Convergence on Memory Institutions
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Future scenarios for archives: some Italian perspectives

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Descriptive models

- New descriptive models both in library and archival worlds
  - (grown out of new societal and professional needs)
- ISAD (G), ISAAR (CPF)
- FRBR
- Impact of the new models on existing standards and practices
ISAD (G) (mono-hierarchical)

Model of the levels of arrangement of a fonds
In “traditional” archival descriptive practice the description of the creator of the fonds (or series) is embedded in or even one and the same with that of the “archival object”

- Mono-dimensional textual description

- Great cooperative projects: *Guida Generale degli Archivi di Stato*

ISAD (G) – ISAAR (CPF) (“descrizione separata”)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DESCRIPTIVE AND AUTHORITY RECORDS
Illustrated with an example

Standardized archival description(s) according to ISAD(G) or compatible national rules

Archival authority records according to ISAAR(CPF) or compatible national rules

Chart designed and produced by Hugo L.P.
Stibbe, c.1990
ISAD (G) and ISAAR (CPF) combine in a new conceptual model of archival description.

Focus is both on creator and fonds.

Relationships are at the centre of description.
Debate on descriptive standards in Italy

- Joint working groups of Associazione Nazionale Archivistica Italiana (ANAI) and Direzione Generale per gli Archivi (since middle ‘90s)
- Official Italian translation of ISAD (G) and ISAAR (CPF)
- Italian proposals for the 5-years revisions
  - [http://www.anai.org](http://www.anai.org)
  - [http://www.archivi.beniculturali.it/Divisione_V/indice.html](http://www.archivi.beniculturali.it/Divisione_V/indice.html)
- Working groups on a national archival information system
Figure 3.2: Group 2 Entities and “Responsibility” Relationships

- WORK
- EXPRESSION
- MANIFESTATION
- ITEM
- PERSON
- CORPORATE BODY

is owned by
is produced by
is realized by
is created by
FRBR in Italy

- Italian translation: Roma, ICCU, 2000
- Analysis on the impact on cataloguing rules by the Commission for the revision of RICA
  - [http://www.iccu.sbn.it/ricacom.html](http://www.iccu.sbn.it/ricacom.html)
  - [http://www.aib.it/aib/boll/2002/02-3-267.htm](http://www.aib.it/aib/boll/2002/02-3-267.htm)
  - Discussions on the model, e.g.
    - [http://www.aib.it/aib/boll/2002/02-2-205.htm](http://www.aib.it/aib/boll/2002/02-2-205.htm)
In the Italian archival world some new projects are working to build information systems that implement the model of the “descrizione separata”.

The model has been adopted as it appears to be the best way to describe archives and their context of creation and to give full access to descriptions.

The model appears apt to allow the building of interrelated information systems.
Some information system projects implementing the model:

- Archivio di Stato di Firenze (will be presented december 3, 2002) [http://www.archiviodistato.firenze.it](http://www.archiviodistato.firenze.it)


- Progetto Lombardo Archivi in Internet (also related to SIUSA)

- Progetto Archivi per Napoli [http://niso.cib.na.cnr.it/](http://niso.cib.na.cnr.it/)
SIUSA Model
SIUSA

- Reference Model for archival description
- Actual information system (work in progress)
- Different levels:
  - national
  - regional
  - local
Finding aids software

The model of the “descrizione separata” has been since some years imbedded in software designed to assist the building of finding aids, as Sesamo (http://biblioteche.regione.lombardia.it/regarc/software.htm) and Arianna (http://www.ariannaonline.it)
Information system (work in progress) including archival descriptions (from the guide level to inventario and regesto) produced in different projects (identified and described)

Links between descriptions managed through lists (of fonds, of creators)

Further perspectives of linking descriptions of archives and creators to: images of documents; “stand alone” descriptions of corporate bodies (progetto Civita); transcripts of medieval documents (Codice Diplomatico Lombardo http://cdlm.unipv.it/); other resources (text and images)
Libraries, archives: problems in common

- New models and old descriptive data
- Interaction between systems that are different:
  - By objects described (in type and in granularity)
  - By descriptive model
  - By software used
- Need to build interaction models that allow for understandable results (*noise* and *silence*; information to be given with its context)
- Need to build interaction models that allow not to have to do it all over again…
Perspectives of communication

- To add? to put side by side? to relate?
- The importance to keep everyone’s specific point of view…
- …and to let it be known by the user
- The new model for archival description and the new bibliographic model open wide perspectives of communication
- Looking for intersections: “context” entities; “responsibility” relationships
Authority files for communication

_lst_item\ AF as a way to connect heterogeneous systems
  \_list_item\ e.g. through more than one heading for every record
  \_list_item\ (following different rules; using variant names + dates; …)
  \_list_item\ Some suggestions in P.G. Weston, *Dal controllo bibliografico alle reti documentarie* (Milano, march 2002, convegno “La biblioteca ibrida”)
  \_list_item\ Enhanced authority files: Authority entries or full descriptions?
More common grounds (and problems)

- Descriptions as texts
  - Writing and re-writing
  - Intellectual rights
- Descriptions as (descriptive) metadata
  - Description of descriptions
- Descriptions as digital resources
  - Management and preservation
Work in progress

- Bologna meeting, 3 October 2000, *Archivi e voci d’autorità: Metodologie ed esperienze a confronto per i beni archivistici, librari e storico-artistici*
  
  - [http://www.ibc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/soprintendenza/arcaut.htm](http://www.ibc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/soprintendenza/arcaut.htm)

- Progetto Ecumene (“*strumenti telematici per la fruizione del patrimonio dei beni culturali della Chiesa Cattolica in Italia*”) (in next issue of “Archivi & Computer”)

Work in progress

- Gruppo di Studio sulle intestazioni di autorità dei soggetti produttori d’archivio, promoted by ANAI and DGA
- Takes into account library world’s developmentes (IFLA documents, EAC, new ISAAR, LEAF project, …)
- Meetings with the RICA Commission