EAD and TEI

TEI Consortium

2004 Members' Meeting

Baltimore, Maryland

Overview

- Archival Description: EAD
- Archival Representation: TEI
- Humanities Research
- Archives and Library
- Conclusion

What EAD is

- Encoded Archival Description
- Communication standard for description of modern archival records
- A structural standard based on ICA's ISAD(G)
- Archival description overlaid with editorial apparatus

What EAD is Not

- A descriptive standard
  - Describing Archives: A Content Standard (Society of American Archivists: 2004)
  - Rules for Archival Description (Canada)
- A value or controlled vocabulary standard
- An archival management system
- **A standard for the representation of archival records (more later)**

Archival Records

- Byproducts of people living and working
  - Individuals and families living their lives
  - Corporate bodies performing assigned or mandated functions and activities
- Document human activity
- Legal and historical evidence
- Many forms: text (mss., correspondence); pictorial; audio-visual; maps …

Archival Description

- Differs from library description

- Archival description

  - Unique materials

  - Archival records: evidence, legal and historical

  - Collection (or fonds) level

  - Provenance

  - Hierarchical

    - Whole, parts, parts of parts … item

    - Inheritance of description

EAD Objectives (I)

- Accurate representation of archival principles and practice

- Support intelligent indexing, access, and navigation of archival materials

- Reasonable assurance that information will endure changes in hardware and software

EAD Objectives (II)

- Enable libraries and archives to easily communicate and share collection information about:
  - Related but different collections
  - Dispersed collections
- Provide consistent and readily intelligible collection information across repositories
- Universal, union access to distributed collections

Current Status

- Joint custody: Society of American Archivists (SAA) and Library of Congress
- SAA EADWG: US, Canada, Australia, France, The Netherlands, Germany, and UK
- EAD 2002 XML DTD
  - Tag Library (published)
  - Application Guidelines (under revision)
- EAD Schema Working Group (2004-05)
- TL translated into: Spanish, French, Dutch, and Chinese.

Archival Representation

- EAD linked to digital representations of the records
- Records come in many forms
  - Text materials
    - Document-centric (mss., correspondence, diaries, notebooks, …)
    - Data-centric (forms, certificates, …)
  - Pictorial
  - Audio-visual
  - Maps
- Different representations for different forms
- Page images of text materials
- Step further
  - TEI for document-centric text materials
  - In particular mss., correspondence, diaries, and notebooks

Archival Use of TEI

- Text materials transcribed but typically not subject to the intense analysis of scholarly editing
- Minimal or structure-only encoding; not "deep" scholarly encoding, with supplied scholarly apparatus
- Emphasis on quantity rather than on depth
- Given the quantity, uniformity or consistency of encoding practice critical to sustainability
  - Correct use of tags
  - Consistent use of tags

Scholarly Representation of Archival Materials

- Humanist also frequently work with archival records
  - Documentary editing: Washington, Jefferson, King Jr., …
  - Editing of cultural figures: Whitman, Dickinson, Orwell, …
- Transcribe and rigorously analyze, annotate
- In-depth encoding of features of interest to facilitate analysis and understanding

Traditional and Digital

- Traditional scholarly communication: discontinuous
- Digital Electronic scholarly communication: continuous
- Archival use of TEI and other digital forms of communication a step into scholarly representation
- A step toward but not a full re-contextualization
- Scholars take the next step or steps: full re-contextualization
- Digital offers opportunity for closer scholar-archivist/scholar-librarian collaboration
- Shared standards: EAD, TEI, METS

Archives, Libraries, and the Future of TEI

- TEI Extra-Lite
- Namespace: EAD, TEI, MODS, METS …
- Application guidelines for use of TEI in archives and libraries
- Training for directors of "text" centers: building large text collections, contracting services, staffing, quality review
- Tagging and publishing training for archivists and librarians
- Tools such as XSLT/Schematron for assisting in quality control