Name of the Tool	Encoded Archival Description
Home Page	
Logo	
URL	https://www.loc.gov/ead/
Subject	Encoded Archival Description (Document type definition)
Accessibility	Free
Language	English
Publisher	Library of Congress
Brief History	Encoded Archival Description (EAD) is an XML standard for encoding archival finding aids, maintained by the Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description of the Society of American Archivists, in partnership with the Library of Congress. EAD originated at the 1993 Society of American Archivists annual meeting in New Orleans and was headed by Daniel Pitti at the University of California, Berkeley. The project's goal was to create a data standard for describing archives, similar to the MARC standards for describing bibliographic materials. The initial EAD Version 1.0 was released in the fall of 1998. Such a standard enables archives, museums, libraries, and manuscript repositories to list and describe their holdings in a manner that would be machine-readable and therefore easy to search, maintain and exchange. Since its inception, many archives and special collections have adopted it.
Scope & Coverage	A number of repositories in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Australia and elsewhere have adopted and implemented EAD with varying levels of

	technical sophistication. One of the most ambitious efforts is the Online Archive of California, a union catalog of over 5000 EAD finding aids covering manuscripts and images from institutions across the state. The French National Library Francois Mitterrand publishes more than 90000 EAD finding aids covering archives and manuscripts. The EAD3 Schema is available in two syntaxes: Relax NG Schema (RNG) and W3C Schema (XSD).
Kind of Information	Encoded archival description is a standard for encoding archival findings aids. It is an encoding language expressed in XML (eXtensible Markup Language) for representing finding aids online. It supports the general structure of finding aids used by archivists and comprises three primary groups of information like administrative information: repository details, how the collection was acquired, access or usage restrictions, etc.; descriptive information: biographical or historical note about the creator of the collection, scope note, control access terms; folder list: a list of the materials that make up the collection, by box, folder, item, or other designation.
Special Features	➢ A variety of tools and helper files for a number of different XML authoring and editing applications is available at the SAA Standards Portal EAD Web site. ➢ The EAD Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists is intended to promote the implementation and use of encoding standards for dissemination of archival information: http://www2.archivists.org/groups/encoded-archival-description-ead-roundtable
Arrangement Pattern	All the versions of EAD are arranged according to the chronological years.
Remarks	EAD has become popular among the archival community and is currently being implemented by repositories throughout world. Written in XML, EAD is platform independent, adaptable to the World Wide Web, and flexible enough to be used with a variety of collections. In addition to the development and maintenance work done by the Society of American Archivists and the Library of Congress, the Research Libraries Group (RLG) has developed and published a set of "Best Practice" implementation guidelines for EAD, which lays out mandatory, recommended, and optional elements and attributes. RLG has also provided a kind of clearinghouse for finding aids in EAD format, known as ArchiveGrid.
Comparable Tools	➢ MARC Standards (https://www.loc.gov/marc/)
Date of Access	February 15, 2017