Archivists’ Toolkit & Metadata Standards
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Archivists’ Toolkit

• Open source archival data management system to provide integrated support for archival materials.

• Goals:
  – Reduce the inefficiency of multiple single purpose tools
    • Enter data once
    • Use it in many times
  – Promote data standardization
What it is

• Core functionality
  – Accessioning
  – Description
  – Name authority
  – Subject authority
  – Location management

• Phase 2
  – User registration/use tracking
  – Rights management
  – Subject granularity
  – Appraisal
  – Sustainability plan
What it isn’t

• End user access tool; digital asset management system, institutional repository, online public access catalog

{ but it exports data for use in these systems }
The question

Use an existing standard or build our own data model?
Why?

• Wide variety of users
  – Size, resources, workflows, collection characteristics, etc.

• Wide variety of relationships
  – Accessions & Resources
  – Resources & Components
  – Intellectual work & Instantiations
  – Analog & Digital

• Wide variety of functions
  – Management
  – Discovery
  – Use
But...

Still heavily standards based

- ISAD(G)/DACS - EAD
- ISAAR (CPF) - EAC
- AACR - MARC

Controlled vocabularies: language, type of resource, name relator codes, […]
Imports & Exports

- Import
  - EAD
  - MARC XML
  - Accession data

- Export of Resource Records
  - EAD
  - MARC XML

- Export of Digital Object Records
  - MARC XML
  - MODS
  - DC
  - METS (with MODS or DC)
Design Principles

• Build for the rule, not the exception
• Demonstrated use for data
• Create varied and valid exports
• Separate data and presentation (when possible)
• Facilitate data standardization
Design Process

- Project team
- Advisory committee
- Beta testers
- Archivists
- Users
Limitations

- Building a new data model is a lot of work!
- Differences in granularity between internal and external standards
- Differences in constraints of the binding of the standard (xml vs. relational db)
Goals

• Reduce the inefficiency of multiple single purpose tools
• Promote data standardization
Thank You!

www.archiviststoolkit.org