

Name of the Tool

Encoded Archival Description

Home Page

The screenshot shows the homepage of the EAD website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to 'The Library of Congress', 'Standards', and 'EAD'. Below the navigation is a search bar labeled 'SEARCH'. The main content area has a green header 'Encoded Archival Description' and a 'Official Site' link. On the left, there's a sidebar with a yellow background containing links for 'general information', 'version EAD3 - current', 'version 2002', 'version 1.0 (1998) - superseded documentation', and 'Encoded Archival Context'. The main content area contains a large list of links under these categories, such as 'About EAD', 'Background on EAD development', 'Design principles for enhancement of the EAD', 'Technical Subcommittee on EAD', 'Other Sites related to EAD', 'EAD3 1.0 (from GitHub)', 'EAD3 Schema and DTD', 'EAD3 Tag Library [New!]', 'EAD3 Tag Library [PDF - 425 p., courtesy Society of American Archivists]', 'EAD3 FAQ [courtesy SAA EAD Roundtable]', 'EAD 2002 Schema', 'EAD DTD, version 2002', 'EAD Tag Library (with examples and crosswalks), version 2002', 'EAD Tag Library, version 2002 [PDF - 315 p., courtesy Society of American Archivists]', 'EAD 2002 Tag Library Translations', 'EAD Tag Library, version 1.0 (1998)', 'EAD Application Guidelines, version 1.0 (1998)', 'Encoded Archival Context - Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families', 'EAD3 FAQ [courtesy SAA EAD Roundtable]', 'EAD3 HTML Tag Library Available', 'EAD3 Beta Stylesheet Now Available', 'EAD3 Tag Library Available', 'EAD3 Officially Adopted', 'EAD3 Now Available for Download', 'EAD Revision Under Way', 'EAD Revision Documentation via SAA', 'EAD 2002 Schema Now Available', and 'EAD 1.0 to 2002 Conversion Tools'. To the right, there's a section titled 'news and articles' with links to various news items. Below that is a section titled 'ead listserv' with instructions on how to subscribe.

Logo**URL**<https://www.loc.gov/ead/>**Subject**

Encoded Archival Description (Document type definition)

Accessibility

Free

Language

English

Publisher

Library of Congress

Brief History

Encoded Archival Description (EAD) is an XML standard for encoding archival finding aids, maintained by the Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description of the Society of American Archivists, in partnership with the Library of Congress. EAD originated at the 1993 Society of American Archivists annual meeting in New Orleans and was headed by Daniel Pitti at the University of California, Berkeley. The project's goal was to create a data standard for describing archives, similar to the MARC standards for describing bibliographic materials. The initial EAD Version 1.0 was released in the fall of 1998. Such a standard enables archives, museums, libraries, and manuscript repositories to list and describe their holdings in a manner that would be machine-readable and therefore easy to search, maintain and exchange. Since its inception, many archives and special collections have adopted it.

Scope & Coverage

A number of repositories in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Australia and elsewhere have adopted and implemented EAD with varying levels of

technical sophistication. One of the most ambitious efforts is the Online Archive of California, a union catalog of over 5000 EAD finding aids covering manuscripts and images from institutions across the state. The French National Library Francois Mitterrand publishes more than 90000 EAD finding aids covering archives and manuscripts.

The EAD3 Schema is available in two syntaxes: Relax NG Schema (RNG) and W3C Schema (XSD).

Kind of Information

Encoded archival description is a standard for encoding archival findings aids. It is an encoding language expressed in XML (eXtensible Markup Language) for representing finding aids online. It supports the general structure of finding aids used by archivists and comprises three primary groups of information like administrative information: repository details, how the collection was acquired, access or usage restrictions, etc.; descriptive information: biographical or historical note about the creator of the collection, scope note, control access terms; folder list: a list of the materials that make up the collection, by box, folder, item, or other designation.

Special Features

- A variety of tools and helper files for a number of different XML authoring and editing applications is available at the SAA Standards Portal EAD Web site.
- The EAD Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists is intended to promote the implementation and use of encoding standards for dissemination of archival information: <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/encoded-archival-description-ead-roundtable>

Arrangement Pattern

All the versions of EAD are arranged according to the chronological years.

Remarks

EAD has become popular among the archival community and is currently being implemented by repositories throughout world. Written in XML, EAD is platform independent, adaptable to the World Wide Web, and flexible enough to be used with a variety of collections. In addition to the development and maintenance work done by the Society of American Archivists and the Library of Congress, the Research Libraries Group (RLG) has developed and published a set of "Best Practice" implementation guidelines for EAD, which lays out mandatory, recommended, and optional elements and attributes. RLG has also provided a kind of clearinghouse for finding aids in EAD format, known as ArchiveGrid.

Comparable Tools

- MARC Standards (<https://www.loc.gov/marc/>)

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