

**Technical Subcommittee on Descriptive Standards (TSDS)  
Annual Report, 2008 Society of American Archivists Meeting**

From September 2007 to August 2008, TSDS worked to review and promulgate standards related to archival description. Our primary activities consisted of reviewing a proposed standard from the ICA (International Council on Archives) and an independently proposed set of standards for dealing with Native American archival materials. In the upcoming year, we expect to review the revised Encoded Archival Context encoding standard, and participate in reconfiguring the Standards Committee.

**ISDIAH**

In July 2007, ICA called for comments on a draft standard, *ISIAH: International Standard for Institutions with Archival Holdings*. TSDS closely reviewed the draft standard and submitted comments to ICA in October 2007. TSDS endorsed both the concept of a standard for describing holders of archival materials and the particulars of the draft, with some comments. We voiced some questions about the extent to which the standard would be implemented in the United States, but they did not affect our endorsement.

ICA's Committee on Best Practices and Professional Standards revised ISIAH based on feedback received, renamed it *ISDIAH: International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings*, and published the standard in May 2008.

**ISDF**

ICA also published *ISDF: International Standard for Describing Functions* in May 2008. ISDF is a revised version of the draft standard *ISAF: International Standard for Activities and Functions*, which TSDS commented upon last year.

**RAD**

In January, the Canadian Committee on Archival Description released a draft revision of *Rules for Archival Description* (RAD). TSDS reviewed the revision and submitted comments in March 2008.

**Protocols for Native American Archival Materials**

In December, TSDS reviewed the proposed *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials* (<http://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/index.html>) in response to a call for comments from SAA Council. TSDS comments were incorporated into the Standards Committee response to council, which recommended SAA not endorse the protocols without further consideration. TSDS comments on the protocols focused specifically on the section entitled "Providing Context", which would have the most impact on archival description.

**EAC**

TSDS charged the EAC Working Group in 2006 and gratefully acknowledges the progress made on developing the revised schema and tag library during the past year. We look forward to reviewing both in the next year. Full details on the working group's progress are available in their separate report.

**Others Issues**

During the past year the Standards Committee began to reevaluate and revise its mission and organization. One change under consideration is whether or not it is necessary for TSDS to continue as a standing subcommittee. TSDS will continue to fulfill its current responsibilities for the next year and will participate in the discussions regarding reorganizing the Standards Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rush, Chair, TSDS