

# Connecting the Dots: Using EAC-CPF to Reunite Samuel Johnson and His Circle

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**Abstract:** Encoded Archival Context – Corporate bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) is a new metadata transmission standard for encoding information about archival creators and related entities. In December 2011 the Houghton Library (Harvard University) and the Beinecke Library (Yale University) began a year-long test project to demonstrate the benefits of using EAC-CPF to describe creators of manuscript collections and encode meaningful semantic links among those creators, their associates, and the primary sources that document their lives and work. The project focuses on lexicographer Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) and his circle of fellow writers, artists, political thinkers and friends, as well as collectors thereof. EAC-CPF records describe Johnson and members of his circle; document and make navigable their relationships; and provide links to the rich Johnsonian archival resources held by the Beinecke and Houghton Libraries. The project is attempting to answer the following questions:

- 1) How can two separate institutions collaborate to create, share, maintain EAC-CPF records and develop a set of metadata best practices for this new archival standard?
- 2) What is a content-rich EAC-CPF record? What contextual information and linking will be most beneficial to our users?

This presentation will discuss the project to date, the successes and challenges encountered, and describe next steps for the project.

## About the authors:

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