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Reviews

Encoding Across Frontiers: Proceedings of the European Conference on Encoded Archival Description and Context (EAD and EAC), Paris, France 7–8 October 2004
Ed. by Bill Stockting and Fabienne Queyroux. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2006. 285 pp. US$27.95 soft cover ISBN 0789030276 (also published as *Journal of Archival Organization* 3, 2/3)

This volume covers all things EAD and EAC happening in Europe in 19 articles by authors from France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. As Encoded Archival Description (EAD) of guides to archival and manuscript collections has matured in usage since the introduction of v.1 in 1998, implementation throughout the world has spread. Encoded Archival Context (EAC), released in beta version in 2004, describes persons, families, and corporate bodies and their functions and activities. Linking EAC and EAD records is the next major step. European archivists have taken the lead in testing the efficaciousness of EAC as a more robust archival alternative to the Library of Congress Name Authority File.

Leading the conference proceedings is the introductory essay by Daniel Pitti, one of the chief architects of both EAD and EAC, which places both document type definitions (DTDs) in the forefront of the revolution in transforming archival description from paper-based print media to online access through advanced technology. Moving beyond individual EAD finding aids in a single institution toward a standard for the description of holdings within that institution, Blanca Desantes introduces and discusses the use of the Encoded Archival Guide (EAG) in Spain.

Two essays deal with case studies in France and England concerning retrospective conversion of legacy finding aids to make them compatible with EAD in repositories, and one essay reported on a panel discussion about the status of professional training in the use of EAD in six European countries and the United States. Five essays cover how individual projects or archives use EAD to make their collections more accessible. Three more essays detail how they publish their EAD finding aids on the Web. In a wrap-up essay, Kris Kiesling discusses the evolution of EAD as influenced by the practices of American and European archivists.

Richard Szary explains the rationale and background for the development of Encoded Archival Context (EAC). Two European authors contribute essays on the uses of EAC in France and Italy, and Per-Gunnar Ottosson relates EAC to the development of national and European gateways to archives.

Archivists throughout the world have much to learn from these EAD implementers. The well-written and informative essays contribute essential knowledge to the archival field. For those without a subscription to *Journal of Archival Organization*, this is a required purchase.

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Thematic Guide to Young Adult Literature
By Alice Trupe. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006. 259 pp. 65.00 hard cover ISBN 0313332347

As the preface to this book states, "contemporary young adult" (or "YA") literature is a relatively new and largely unexplored field of academic scholarship. While lists of recommended works are common, scholarly analysis of YA writing is less so. This book serves as an excellent introduction, both to critical study of YA literature and to the literature itself.

Each chapter in *Thematic Guide to Young Adult Literature* addresses an individual theme "of particular interest to young adults" and discusses a number of books that speak to that theme especially clearly. The topics range from serious social issues such as suicide and abuse to more cheerful topics such as heroism and fantasy. Discussion in each chapter centers on the selected theme, and on how the plots of the chosen books make use of it. Descriptions of the storylines can be quite detailed, and, for those who may be unfamiliar with a particular book, "spoilers" abound. Fortunately, this means that the reader is well forewarned of any adult content in the story. There is a huge variety in the stories; publication dates range between 1967 and the present, appropriate readers' ages range between 12 and adult, and the stories themselves include everything from the hilariously funny to the tragic.

The book contains a number of useful features. Chapters begin with a list of the works discussed within, and end with a list of "Additional Reading Recommendations," some of which are discussed in other chapters. Foreign changes of titles are also acknowledged. There is an appendix of additional topics that lists relevant books, and a "Selected Bibliography of Secondary Sources" pertaining to many of the authors discussed. An index is also included.

There are a few errors in the book. During the discussions, other chapters are referred to by number, but they are not, in fact, numbered when they appear in the body of the work or in the table of contents. One or two of the chapters also contain minor inconsistencies when characters are referred by two different names without explanation. These minor problems aside, this book is a treasure trove for librarians, teachers, youth counselors, or anyone else working with teens or in