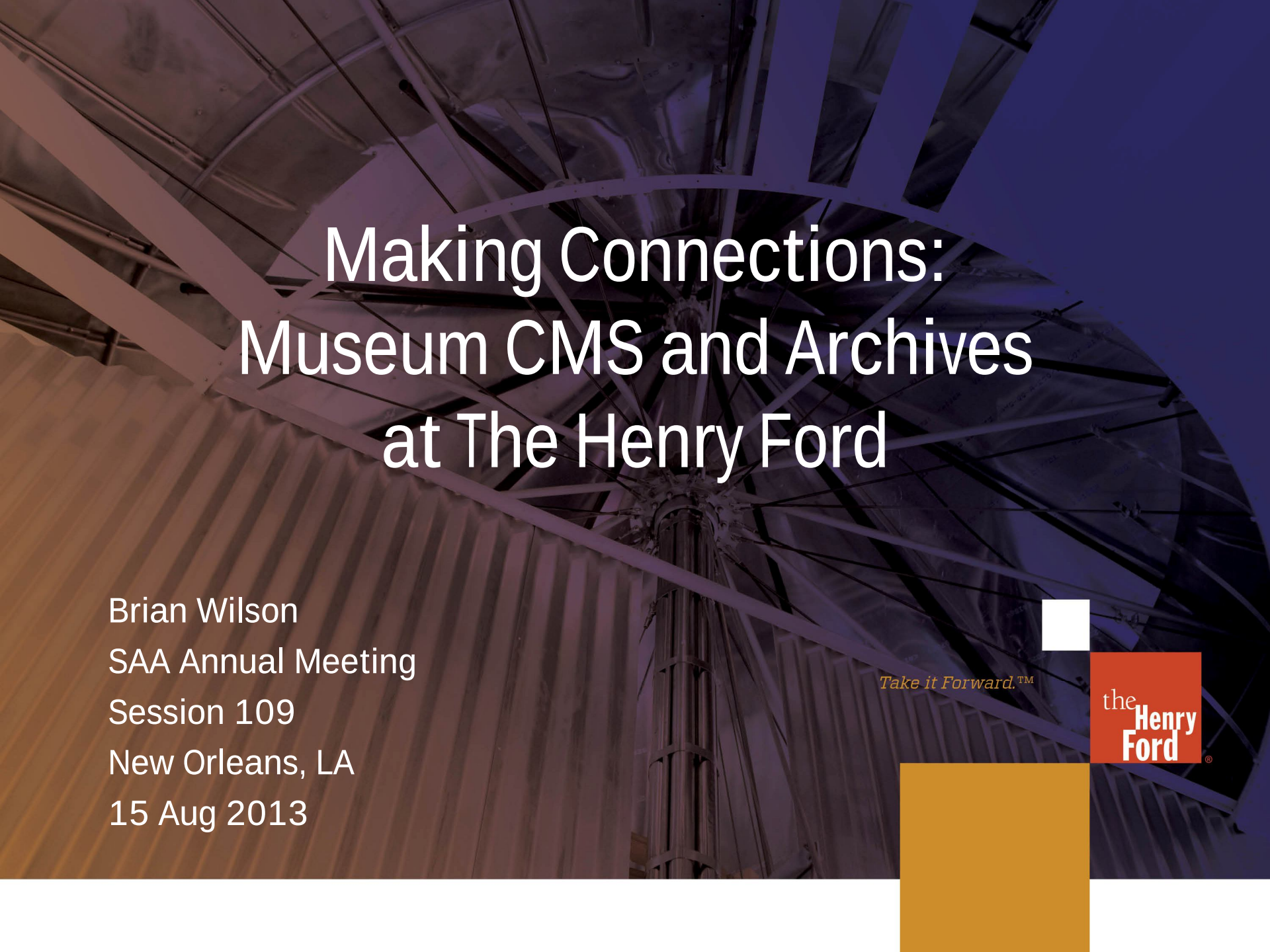


Making Connections: Museum CMS and Archives at The Henry Ford

Brian Wilson

SAA Annual Meeting

Session 109

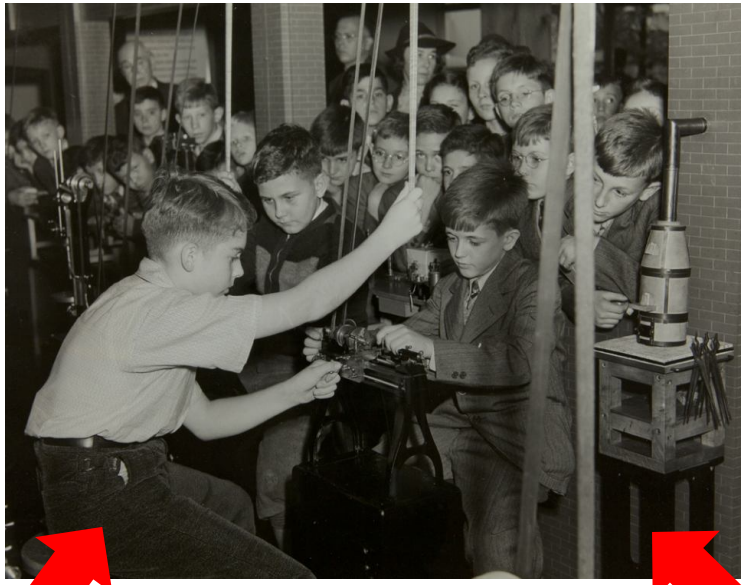
New Orleans, LA

15 Aug 2013

Take it Forward.™

the Henry Ford®

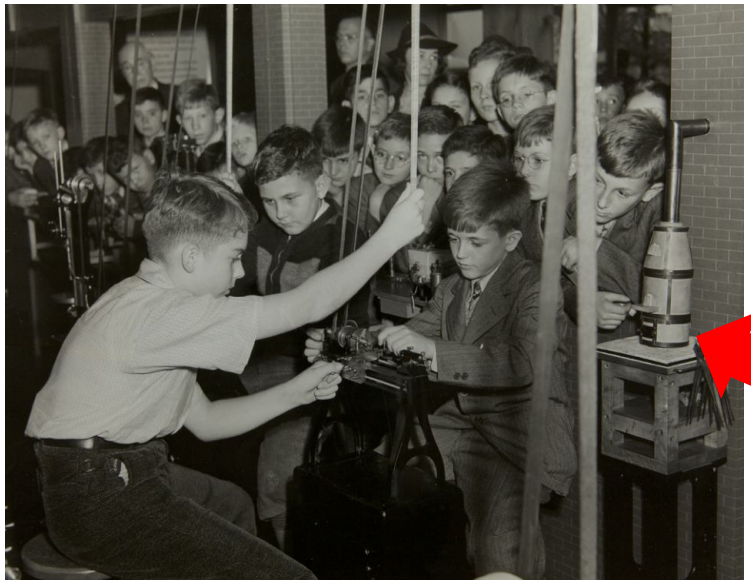
Image: Henry Ford Trade School Football Team, 1925; Object ID: P.833.44476; Image ID: THF229865



Object ID: 64.167.232.1369, Image ID THF216377

Menlo Park Machine Shop; Object ID 29.3048.3, Image ID THF1975

Model Machine Shop, Boiler, and Steam Engine Exhibit, Henry Ford Museum



Object ID: 64.167.232.1369, Image ID THF216377

Object ID: P.188.24712, Image ID P.188.24712

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIRS
New York World's Fair, 1939-1940

Box 11

Indexes
- Photograph caption list (contains listing of photograph captions by photograph number covering photographs numbered 1-1486 and 2000-3463) (1 binder)
- Photograph caption list (contains listing of photograph captions by photograph number covering listing covers photographs numbered 1-1465 and 2000-2742; also includes lists of New York area photography contacts and list of Ford Photographic staff) (1 binder)
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Photographs by topic
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- Celebrities

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  - General
  - Merit salesmen
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- Employees
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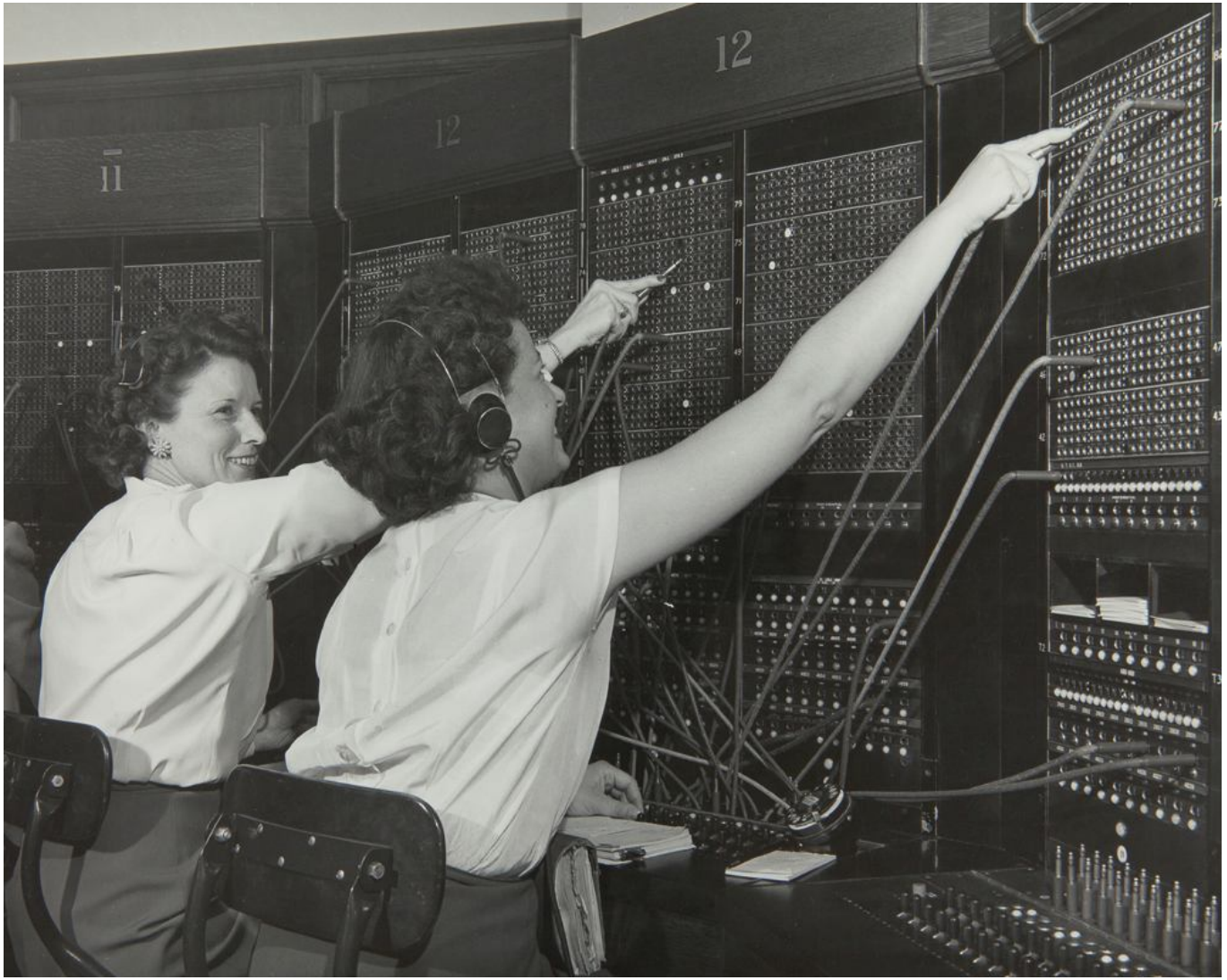


Image: Telephone Operators, Ford Rouge Administration Building, 1947; Object ID: P.833.84658; Image ID: THF229881

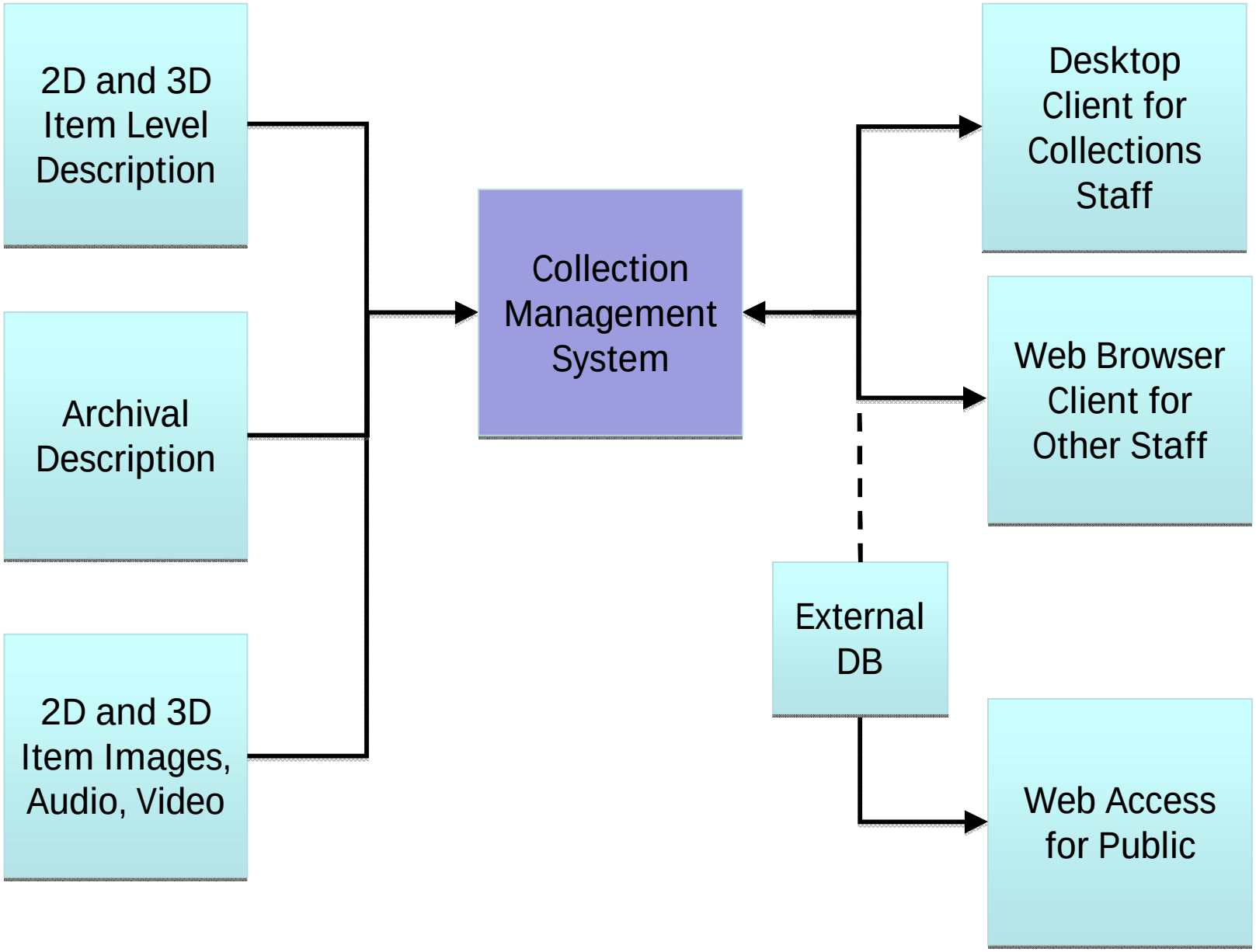

2D and 3D Item Level Description
Archival Description
2D and 3D Item Images, Audio, Video
Collection Management System
Desktop Client for Collections Staff
Web Browser Client for Other Staff
External DB
Web Access for Public

Image: emu, by Malvivente; http://www.flickr.com/photos/bastian_bodyl/5707047637/

Keys to System Selection

- Mainstream museum application
- Broad museum user base
- Web publishing capabilities
- Ease of adding multimedia
- Loan and Event modules
- User control of sort and lookup lists
- Archives management features

Images: EMu and KE Logos: http://www.kesoftware.com/

Archives Adoption Issues

Pros

- Institutional mandate
- Enterprise wide
- Common functions
- Digitization project
- No prior AMS history

Cons

- Institutional mandate
- Proprietary
- Expensive
- Complex
- Non-archival origins
- Small archives user base

Archives Data Issues

- Data for collections in many places
  - Paper and electronic accession records
  - MARC database
  - Stacks location database
  - Paper and electronic description
  - Collection survey and inventory
- Messy
- We want *and need* a single database.

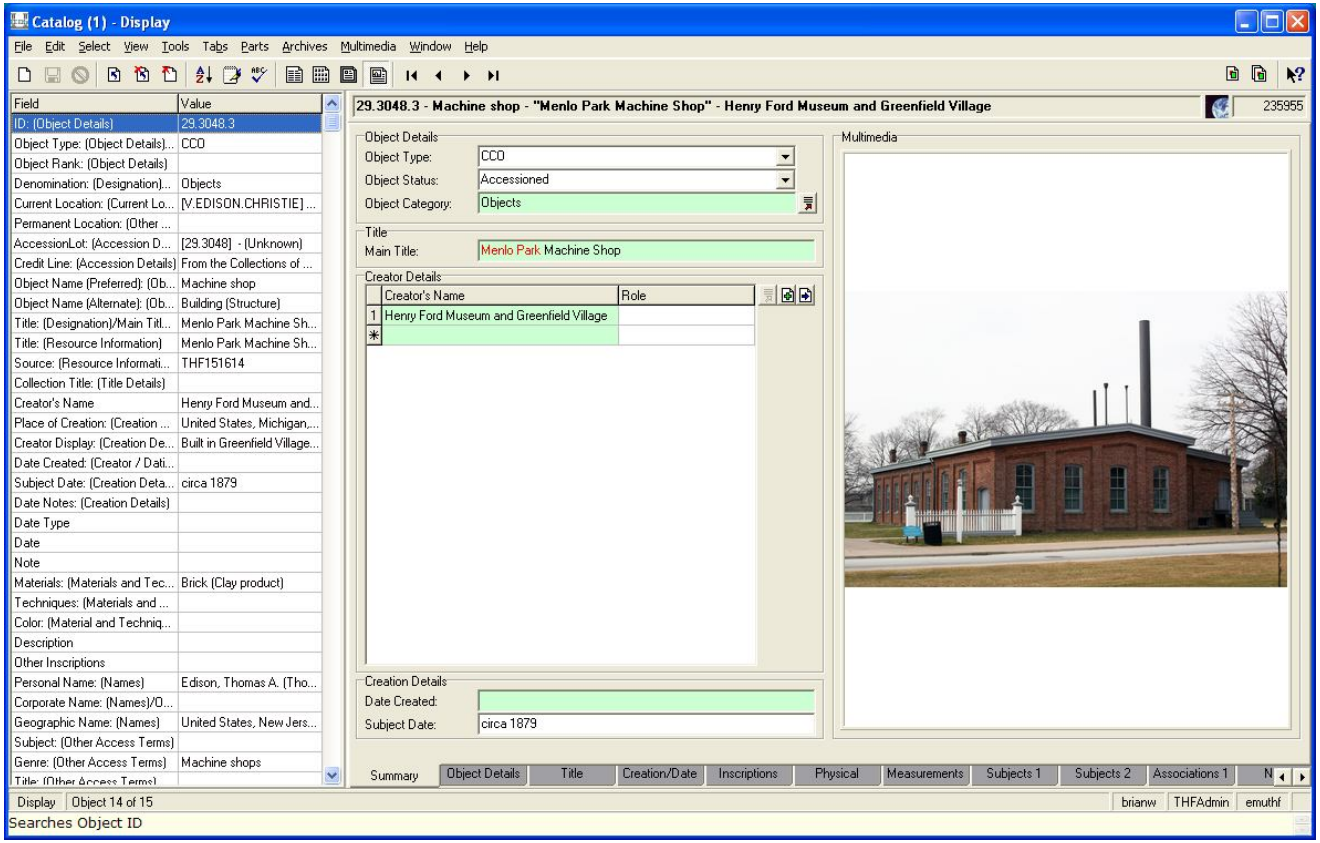
Decisions

- Fields shared with item cataloging
  - Descriptive
    - Title, subject date, subjects, accession lot
  - Administrative
    - Object status, record status, record publishing
- New fields required
  - Bulk date, container
- Define item types for collection and component
- Physical location record scheme
- Hold off optimizing interface for workflow

EMu Basics

- Modular System
  - Catalog, Multimedia, Accession Lot, Location, Event
- Oriented towards singular physical items
  - Locomotive, chair, photograph
- Basic set of fields for all object records
  - Archives is an extension of the Catalog module
- Items are described within object records
- Relations can connect object records

Client Interface

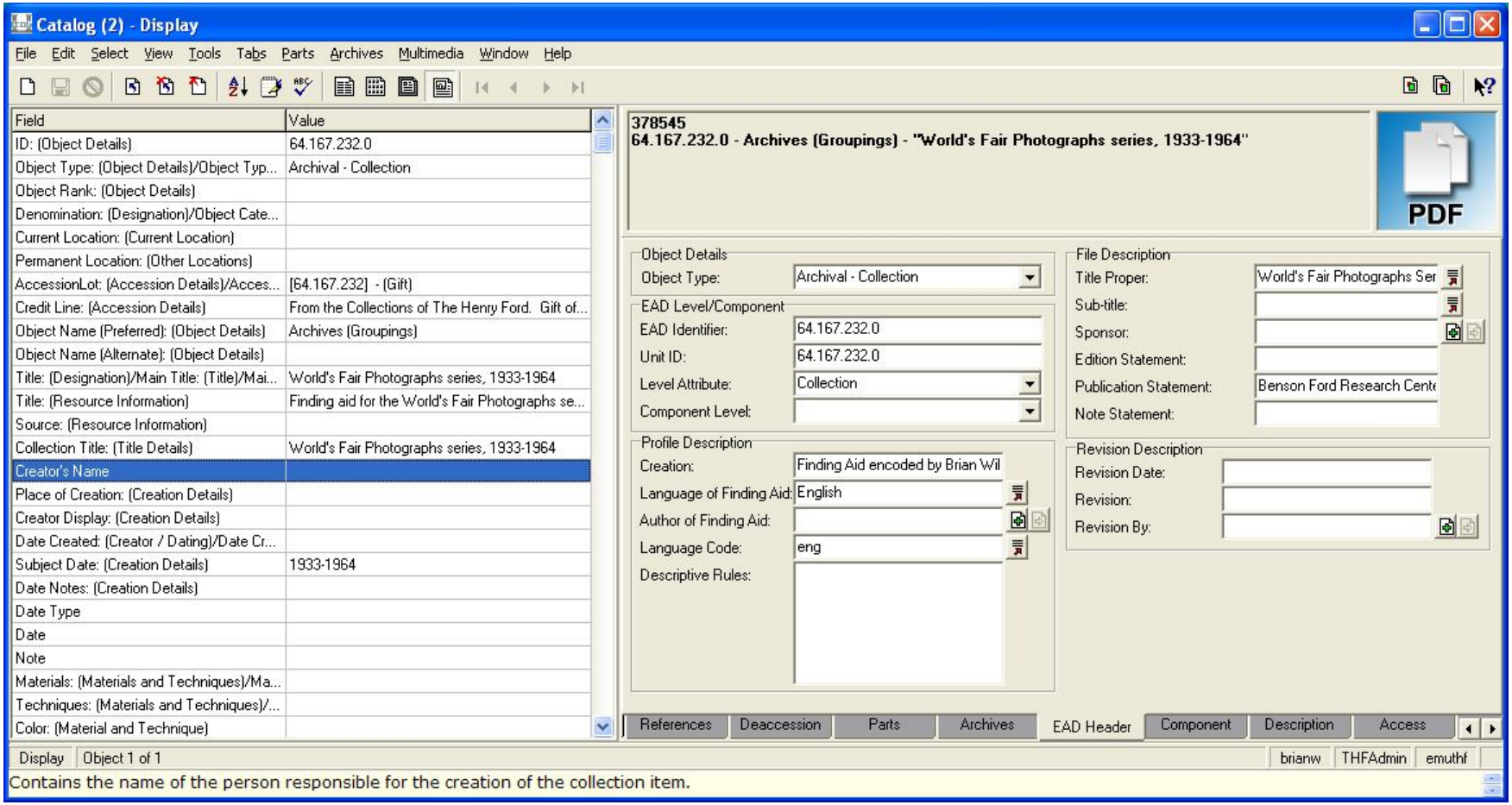


Cataloging Collections: Approach One

- Treat collections as singular objects
- Each receives single object record
  - Otherwise same as MARC

- Can go further by attaching description
  - Inventory or full finding aid
  - Text in PDF or other format
  - Structured data in XML

Collection-Level Record

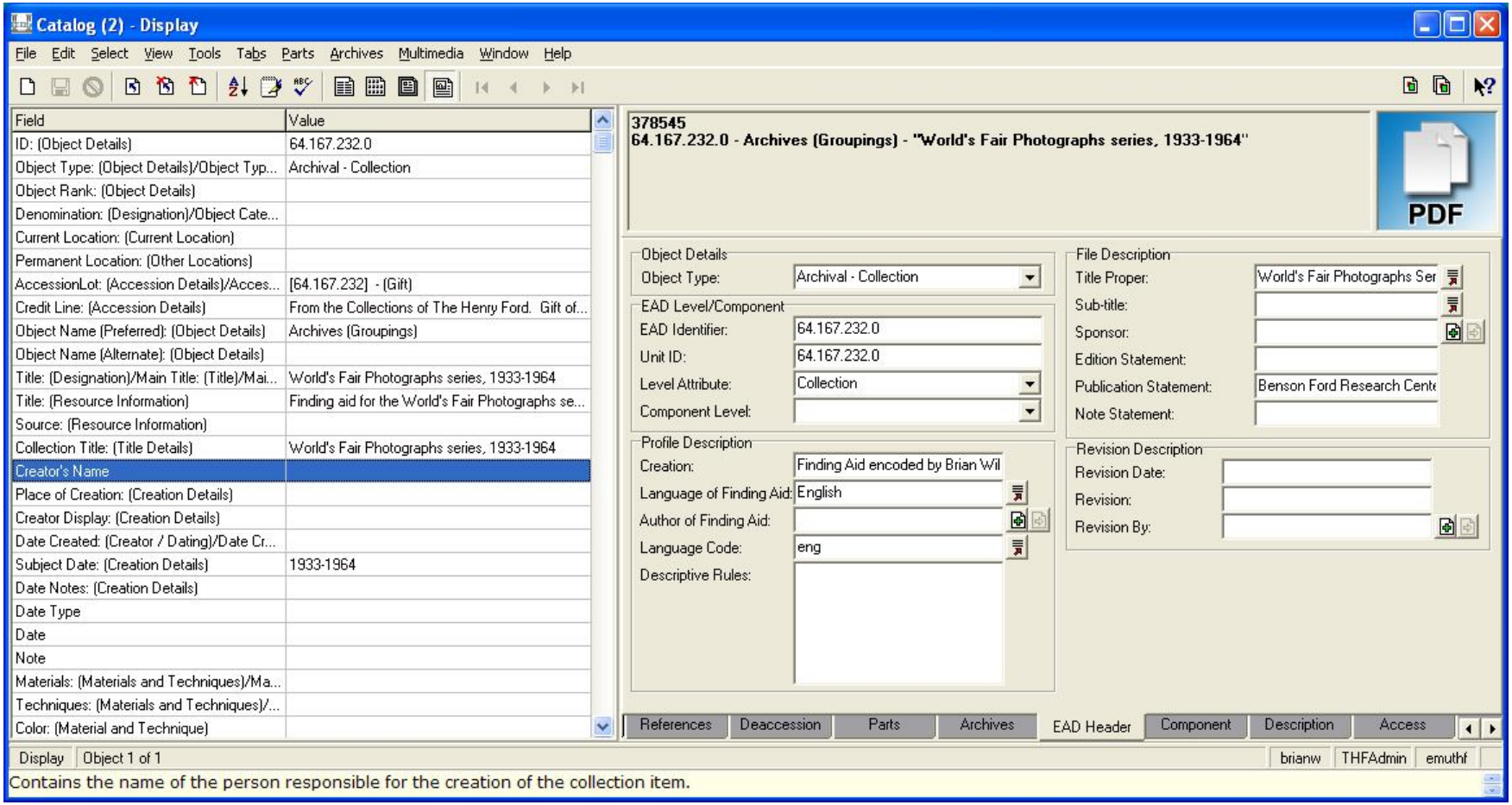


Cataloging Collections: Approach Two

- Collection level treated as singular object
- Add components as singular objects
  - Series, subseries, files
- And, collection items as singular objects
  - Photograph, letter, brochure

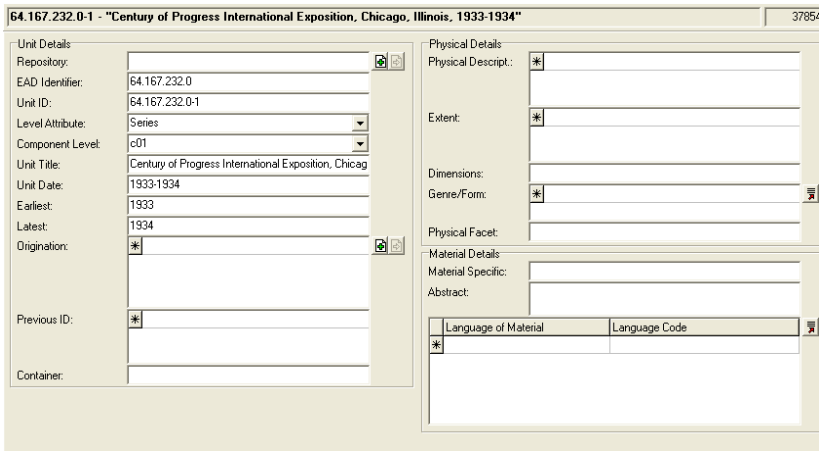
- Link singular objects using relations
- Related objects form collection hierarchy

Collection-Level Record

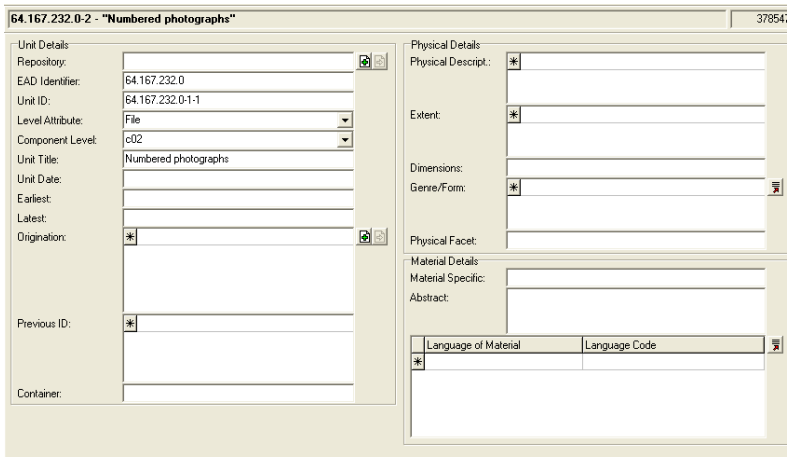


Components

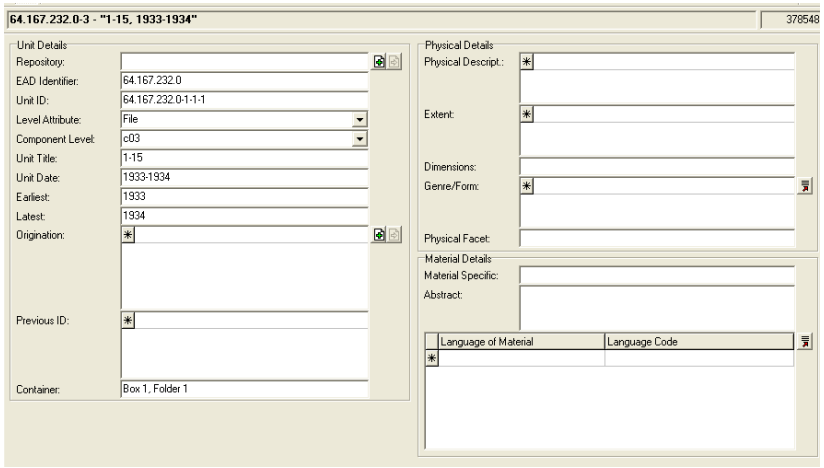
Series



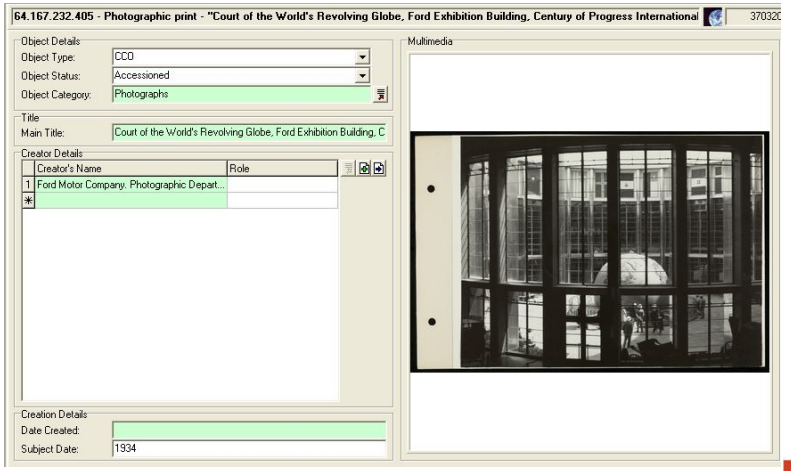
Sub-series



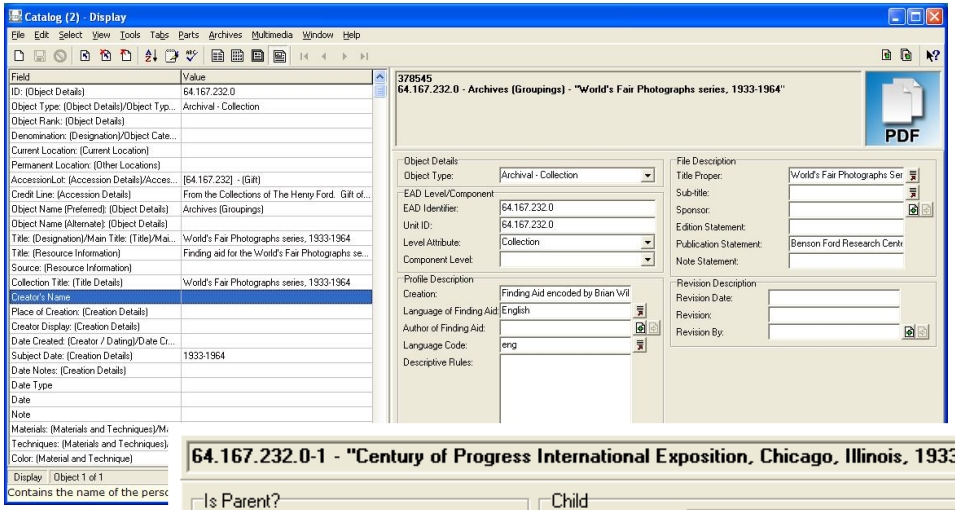
File



Item

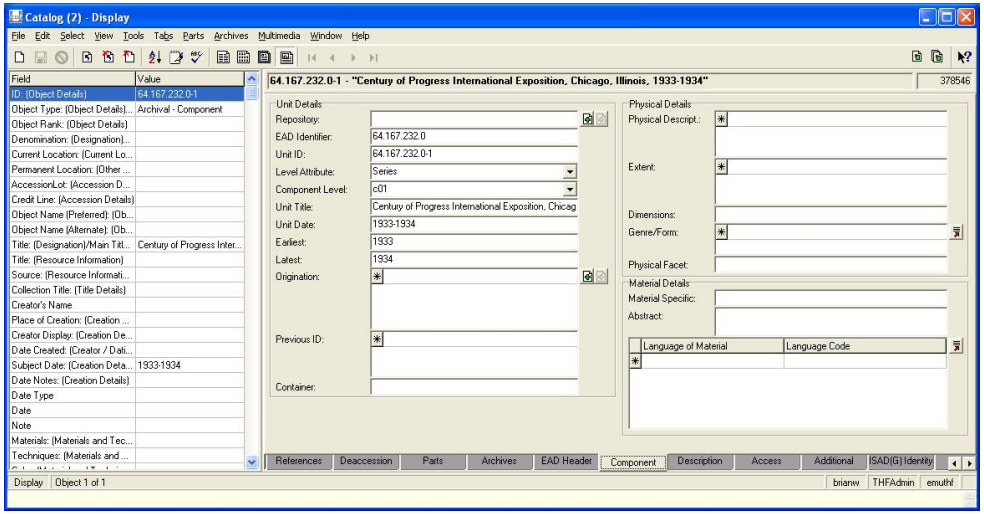


Relating Components



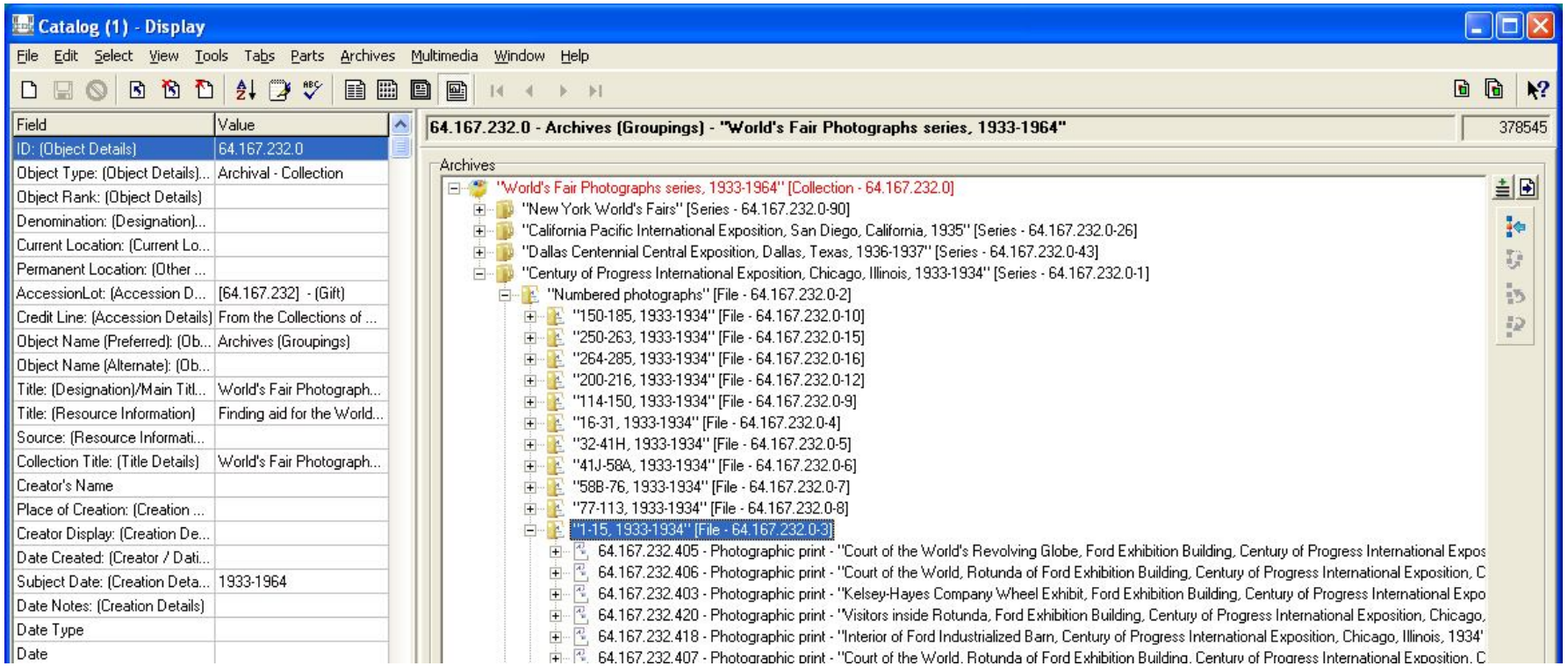
Collection (parent)

Link child to parent



Series (child)

Hierarchy


Catalog (1) - Display
File Edit Select View Tools Tabs Parts Archives Multimedia Window Help
Field
Value
ID: (Object Details)
64.167.232.0
Object Type: (Object Details)...
Archival - Collection
Object Rank: (Object Details)
Denomination: (Designation)...
Current Location: (Current Lo...
Permanent Location: (Other ...
AccessionLot: (Accession D...
[64.167.232] - (Gift)
Credit Line: (Accession Details)
From the Collections of ...
Object Name (Preferred): (Ob...
Archives (Groupings)
Object Name (Alternate): (Ob...
Title: (Designation)/Main Titl...
World's Fair Photograph...
Title: (Resource Information)
Finding aid for the World...
Source: (Resource Informati...
Collection Title: (Title Details)
World's Fair Photograph...
Creator's Name
Place of Creation: (Creation ...
Creator Display: (Creation De...
Date Created: (Creator / Dati...
Subject Date: (Creation Deta...
1933-1964
Date Notes: (Creation Details)
Date Type
Date
64.167.232.0 - Archives (Groupings) - "World's Fair Photographs series, 1933-1964"
378545
Archives
"World's Fair Photographs series, 1933-1964" [Collection - 64.167.232.0]
"New York World's Fairs" [Series - 64.167.232.0-90]
"California Pacific International Exposition, San Diego, California, 1935" [Series - 64.167.232.0-26]
"Dallas Centennial Central Exposition, Dallas, Texas, 1936-1937" [Series - 64.167.232.0-43]
"Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, Illinois, 1933-1934" [Series - 64.167.232.0-1]
"Numbered photographs" [File - 64.167.232.0-2]
"150-185, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-10]
"250-263, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-15]
"264-285, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-16]
"200-216, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-12]
"114-150, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-9]
"16-31, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-4]
"32-41H, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-5]
"41J-58A, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-6]
"58B-76, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-7]
"77-113, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-8]
"1-15, 1933-1934" [File - 64.167.232.0-3]
64.167.232.405 - Photographic print - "Court of the World's Revolving Globe, Ford Exhibition Building, Century of Progress International Expos
64.167.232.406 - Photographic print - "Court of the World, Rotunda of Ford Exhibition Building, Century of Progress International Exposition, C
64.167.232.403 - Photographic print - "Kelsey-Hayes Company Wheel Exhibit, Ford Exhibition Building, Century of Progress International Expo
64.167.232.420 - Photographic print - "Visitors inside Rotunda, Ford Exhibition Building, Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago,
64.167.232.418 - Photographic print - "Interior of Ford Industrialized Barn, Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, Illinois, 1934"
64.167.232.407 - Photographic print - "Court of the World, Rotunda of Ford Exhibition Building, Century of Progress International Exposition, C

Relating 2D to 3D

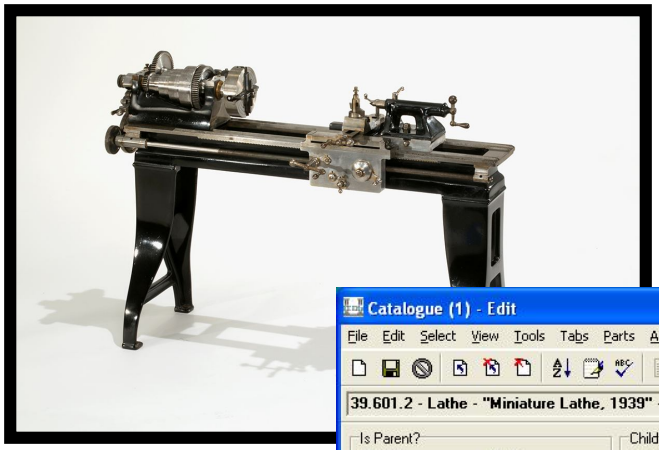
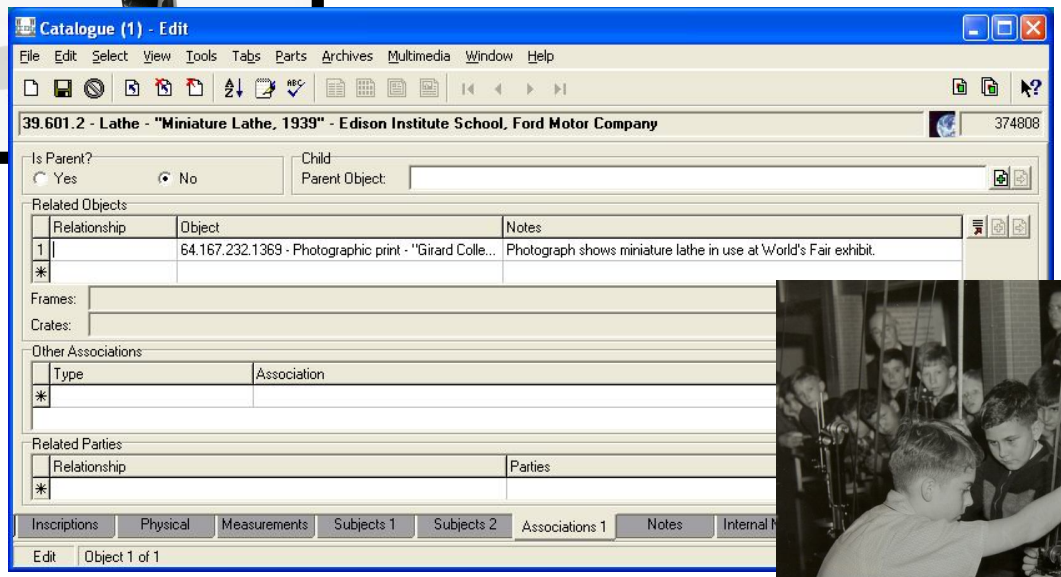
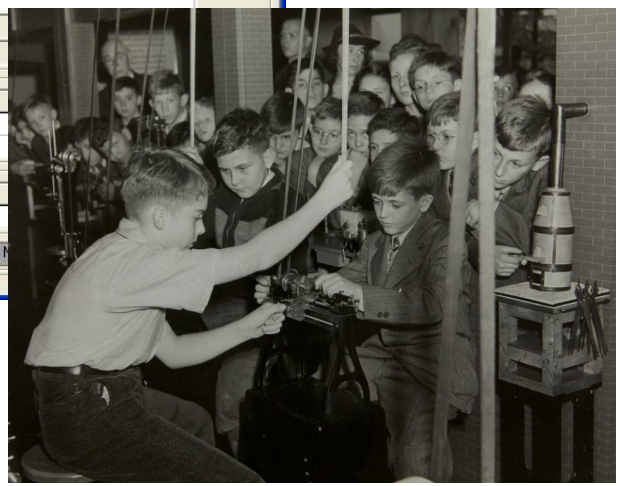


Image ID THF154890

Reference 2D record in 3D record

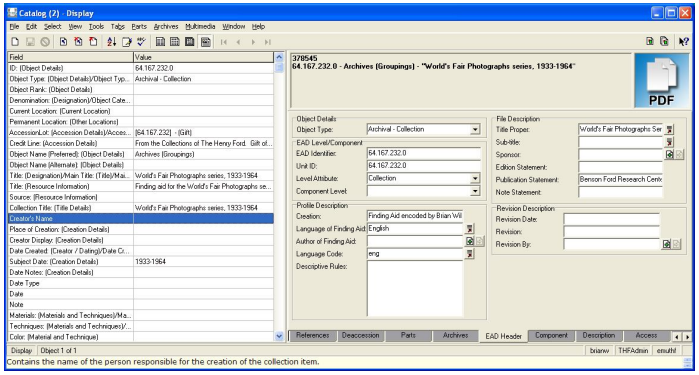


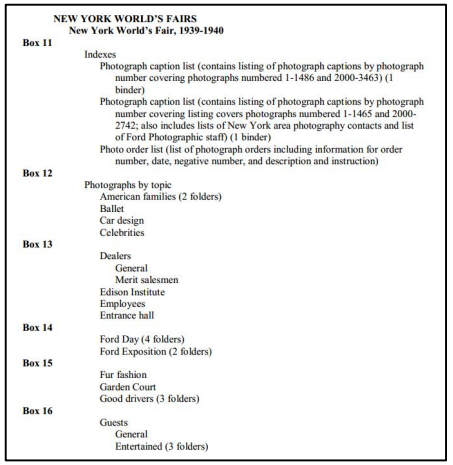


Object ID: 64.167.232.1369, Image ID THF216377

Record Creation Methods

- Manual data entry
- Template and Ditto functions
- CSV import
  - Create from Excel or similar
- XML import
  - XSLT provides mapping
  - MARC
  - EAD





NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIRS
New York World's Fair, 1939-1940

Box 11

Indexes
- Photograph caption list (contains listing of photograph captions by photograph number covering photographs numbered 1-1486 and 2000-3463) (1 binder)
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  - General
  - Entertained (3 folders)

EAD Import Example

- World's Fair Photographs series
  - 2100 lines of xml
  - 203 linked records

```
<dsc>
    <head>
        Container List
    </head>
    <c01 level="series">
        <did>
            <unittitle encodinganalog="245$a">Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, Illinois</unittitle>
            <unitdate encodinganalog="245$f" type="inclusive" normal="1933/1934">1933-1934</unitdate>
        </did>
        <scopecontent encodinganalog="520">
            <p>The Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, Ill. subseries, 1933-1934 (1.2 cubic ft.) is
comprised of images numbered from 1 to 310. There are also several folders arranged alphabetically, primarily documenting
exhibits.</p>
        </scopecontent>
        <c02 level="file">
            <did>
                <unittitle encodinganalog="245$a">Numbered photographs</unittitle>
            </did>
            <c03 level="file">
                <did>
                    <container type="box" label="Box">1</container>
                    <container type="folder" label="Folder">1</container>
                    <unittitle encodinganalog="245$a">1-15</unittitle>
                    <unitdate type="inclusive" encodinganalog="245$f" normal="1933/1934">1933-1934</unitdate>
                </did>
                <scopecontent encodinganalog="520">
                    <p>Building exterior, Court of the World, Soy Bean Barn, Century Room, various exhibits.</p>
                </scopecontent>
            </c03>
            <c03 level="file">
                <did>
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                    <container type="folder" label="Folder">2</container>
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                    <unitdate type="inclusive" encodinganalog="245$f" normal="1933/1934">1933-1934</unitdate>
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```
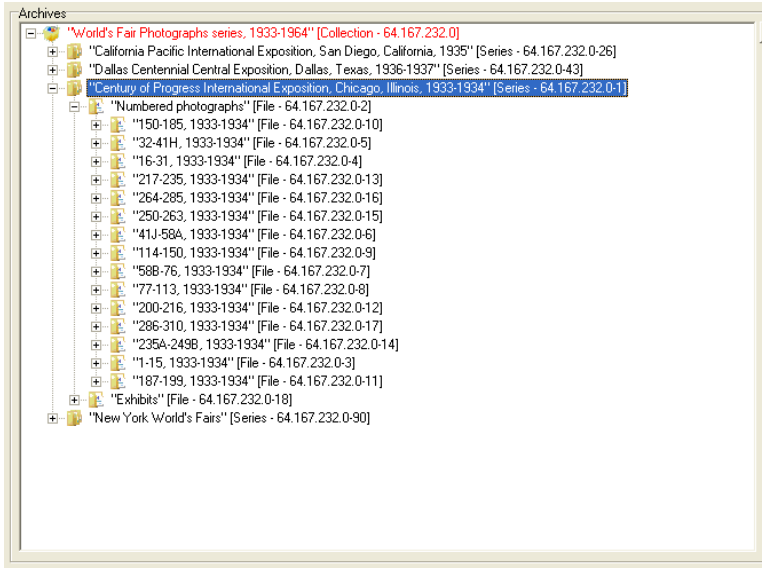

EAD segment



CMS Record Tree

System Development Issues

- Use of markup in text fields
  - <list> for example
- Linked fields redefined as free text
  - Acquisition, Author, Sponsor
- Bulk Date and Container fields added
- Hierarchy display tool sort order
  - Affects display and drag-drop
  - Manual work-around to allow data export

Image: Happy&Sad frog buttons, by ntr23; http://www.flickr.com/photos/ntr23/4147620609/

Internal Development Issues

- EAD template required changes
  - Ex.: Remove <unitdate> from <unittitle> string
- Physical location scheme
  - Divorce physical from intellectual location
  - Retain similarity to 3D object location scheme
- New screen layouts and reports
- Workflows and practices need modification
  - Record creation - who, what, when
  - Division of work between Registrars and Archives

Image: All-Staff Meeting Group, The Henry Ford, 28 January 2013

Different People Thinking in Different Ways

- Archivists
- Curators
- Registrars
- Program Manager
- Database Admin
- Network Admin
- Software Vendor

- Top down – Bottom up
- Hierarchical – Flat
- Aggregate – Granular
- Collection – Item
- Client – Vendor

More Differences...

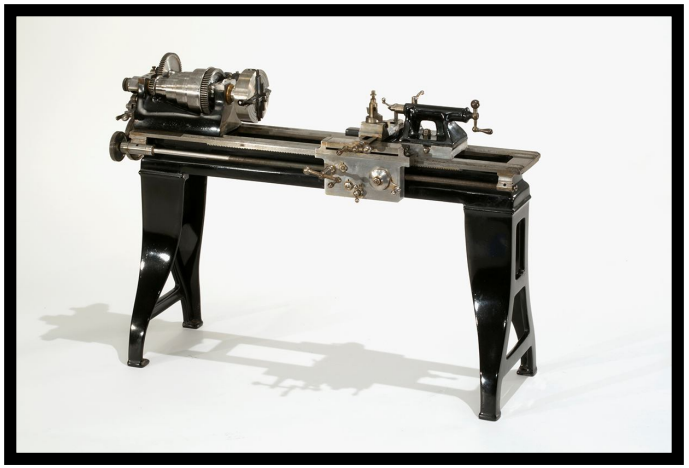
- Rules
  - CCO
  - DACS
- Schema
  - CDWA Lite
  - EAD
- Practices
  - LOC
  - OAC
- Regions
  - US
  - Canada
  - Europe
  - Australia
- Terms
  - Provenance
  - Date ranges
  - Bulk date

...But, Commonalities Too.

- We all want the same things
  - More information available
  - Easier ways to work
  - Happy management
- Everyone is learning the System

Be Prepared

- Lots of Archives-splainin’
  - Learning Lunches
- Instances of AT and ArchivesSpace
- Read up on museum practice
- Compromise
- Hold to Core Principles
- Network



Management in a Museum CMS is...

- Bringing together the Archives and Museum
- Technology *and* People
- Thinking in new or different ways
- Understanding and working through differences
- A lot of discussion
- Making connections
- ***Possible***

Image: emu n cat.jpg; http://www.backyardchickens.com/g/i/4942850/emu-n-cat-jpg/

Thank you.

Brian Wilson
Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
Dearborn, Michigan
brianw@thehenryford.org
@brilwil

Take it Forward.™

the Henry Ford®