EAD@10
Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Encoded Archival Description

Introduction and Overview
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Good morning, and welcome to EAD@10, a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the release of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) Version 1.0 in 1998. The annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) was held in Orlando, Florida, in August of that year, and the first edition of the *EAD Tag Library* arrived at the hotel directly from the printer so that SAA could put copies of the volume into the hands of attendees. I remember what a thrill it was to finally see it in print, after the hundreds of emails between the members of the EAD development team and the intense editorial work, particularly on the part of Janice Ruth and Helena Zinkham of the Library of Congress. The Document Type Definition (DTD) was formally released on September 3, 1998, immediately following the SAA meeting, having been tested by a small number of repositories and tweaked repeatedly by Daniel Pitti for several months.

Some of you here today probably don't remember Version 1.0 of EAD, which is, after all, ancient history. You had to use FTP to download the files from the Library of Congress EAD website. The DTD was in Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), but you could convert it to Extensible Markup Language (XML) by flipping a couple switches in the DTD that would turn off some SGML features. XML was nowhere near being a standard at that point. Encoded finding aids could not be displayed in any of the existing browsers without a helper application, such as Panorama. Reordering and manipulation of data was extremely limited. What you encoded was pretty much what you got. XSLT—Extensible Style Language Transformations—hadn't been invented yet.

By the time of the official release of the DTD and publication of the *EAD Tag Library* in 1998, a number of libraries and archives had already become early adopters of EAD, based on nothing but the hope that it would take hold and blossom into something useful. Little did we know . . .

But our purpose here today is not to look backward, but rather to explore how repositories have implemented EAD in the context of archival description traditions that are very different from those in the United States, and to look forward.

We'll spend the morning hearing from five European colleagues, four of whom serve on the EAD Working Group. These folks have led the EAD implementation efforts in their respective countries. They have been involved in massive collaborative projects that dwarf anything we've done in the U.S., as well as EAD documentation translation efforts and development of EAD encoding and delivery software. This morning's speakers will be introduced and the sessions moderated by Jennifer Schaffner from OCLC RLG Programs.

This afternoon we'll have several presentations intended to be provocative, to push some buttons, rock the boat, and climb out on a limb. These presentations will address not only a future for EAD, but also touch on Encoded Archival Context (EAC) and archival description in general. The afternoon speakers will be introduced and the sessions moderated by Jackie Dooley, head of Special Collections at the University of California, Irvine, and soon to be consulting archivist, OCLC RLG Programs.

I would like to thank Jim Michalko of OCLC RLG Programs for RLG's generous support of this symposium, and Merrilee Proffitt, Jennifer Schaffner, and Jackie Dooley for their help in planning the program. I also want to thank SAA staff—Nancy Beaumont, Rene Mueller, and Carlos Salgado—for their support and assistance. Finally, I want to thank our speakers and all of you for attending and for helping to make EAD the robust international standard it is today.