

Encoded Archival Description - changes to EAD and implications for RAD implementations

Canadian Committee on Archival Description
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This document only relates to changes to EAD which directly relate to compatibility with RAD, i.e. the ability to use EAD as a data structure standard or data exchange standard for RAD. Information about all the changes to EAD have been circulated by the EAD Working Group and are available from <http://www.loc.gov/ead/>.

New elements

Several new elements have been added to ensure compliance with ISAD(G) as well as RAD. Elements from RAD's note area were not added to EAD unless there was an equivalent element in ISAD(G) (since these elements can easily be mapped to <odd type="xxx">). However, an element was added for material specific details, which does not appear in ISAD(G).

<langmaterial> (Language of material)

This element was added under <did>, i.e. as a core element. E.g.:

```
<langmaterial>Some correspondence in <language>French</language>.</langmaterial>
```

```
<langmaterial>Includes material in French, Spanish, and German</langmaterial>
```

<phystech> (Physical characteristics and technical requirements)

This element was added under <archdesc> and <c> primarily to accommodate the ISAD(G) element of the same name. It can be used for RAD's notes which relate to the physical description of the unit being described, in particular physical description (1.8B9) and physical condition (1.8B9a). A type attribute is available if more granularity is desired. E.g.:

```
<phystech><p>Emulsion flaking</p></phystech>
```

```
<phystech type="physdescnote"><p>Includes: 40 cm of textual records, ca. 670 photographs, ca. 260 postcards, 4 watercolours</p></phystech>
```

<matspec> (Material specific details)

This element was added under <did> to accommodate the RAD rule of that name which is currently used for cartographic materials and architectural and technical drawings. This element is repeatable (and can nest within itself) so more than one material specific details statement may be recorded, using a type or label attribute to differentiate between them. E.g.:

```
<matspec label="Mathematical data">
```

```
<matspec label="Scale">1:1 900 800</matspec>
```

```
<matspec label="Projection">universal transverse Mercator proj."</matspec>
```

```
</matspec>
```

Or:

```
<matspec label="Scale">1:1 900 800</matspec>
```

```
<matspec label="Projection">universal transverse Mercator proj."</matspec>
```

<originalsloc> (Location of originals)

This element was added under <archdesc> and <c> to parallel the <altformavail> element and to accommodate existing ISAD(G) and RAD elements. E.g.:

```
<originalsloc><p>Original in National Archives of Canada, C2358</p></originalsloc>
```

```
<originalsloc><p>Originals destroyed after microfilming, 1981</p></originalsloc>
```

Changes to existing elements

Unbundling of <admininfo> and <add>

This means that the elements previously available under <admininfo> (administrative information) and <add> (adjunct to the descriptive data) are now available under <archdesc> and <c>. While <admininfo> and <add> continue to be available in this version, they will be eliminated in a future version and new elements are not being added under them. A new element, <descgrp>, has been introduced to allow grouping, if desired, of elements in <archdesc> and <c>. For example, grouping could be done by RAD areas, such as <descgrp type="notearea">. It may not be necessary to group in this manner at all, particularly with stylesheets, but this unbundling also provides more flexibility in terms of element ordering.

There are two principal benefits for RAD implementations:

- <custodhist> (custodial history) is available at the same level as <bioghist> (administrative history/biographical sketch) and <scopecontent> (scope and content). That is, all the elements of RAD's archival description area can appear together; custodial history is not relegated to "administrative information".

- RAD's notes, for the most part, are available in the same grouping, rather than being split between <admininfo> and <add>.

<bibseries>, <edition>, and <imprint> made available under <unittitle>

This change was made to facilitate item-level description and particularly description of published or special media material. E.g.:

```
<did>
  <unittitle>Rules for Archival Description
  <edition>2nd ed.</edition>
  <imprint>
    <geogname>Toronto</geogname>
    <publisher>Canadian Council of Archives</publisher>
  </imprint>
</unittitle>
<unitdate datechar="published">2003</unitdate>
</did>
```

TYPE attribute added to <separatedmaterial> and <relatedmaterial>

This will allow RAD implementors to differentiate between related material in a different fonds and related material in the same fonds (a relatively new RAD rule). Associated material (i.e. material in a different repository, related by provenance) can be mapped to <separatedmaterial>.

SUMMARY

While the compatibility between RAD and EAD 1.0 was already quite good, the changes introduced in EAD 2002 have addressed some remaining problems. Encoding of item-level descriptions of published or special media material should now be possible, although further development of these mappings are needed. The unbundling of <admininfo> and <add> have made it easier to give a RAD-like structure EAD finding aids.

A RAD-EAD crosswalk, originally prepared by the Canadian Committee on Data Structure Standards in 1998, has been updated for EAD 2002.