

Convergence on Memory Institutions

*Finnish-Italian Seminar on the Collaboration of Libraries,
Archives and Museums in the Organization of Knowledge*

Villa Lante, Rome, 14-16 November 2002

Future scenarios for archives: some Italian perspectives

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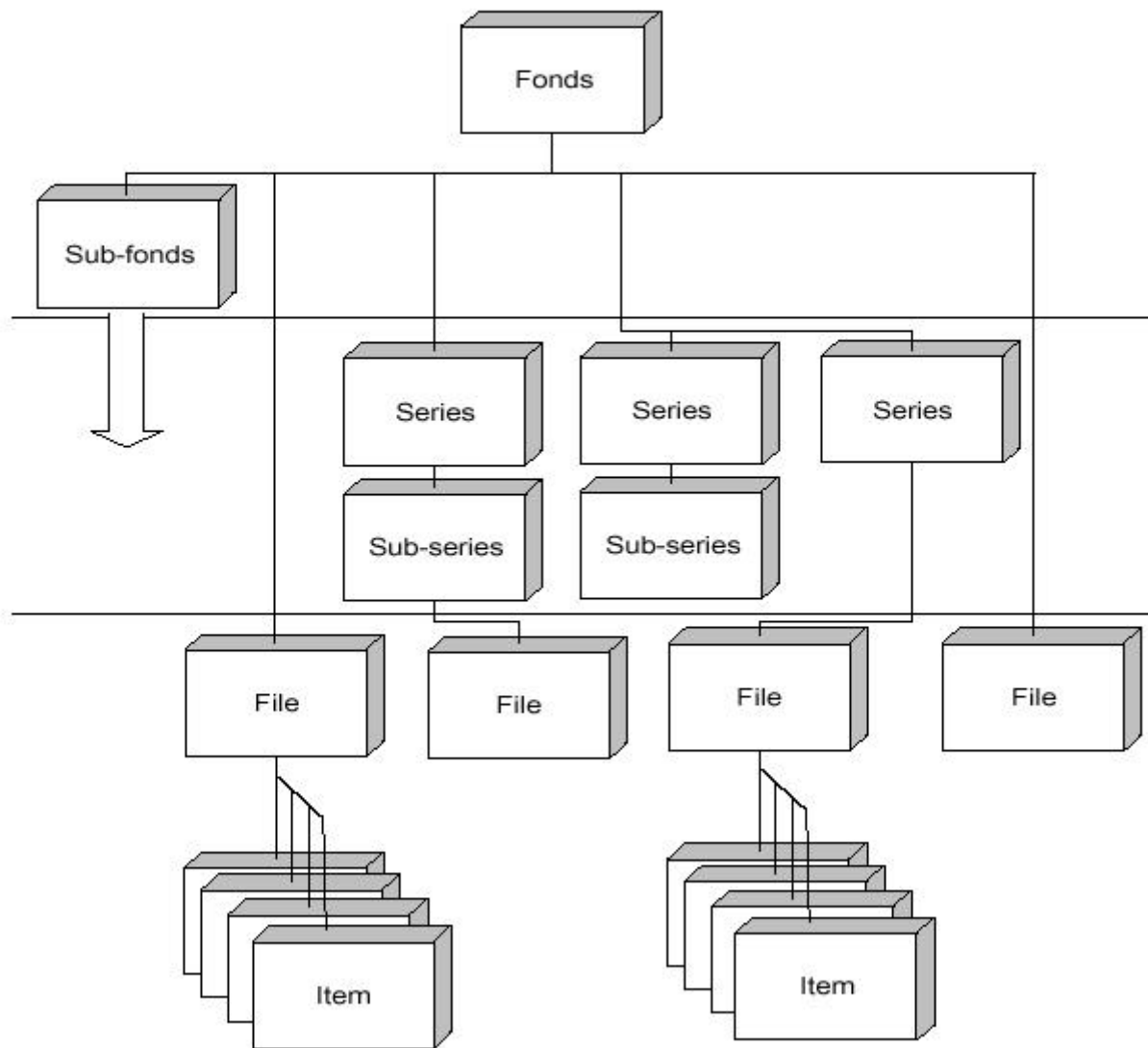
<http://archivi.beniculturali.it/ASMI/indice.html>

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)

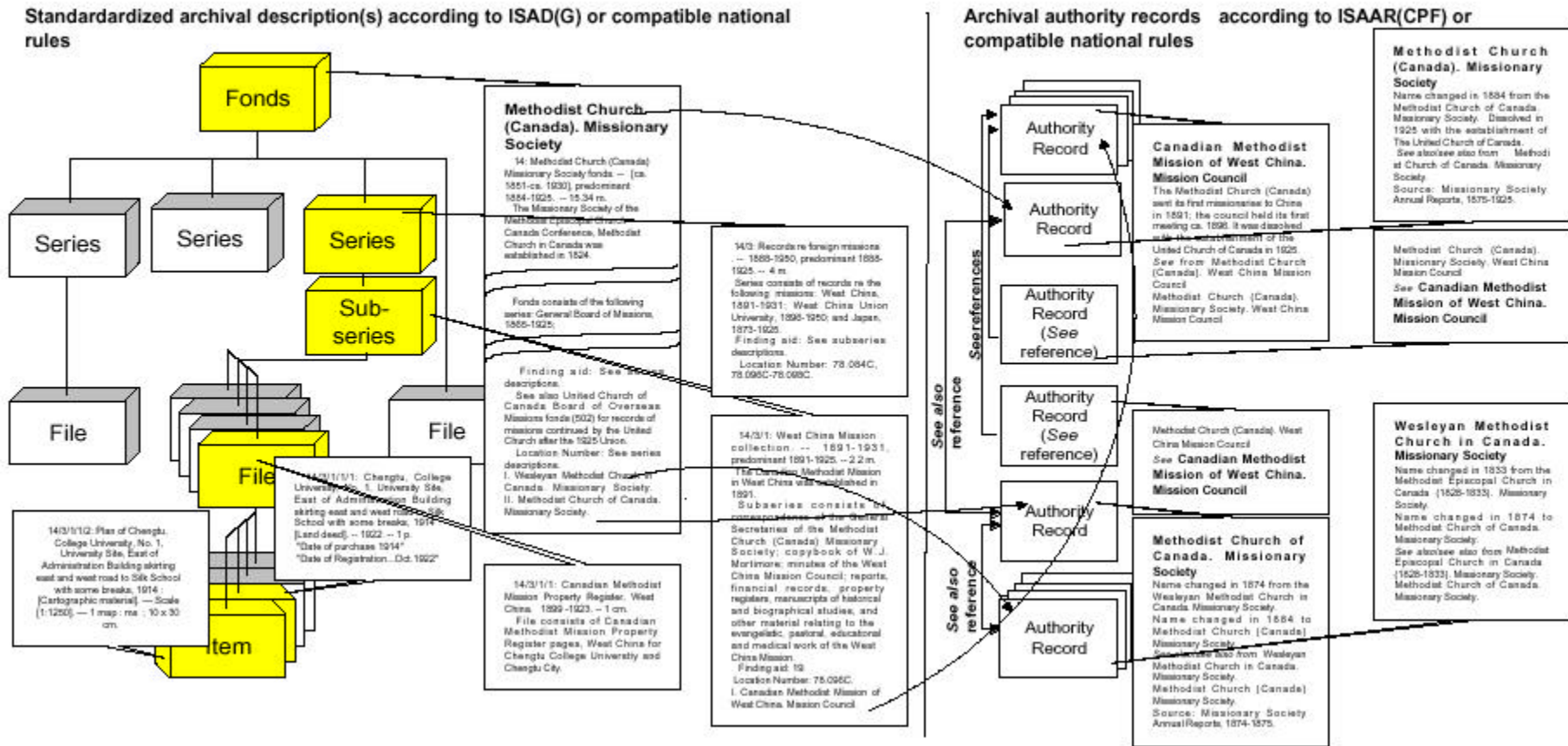
Model of the levels of arrangement of a fonds



Traditional description

- ✌ 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*
- ✌ electronic version available from http://www.archivi.beniculturali.it/Divisione_V/indice.html

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DESCRIPTIVE AND AUTHORITY RECORDS Illustrated with an example



Descrizione separata

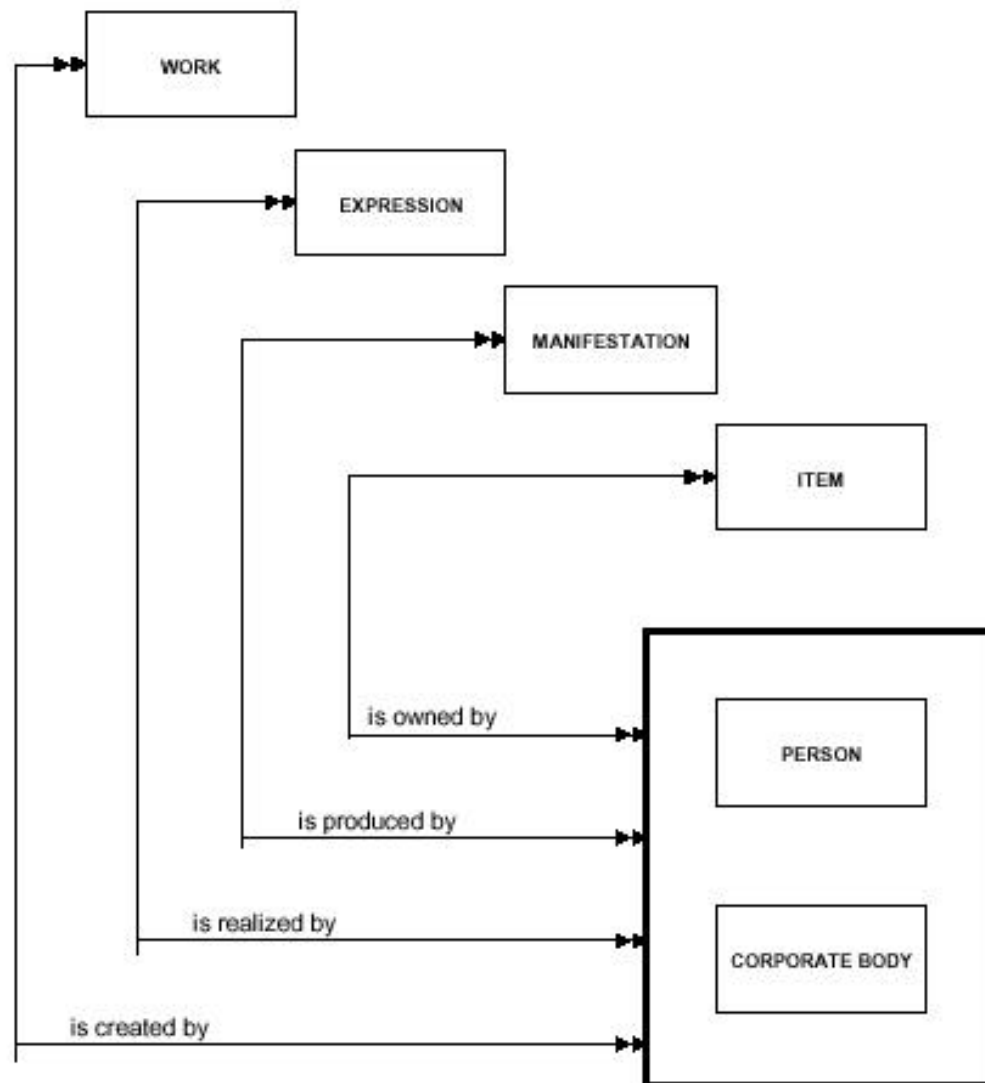
- ✌ ISAD (G) and ISAAR (CPF) combine in a new conceptual model of archival description
- ✌ Focus is both on creator and fonds
- ✌ Relationships are at the centre of description

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.archivi.beniculturali.it/Divisione_V/indice.html
- ✌ Working groups on a national archival information system

FRBR

Figure 3.2: Group 2 Entities and “Responsibility” Relationships



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.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>

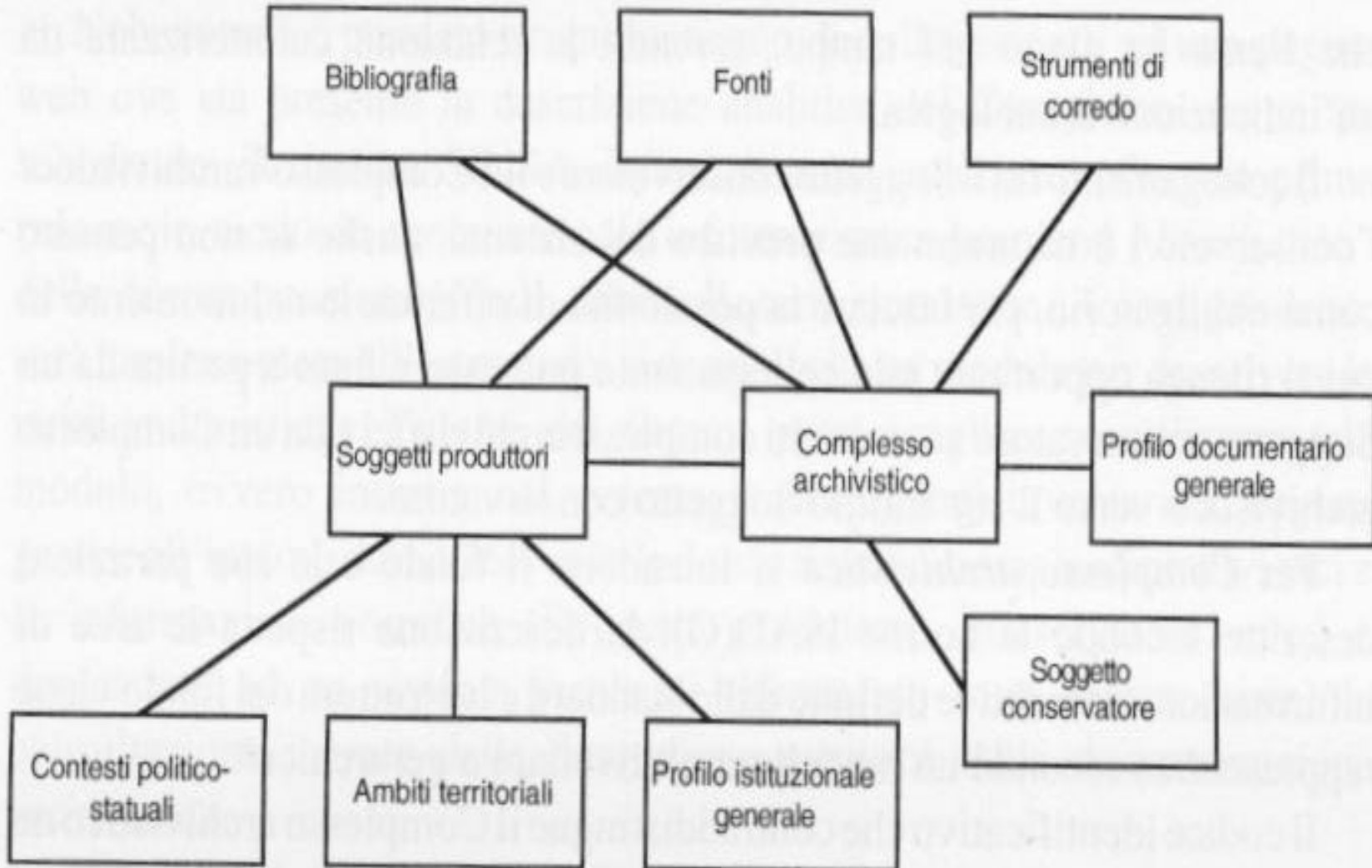
Archival model

- ✎ 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

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>
- ✎ - Sistema Informativo Unificato Soprintendenze Archivistiche – SIUSA <http://www.cribecu.sns.it/siusa/>
- ✎ - Progetto Lombardo Archivi in Internet (also related to SIUSA)
- ✎ Progetto Archivi per Napoli <http://niso.cib.na.cnr.it/>

SIUSA Model

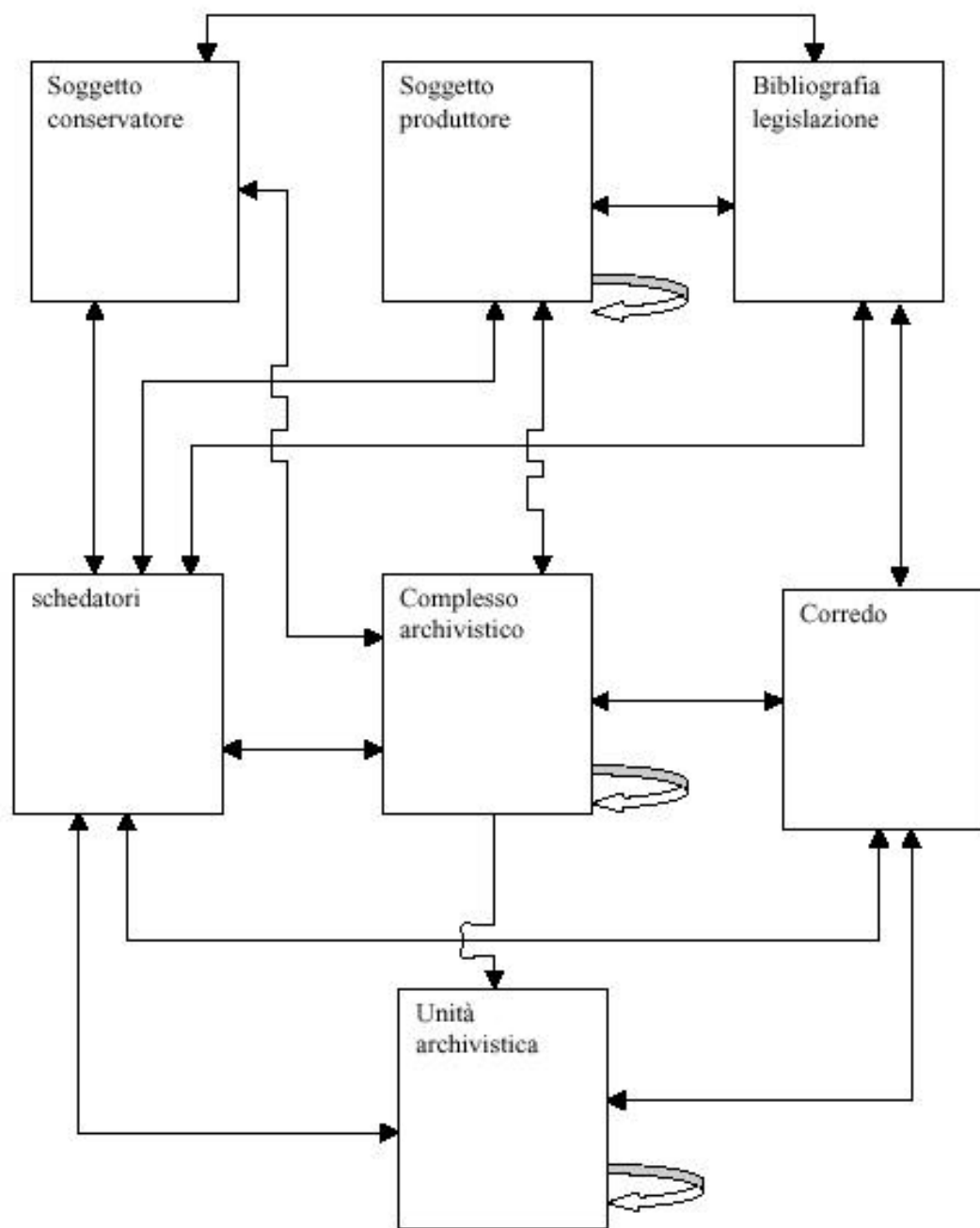


SIUSA

- ✌ 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>)



Progetto Lombardo Archivi in Internet (PLAIN)

- ✎ Information system (work in progress) including archival descriptions (from the guide level to *inventario* and *registro*) 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

- ✌ AF as a way to connect heterogeneous systems
- ✌ e.g. through more than one heading for every record (following different rules; using variant names + dates; ...)
- ✌ Some suggestions in P.G. Weston, *Dal controllo bibliografico alle reti documentarie* (Milano, march 2002, convegno “La biblioteca ibrida”)
- ✌ 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.ibr.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 developments (IFLA documents, EAC, new ISAAR, LEAF project, ...)
- ✌ Meetings with the RICA Commission