

Users, information technology and standardised description in a non-standardised world

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Description of archives and records

- The impact of technology
- Descriptive standards
- Users and use

Information technology

- Impact on access
- Impact on creation and usability of descriptions

Descriptive standards

Questions are being asked about:

- cultural assumptions ?
- categorising information ?
- privileging the perceptions of the describer ?
- imposing a semblance of uniformity ?

in a non-standardised world

Standards in records management

- Metadata constructed and captured by users
- Compatibility of archival and records management standards

Standards in the cross-domain environment

- Boundary objects
- Cross-searching
- Integrated systems
- Mediated systems

Users and use

- How far are users served by technical and standardised approaches to description?

Presenting descriptions to users

- Search technology
- Browsing and navigation
- Meaningful display : context
- Integrating descriptions with digital images
- Presentation in a cross-domain environment

Presenting descriptions to users : some further issues

- Disintermediation
- Paper paradigm?
- Or use technology to innovate?
- Standards : a help or a hindrance

Understanding our users

- How do users employ descriptions?
- What do users want from descriptions?
- Not all users are the same
- LEADERS (Linking EAD to Electronically Retrievable Sources) <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/leaders-project/>
- Research on user needs and behaviour

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