EVERYTHING about this person: Name-based access to multiple resources using EAC

Nancy Hadley, CA

The American Institute of Architects

People are the most logical access point for certain types of archival holdings. An access tool that is based on personal names instead of on the arrangement of records can be both a research tool in itself and a way to bring together resources from different collections, different repositories, or different formats. Even unprocessed materials can be included.

A name-based access strategy is applicable wherever there’s a group of people with a known relationship to the organization and its records, such as a membership organization or a university archives.

The Encoded Archival Context (EAC) structure enables creation of true finding aids based on names, not just indexes. EAC records for personal or corporate names can include name authority work, basic identifying characteristics, biographical notes, links to related materials, archival holdings, and published sources; and allow the option to interconnect with traditional finding aids in EAD.