

OhioLINK EAD Task Force Annual Report 2012

Summary

2012 was notable in terms of the Task Force's ongoing outreach and training efforts. Online training tutorials were completed, and the Task Force engaged in outreach through state and national venues. OhioLINK staff completed several outstanding support tickets, in order to improve display functionality within the Finding Aid Repository. The Finding Aid Creation Tool, hosted and supported by the Kent State University Libraries, remained technically stable throughout the year.

Task Force members for 2012 were

- Morag Boyd (The Ohio State University)
- Janet Carleton (Ohio University)
- Cara Gilgenbach (Kent State University; co-chair)
- Suzanne Maggard (University of Cincinnati)
- Amy McCrory (The Ohio State University; co-chair)
- Rhonda Rinehart (University of Akron)

Technical staff supporting the project included David Gaj (Kent State University), Kyle Kaliebe (OhioLINK), and John Davison (OhioLINK). After eight years of exceptional service, Amy McCrory will be ending her tenure with the Task Force at the end of this year. Suzanne Maggard has agreed to serve as co-chair next year and two new members have been added: Arjun Sabharwal (University of Toledo) and Pasha Johnson (The Ohio State University).

Finding Aid Repository

With the departure of Kyle Kaliebe from OhioLINK in April, John Davison was assigned to provide systems and development support to the Finding Aid Repository hosted by OhioLINK. There were a number of outstanding support tickets that had been logged since late 2009. Many of these tickets dealt with display and formatting problems. To date, a number of tickets were resolved, although some major issues remain to be solved within the Repository. Significantly, John Davison was able to create a test server for the XTF/XSLT-based Repository that now allows for more effective testing of XTF/XSLT code fixes without disruption of the live Repository site. Of continuing concern is the desire of contributing institutions to be able to generate statistical usage reports, as well as the need for sustained developmental support for the Repository.

In March, the Mellon Foundation funded the second phase of the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) project, of which the EAD Repository is a part. This funding enabled a second, two-year phase of the project to begin on April 1, 2012. Called SNAC II, this second phase will enable the expansion of the source data and research agenda for the original project. The EAD Task Force's early adoption of a simplified, well-structured subset of EAD has positioned us to contribute our content to innovative international consortia like SNAC II.

Finding Aid Creation Tool

The Finding Aid Creation Tool continued to have stable performance this year. Very few technical problems were reported, and most user interaction involved assisting with best practices or clarifying how best to structure a given portion of a finding aid. As enhancement requests were suggested by users or by David Gaj and Cara Gilgenbach who provide support for the Tool, those requests were logged in the system for future consideration. Initial discussions for the eventual changeover to the revised EAD Schema (scheduled for release in August 2013) took place.

Training and Outreach

One of the highlights of this year's efforts for training and outreach was the completion and public release of online training tutorials for using the Finding Aid Creation Tool. Rhonda Rinehart led this project to completion and provided content for the 20-part series of training tutorials.

The Task Force also provided another full-day hands-on training workshop in November, held at Case Western Reserve University.

Amy McCrory and Janet Carleton presented on the EAD FACTORY at the joint Society of Ohio Archivists/Ohio Local History Alliance fall meeting. This presentation helped the Task Force reach a new audience that included representatives from many historical societies from around the state. Morag Boyd, Cara Gilgenbach, and Suzanne Maggard presented on EAD-MARC workflows at the annual conference of the Academic Library Association of Ohio. This presentation was meant to address feedback from numerous users that more help was desired on making connections between EAD Finding Aids and MARC catalog records.

The Task Force was again invited to participate in an EAD Roundtable meeting at the Society of American Archivists annual conference. This venue allowed the Task Force to take part in an international discussion about cooperative EAD projects. Suzanne Maggard represented the Task Force at this event.

EAD Starter Packet revisions have been initiated, including additions to the granting agencies providing support for EAD projects, adding new screen shots, and changes to tentative language. Links were added to the downloadable version of DACS and to the SAA Standards portal, and materials from the content guidelines were added. Further revisions are underway including removing the history section and adding as a separate document.

Future Objectives

The Task Force is planning to create a Web site that will allow for dissemination of EAD FACTORY information in a more immediate, accessible way.

The national project to update a new EAD Schema release (and cease support of the 2002 DTD) will be an issue of prime concern for the Task Force in the coming year. Conversion of existing finding aids, and upgrades to the Finding Aid Creation Tool and the OhioLINK Repository, will be needed to ensure that we continue our practice of producing standards-compliant, accessible EAD.

Avenues for garnering more stable, long-term developmental and systems support for the Finding Aid Repository will also be explored in the coming year.

Some Facts about the EAD FACTORY

(as of December 17, 2012)

Number of participating institutions: 60 (44 are part of OhioLINK member institutions)

Number of finding aids in the Repository: 4,158 (last year's total: 2,210)

Number of Finding Aid Creation Tool user accounts: 254

Types of institutions participating:

- Academic libraries of all types and sizes (including one K-12 library)
- Historical societies
- Public libraries
- Special libraries and institutes
- Museums
- OhioLINK and non-OhioLINK member institutions

Participating Institutions:

1. Akron Art Museum
2. Akron-Summit County Public Library, Department of Special Collections
3. Archival Services, University Libraries, The University of Akron
4. Bowling Green State University, Center for Archival Collections
5. Bowling Green State University, Music Library and Sound Recording Archives
6. Browne Popular Culture Library (Bowling Green State University)
7. Case Western Reserve University
8. Case Western Reserve University Archives
9. Case Western Reserve University, the Judge Ben C. Green Law Library
10. Case Western Reserve University, School of Applied Social Science, Harris Library
11. Center for the History of Psychology
12. Cincinnati Art Museum Mary R. Schiff Library and Archives
13. Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
14. Clark County Historical Society
15. Clark State Community College
16. Cleveland Public Library
17. Cleveland State University
18. Cuyahoga Community College
19. Dayton Metro Library
20. Hiram College
21. Hudson Library & Historical Society
22. Hudson Montessori School
23. John Carroll University
24. Kent State University Libraries. June F. Mohler Fashion Library.
25. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives
26. Kenyon College Greenslade Special Collections and Archives
27. Lloyd Library and Museum
28. Malone University, Everett L. Cattell Library
29. Marietta College Library
30. Medical Heritage Center
31. Miami University
32. National First Ladies' Library
33. Oberlin College
34. Ohio Historical Society
35. Ohio University
36. Sandusky Library
37. Shaker Historical Society

38. State Library of Ohio
39. The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
40. The Ohio State University Archives
41. The Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum
42. The Ohio State University. Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program
43. The Ohio State University. Hilandar Research Library
44. The Ohio State University. Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute
45. The Ohio State University. Music and Dance Library
46. The Ohio State University. Ohio Congressional Archives
47. The Ohio State University. Rare Books and Manuscripts Library
48. United Theological Seminary
49. University of Cincinnati, Archives and Rare Books Library
50. University of Cincinnati, Health Sciences Library, Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions
51. University of Cincinnati, Law Library
52. University of Dayton
53. University of Dayton, Marian Library
54. Ursuline College Archives
55. Walsh University Library
56. Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, The University of Toledo
57. Western Reserve Historical Society
58. Wright State University, Special Collections and Archives
59. Xavier University Archives and Special Collections
60. Youngstown State University