EAD and EAC in French
Archives: a status report

EAD at 10:
a symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of Encoded Archival Description

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Summary

- Background: positive and critical factors
- EAD implementation: strategies and tools
- EAC implementation
- Cultural and archival gateways
  - Culture.fr
  - Europeana and the Archives Portal of Europe on the Internet (APENET)
Background: positive factors

- First tests in 1999-2001, training sessions and seminars, translation of documentation, guidelines
- Integration by archival software
- Development of collaborative projects
  - Gateway Archives Canada-France, portal Culture.fr
Background: critical factors

- Small staff size of repositories
- Lack of standardization in descriptive practices
- Multiplicity of existing access tools
- Insufficient institutional infrastructure
- Difficulty in maintaining expertise
- Diversity in how EAD is used
Strategies of implementation: EAD in full development

Very different solutions are adopted:
- freeware / commercial, internal / external production, XML editors / automatic exports

Very different institutions apply EAD:
- National Archives (Paris, Aix-en-Provence), Archives départementales de la Haute-Marne, de l’Eure, du Puy-de-Dôme, du Val-de-Marne, Institut français d’architecture, Centre national de la Danse, École des chartes, etc.
Strategies of implementation: retrospective conversion

- Archives départementales des Pyrénées-Atlantiques (Pau):
  - encoding of more than 40 legacy finding aids written between 1863 and 2000 as part of a program of digitization of the collections
  - necessity of reengineering finding aids, standardizing index terms
  - it will lead the archivist to rethink the production of finding aids
Strategies of implementation: the tools

PLEADE

- Open-source tool developed by 2 French companies (AJ LSM and Anaphore) enabling us to publish archival finding aids in EAD format over a Web architecture
- Versions 1.0 (2003), 2.0 (2007), 3.0 (2008)
- Built on SDX, a search engine and publishing platform for XML documents
Example: the Archives départementales du Val-de-Marne

- [http://www.archives94.fr](http://www.archives94.fr)
- Finding aids are displayed according to the classification schema of the Archives, based on the status of records creators and on their activities
- The classification schema is an EAD document which can be updated by the administrators of the platform
Example: the Archives départamentales du Val-de-Marne
Example: the Archives départementales du Val-de-Marne
Example: French Institute of Architecture

- http://archiwebture.citechaillot.fr/awt/
- About 200 EAD finding aids
- 6 levels of description: fonds, chapters, objects (architectural projects), phases, files and documents
- ROLE attribute for creation of specific indexes (authors of projects, sponsors, photographs)
- Availability of the collections through OAI harvesting
Example: French Institute of Architecture
Strategies of implementation: the tools

Mnesys:

- Proprietary (Naoned Systemes, 2007)
- A full-Web software dedicated to archive services to capture, author, describe and categorize, store and retrieve EAD-XML finding aids
- Several modules that can be used separately or integrated in a single interface: Author, Thesaurus, Publisher, Viewer
Example: the Archives départementales du Doubs

- http://archives.doubs.fr/
- About 200 finding aids available
- Main features of the search interface:
  - full-text search, extended search including search fields, date interval indexing, search within the file plan of the repository, sorting by date, office of origin, series, display of the relevant notices in their context, selection of notices, access the digitized documents
Example: the Archives départementales du Doubs

1836V (1836W1-37)
Sociétés coopératives agricoles. - Dossiers d'agrement et de contrôle.
État des fonds

1486V (1486W1-25)
État des fonds

1320W (1320W1-60)
État des fonds

1776V (1776W1-44)
État des fonds

1731W (1731W1-68)
Administration des droits des sols, - Permis de construire de la commune de Villers-le-Lac (1992-1996), Ingénierie publique...
EAC implementation is still limited

- The DTD is still not stabilized
- The names given to the tags are complicated, obscure and do not explicitly refer to archival concepts
- The DTD obliges the creator of a record to respect a given order of elements within a given element
- Problem of links between EAD and EAC
Examples of EAC implementation

- Database BORA - Photographic collections (Directorate of French Archives): example of publication of EAC authority records related to EAD instances
- IREL (National Archives of Overseas at Aix-en-Provence): development of a production tool for authority records
- Archives départementales du Finistère (intranet, PLEADE 2.0)
Examples of EAC implementation: ETANOT (ETAT des NOTaires parisiens)
Gateway Culture.fr

- On-line access to cultural information presently held in 31 different data bases, covering archives, libraries, museums and the built and movable heritage

- Use of a semantic search engine, based not on existing data organization (fields) but on full text research with specific features (morpho-syntactical analysis of word, linguistic, semantic analysis...)

Europeana

- Aims to give users direct access to the digitized content of Europe’s cultural collections
- Public prototype launching in November 2008
  - Over 2 million digitized objects
  - Content that represents all 4 domains
  - Pan-European coverage
  - Multilingual interface
European digital library network

2-year thematic partnership: EDLnet

90 partners representing:

- all EU Member States
- related Commission-funded projects
- the 4 cultural heritage domains:
  - audio-visual collections
  - archives
  - museums
  - libraries
Archives Portal of Europe on the Internet (APENET)

- Content provided by the contributors:
  - information about archival institutions;
  - information about archival fonds;
  - digitized documents

- Content specific to the portal:
  - search users help, online training
  - virtual exhibitions, image galleries
  - services to users: links-lists, “shopping lists”, “how-to”, etc.
Include the description of the documents (and images) available in European Archives and in other institutions with archival holdings.

Analyze and evaluate existing projects (comparison between EAD instances provided by the countries).

Define rules and mechanisms for making contents available.

Create and/or adapt the existing descriptions to the chosen standards.

Identify methods to deliver content and services to users.
Archives Portal of Europe on the Internet (APENET)

Define in common a model for proper data exchange and the methods for good visibility of archival content in EUROPEANA.

Providing resources from the archive domain to be used in the EUROPEANA prototype.

Develop and implement the interface module or service for each portal needed for a good interoperability, integration and data exchange.