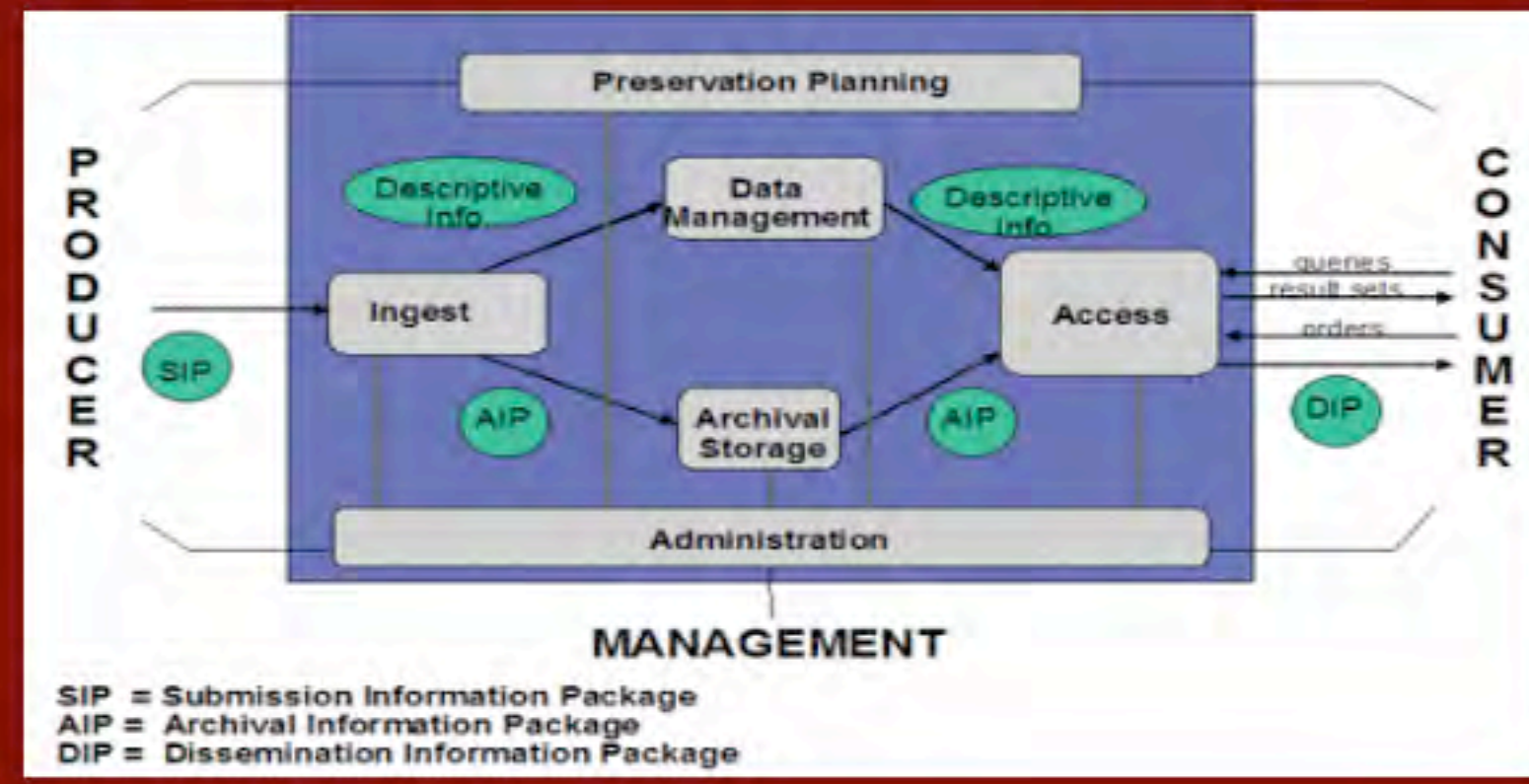


OAIS – Open Archival Information System

- digital archive standard/reference model
- defines the elements needed for a long term digital preservation system
- aims to create a shared frame of reference for institutions and support collaboration
- specifies requirements for digital objects from submission, archiving, and dissemination



ISAD(G) General International Standard Archival Description

- is the result of an international collaboration with the goal of establishing a basic content standard common to all archives
- structurally simple and easy to implement
- It is most widely used in the United Kingdom.
- Easy to implement, user-friendly.

Elements	A.1	A.2	A.3	A.4	A.5
1. Identity Statement	Reference Code	Title	Date	Level of Description	Extent and Medium
2. Context	Name of Creator	Administrative, biographic history	Archival History	Immediate source of acquisition or transfer	
3. Content and Structure	Scope and Content	Appraisal, description and scheduling	Accruals	System of Arrangement	
4. Conditions of Access	Conditions governing access	Conditions governing reproduction	Language/scripts of material	Physical characteristics and technical requirements	Finding aids
5. Allied Materials	Reference and location of originals	Reference and location of copies	Related works of description	Publication note	
6. Notes	Note				
7. Description Control	Archivists Note	Rules or conventions	Date of description		

- 26 total elements of which the following six are essential:
 - Reference code
 - Title
 - Creator
 - Dates
 - Extent of the unit of description
 - Level of description
- Four multilevel description rules:
 - Description from the general to the specific
 - Information relevant to the level of description
 - Linking of descriptions to the next higher unit of description
 - Non-repetition of information

DACS – Describing Archives: A Content Standard

- result of a project hoping to create a unified content standard for the US and Canada (CUSTARD project)
- accepted as standard for the US by Society of American Archivists
- Association of Canadian Archives chose to revise a preexisting standard (RAD2)
- incorporates principles of ISAD(G)
- supports and encourages consistency in archival description
- requires the incorporation of media format-specific descriptive standards
- establishes rules for what information is necessary for describing archival materials at multiple levels of arrangement and description.
- compatible with many data structure standards, such as EAD and MARC21



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EAD – Encoded Archival Description

- a descriptive standard for encoding archival finding aids using XML
- developed and maintained by the Library of Congress and the Society of American Archivists
- strongly influenced by the development and design structure of MARC, but allows archivists to describe the full text of their finding aids.
- it enables universal, union access to archival collections on the Internet
- EAD provides the ability to preserve hierarchical relationships between levels of description; the ability to represent descriptive information inherited between hierarchical levels; and the ability to move within hierarchical information structures



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CIDOC CRM – Conceptual Reference Model

- developed by International Council of Museums' Comité International pour la Documentation.
- a formal ontology with 86 classes and 137 properties.
- intended to facilitate the integration, mediation, and interchange of heterogeneous cultural heritage information.
- ...aims at providing the semantic definitions and clarifications needed to transform disparate, localized information sources into a coherent global resource...
- CIDOC CRM is an international standard that functions as the "semantic glue" that mediates between different sources of cultural heritage information.



Standard Bearers: Research Into the Current State of Archival Standards

The archival community has developed a strong interest in the creation and application of standards in recent years in an attempt to both improve the quality and consistency of archival description and to further expand opportunities for collaboration and access. These standards are the products of diverse institutions, committees, and projects and take many different forms. Content standards, such as DACS and ISAD(G) establish what information is necessary in archival description, such as title, creator, scope and content, and dates. Data structure standards, such as EAD, METS, and MODS provide means to organize and structure the information required by a content standard, usually by establishing a vocabulary of XML tags and hierarchies for their use. The use of XML is common because it provides the ability for interoperability between systems and resources, enabling functions such as federated search and improved information retrieval. Other standards include comprehensive ontologies, such as CIDOC CRM and Dublin Core which are attempts at developing terminology and hierarchies independent of specific data structure standards but can be used in the creation or refinement of such systems. OAIS is an example of a best practice model for conceptualizing the requirements of long-term digital preservation and has been implemented in a variety of digitization projects.

While the interest and enthusiasm over best practices as well as national and international consensus demonstrated by this interest in standardization is largely positive, we found that the number of similar yet distinct standards currently being developed and promoted can result in confusion and competition. As a result, archivists may be hesitant to adopt any standard for fear that it might be outmoded and thus not worth the time and expense to implement. There have been efforts on the part of standards creators to increase cooperation between different systems. We have grouped the standards presented here in relation to other compatible standards where possible. A focus on maximizing "crosswalks" for data between different structures and vocabularies, instead of rigid enforcement of one imperfect standard alone, would have the benefit of capturing the widest array of relevant information while also promoting consistency and access to archival materials.

EAC - Encoded Archival Context

- descriptive standard
- a consortium of international archivists and information scientists developed EAC in 2001, resulting in the "Toronto Tenets: Principals and Criteria for a Model for Archival Context Information," which formed the basis for the standard. (Thurman 2005)
- XML used to encode information about records creators. This information about individuals, organizations, or families provides important context to the records and facilitates interpretation and access of records.
- EAC was developed to work as a supplement to EAD's <bioghist> element, but EAC can also serve as a stand-alone biographical reference system developing authority files for unique archival records.
- The Beta version of the EAC DTD was released in 2004, and the standard remains a "work in progress," being tested by the archival community. The SAA has developed a working group to assist in the development of the standard.



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Dublin Core

- Internationally recognized metadata standard (ISO 15836-2003)
- describe online digital materials including images, data sets, and text
- to aid resource discovery
- Two versions: Simple DC consists of 15 basic elements, to which Qualified DC adds three additional elements as well as elements refinements for more detailed description
- Qualified DC can be "dumbed down" and interpreted as Simple DC if necessary
- Elements can be repeated or ignored as necessary, and can be used in conjunction with other standards to describe materials
- Easy to learn and implement with the capability to promote semantic interoperability between different user communities

Creator	Title	Subject
Contributor	Date	Description
Publisher	Type	Format
Coverage	Rights	Relation
Source	Language	Identifier

MODS – Metadata Object Description Standard

- Derived from and compatible with MARC
- uses XML for encoding
- language based tags instead of number codes as in MARC
- more expansive tag library than Dublin Core
- tags can be reused, repeated
- approved by NISO in 2004
- designed to complement METS
- flexible and simple, but not widely used



METS: Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard

- descriptive standard
- XML schema for encoding administrative, structural, and descriptive metadata for digital library objects
- maintained by Library of Congress
- advantages: Simplifies the sharing of encoded descriptive metadata between libraries and related facilities
- users can alter, suggest elements to add to schema
- elements of metadata must follow pre-established procedures and language guidelines to be used by more than one entity.
- expertise in XML is required.
- needs more open source tool development

