough

- DACS principle 8: Context is what gives the materials meaning.
- DACS Part II
- EAC-CPF: Encoded Archival Description for Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families.
- Example: Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC)
Future questions

- How will Bibframe interact with EAD/EAC? How will it interact with other metadata and authority standards?
- Great potential for interoperability, discoverability, removing barriers
Sources and references

- Describing Archives: a Content Standard
  - http://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-describing-archives-a-content-standard-dacs/dacs
- DCRM(M):  
  - http://rbms.info/dcrm/dcrmm/
- Meissner & Greene, MPLP  
  - http://www2.archivists.org/node/17276
- Encoded Archival Description  
  - https://www.loc.gov/ead/
- Cory Nimer on DACS and RDA  
  - http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/webinars/052814
Sources and references, continued

- **Encoded Archival Context**
  - [http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/](http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/)

- **SNAC**
  - [http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/](http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/)

- **Selecting finding aid platforms:**
  - “A Place for Our Stuff: Evaluating Archival Content Management Systems”
Thanks, I’m here all week!

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