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
  – 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