Online Description in the U.S. Archival Community

Duke University Medical Center Archives- EAD Encoded Collections: The Duke University Medical Center Library and Archives (DUMC) has published more than 270 Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids on their "Archives Online" web site. This machine-readable cataloging method provides a standard for the computerized description of archival materials. The DUMC encoded collections, which document people, professional societies, research associations, educational groups, and various subjects associated with the school, make up the vast majority of the Center's online finding aids. In comparison to those papers whose online documentation is limited to textual inventories, EAD-encoded collections include extensive descriptive information, including administrative data, use and access restrictions, citation styles, year and status of acquisition, processing information, biographical or historical notes, arrangement details, lists of related subject terms, and box inventories. Users can choose to view the finding aids via HTML or PDF links.
http://archives.mc.duke.edu/collections/holdings.html

Online Access: Social Media

Archivopedia.com: If you've ever been curious about harnessing the collaborative potential of the internet (frequently referred to as Web 2.0) to benefit archives, you might be interested in Archivopedia, a new wiki for the archival community. Like the more well-known Wikipedia, Archivopedia provides a space for users to create online encyclopedia entries, which can then be edited for content and accuracy by other registered members. While Wikipedia entries run the gamut from pop culture to astrophysics, however, Archivopedia focuses on notable individuals and themes "in the field of archival science and related disciplines like library science, records management, and museology." There are currently over 1,100 articles discussing such topics as finding aids, internships and T.R. Schellenberg. Since the site is still just starting out, many of these discussions exist as "stubs," or minimal entries waiting to be fleshed out by users. The site is also piloting a user-generated transcription project, as well as experimenting with integrated Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and combined National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections/Online Computer Library Center (NUCMC/OCLC), search systems that will allow users to "find primary source materials at repositories around the world." http://archivopedia.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

Online Description at NARA

Spotlight on Holdings in Our Catalog: If you have a favorite ARC-described record group or series to share, send it in and we'll highlight it here.

→ Sources and Methods Files (RG 226, ARC ID 2635467): This unarranged series consists of miscellaneous records created by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and War Department, Strategic Services Unit (SSU) from 1941-1947. Materials include "briefing books, code

Creator: Central Intelligence Agency. (12/04/1981

Series: Sources and Methods Files,

ARC ID: 2635467 / MLR No: **A1 210, A1 211 (.**

books, counterfeit documents, memoranda, reports, correspondence, cables, intercepted and decrypted transmissions, press clippings, notes, interrogation transcripts" and other items withdrawn from their original series by the CIA and recombined into artificial series. Interested users should check out the robust Scope and Content note for background on the records' history and chain of title. Because the contents of the boxes are so unpredictable, users are encouraged to consult the finding aids and subject heading guides accessible through the ARC description's Online Resource URL before beginning their research. —Suggested by Ashley Bucciferro, NARA Staff
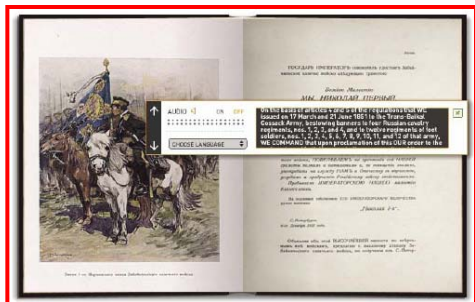
(For tips on searching within specific record groups and collections, check out the RG and Collection Index at http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/rg-collections/.)

What's New on the Access to Archival Databases Resource (AAD):
The Access to Archival Databases (AAD) resource now includes two extract files from the series Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Files. These files consist of updated casualty records of U.S. military personnel who died or who were missing in action or prisoners of war in either the Korean War or Vietnam War. The files include corrected or revised records, the addition of new records, and new fields such as unit. These records are available online for searching via AAD at http://www.archives.gov/aad. - Lynn Goodsell, NARA Staff

Online Description in the International Archival Community

World Digital Library: The interactive World Digital Library (WDL) will debut on April 21, 2009 during the Executive Board meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France. Through their participation in this ambitious project, NARA and the Library of Congress have joined more than 25 cultural institutions from around the world in an effort to make significant primary source records available to the public online. Users will be able to explore the site's rare and unique items by topic, place, institution, time period or record type.
The traditional textual descriptions of a library catalog will be supplemented with such special features as interactive presentations, blogs, 3-D page-turning, and high-level zoom, all of which will help users to gain a richer understanding of the world's documentary treasures. In a statement this past summer James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, expressed enthusiasm for NARA's participation, stating that the partnership will not only "ensure that the World Digital Library contains a full record of the American experience, but it also will encourage archives around the world to join with their counterparts from the library world in this important initiative." Though the site will not be fully functional until its debut next month, interested viewers are encouraged to learn more about the project by visiting the WDL web site, where they can watch conceptual videos, learn about the international collaborators and stay up-to-date with current news and events.
http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org/project/english/