1.08 Objavljen znanstveni prispevek na konferenci
1.08 Published Scientific Conference Contribution

*Bogdan Florin POPOVICI**

RECORDS IN CONTEXTS
Towards a New Level in Archival Description?

Abstract:

This paper focuses on large currents of thought about archival profession that caused the International Council on Archives (ICA) to move towards an improvement of the four descriptive standards. The author reviews the avatars of provenance, original order and fonds based approaches, indicating extensively various positions from professional literature. The second part offers some insights to the new proposed ICA conceptual model for archival description, called Records in Contexts.

Key words:

archival description, provenance, fonds, series, Records in Contexts

Izvleček:

ARHIVSKO GRADIVO V KONTEKSTIH
Pot k novi stopnji arhivskega popisovanja?

Članek se osredotoča na poglobljena razmišljanja znotraj arhivske stroke, ki so vzrok, da se je Mednarodni arhivski svet odločil za pristop k izboljšavi štirih standardov popisovanja. Avtor oriše pojavnost provenience, prvotne ureditve ter na fondih temelječe pristope in pri tem izpostavlja različne poglede iz strokovne literature. Drugi del prispevka podaja nekaj vpogledav v nov konceptualni model arhivskega popisovanja, kot ga predlaga Mednarodni arhivski svet, imenovan Arhivsko gradivo v kontekstu.

Ključne besede:

arhivski popis, provenience, fond, serija, arhivsko gradivo v kontekstu

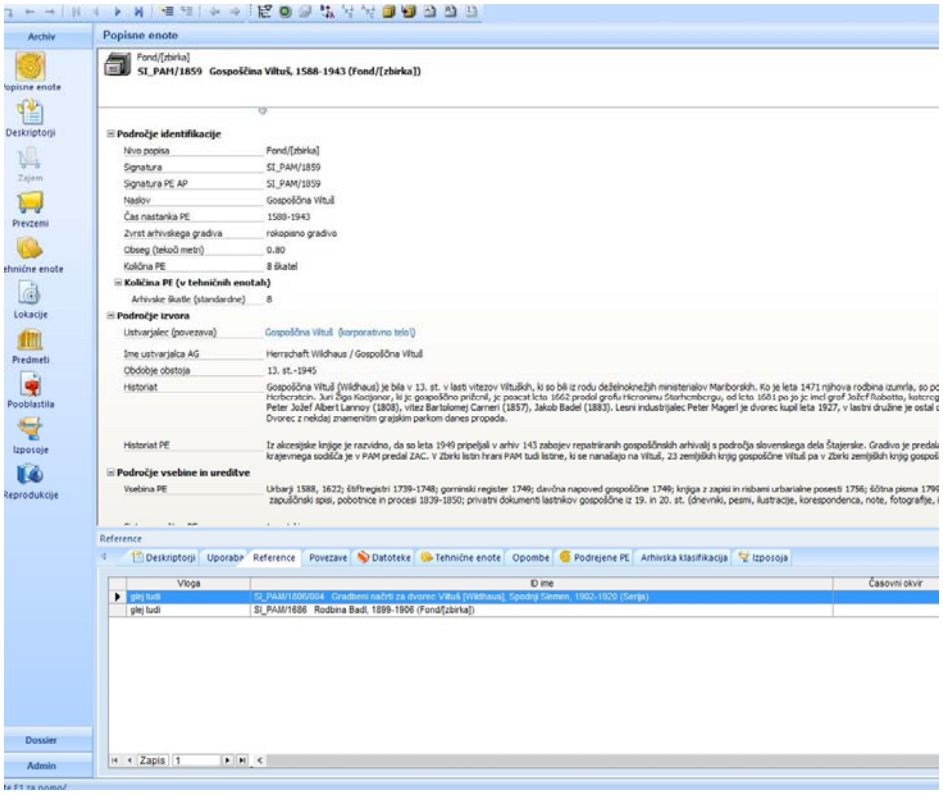
When someone opens scopeArchiv[1], as a tool for archival description, (s)he is first surprised by the rich modules and elements expected to be implied by this activity. By choosing the "Units of Description" module (which sounds the most familiar to an ISAD(G) practitioner), one can see a familiar hierarchy of units of description; but, by opening a description, the situation may radically change. Aside of standardized fields like Title, Date, Scope and content etc., there are many other descriptive fields, which could not be considered as ISAD(G) compliant. Not to mention the possibility, for each implementation, to alter the standard schema by adding new fields! Moreover, at the bottom of the screen, there is a large collection of tabs, which offers new possibilities of characterizing a certain unit of description, with new properties and relationships.

* *Bogdan Florin Popovici, Ph. D., director, Romanian National Archives, Brasov department, Str. Gh. Baritiu nr. 34, 500025 Brasov, Romania, contact: bogdanpopovici@gmail.com.*

[1] *This is invoked with illustrative purpose only. It might be the same case with other archival information systems, but scopeArchiv is largely known by the majority of the archivists attending the conference in Radenci.*

Since all these enrichments are not envisaged in ISAD(G), what would be a good characterization of the fact: is it designed as an alternative to ISAD(G)? Is this an improvement or a rejection of ISAD(G), as it is codified by the ICA?

I shall come to these questions at the end. Until then, I shall seek, within the framework of the current four ICA standards, to examine some of the basic professional assumptions that laid behind their development and check their avatars today. This evolution of understanding of principles and needs for archival description will be then regarded as supporting the work of the Expert Group for Archival description of ICA and its new product, 'Records in Contexts'. At the end, "scopeArchiv dilemma" presented above might get a (possible) answer.



1 THE FOUR ICA STANDARDS

As it is well-known, the International Council of Archives supported and adopted, until now, four descriptive standards. All these were based on a *Statement of principles*, developed between 1989-1992[2]. *International Standard for Archival Description (General)* was the first standard developed, and it was published in its first version in 1994, and in the second one in 1999. ISAD(G) was intended, as the *Preface* testifies, to set out "general rules for archival description that may be applied irrespective of the form or medium of the archival material" (ISAD(G), I.4), aiming to "a. ensure the creation of consistent, appropriate, and self-explanatory descriptions; b. facilitate the retrieval and exchange of information about archival material; c. enable the sharing of authority data; and d. make possible the

[2] *Statement of Principles Regarding Archival Description, First version Revised, adopted by the Ad Hoc Commission on Descriptive Standards, Madrid, Spain, January 1992. — Ottawa: Feb. 1992, published in Archivaria 34 (1992), pp. 8-16.*

integration of descriptions from different locations into a unified information system" (ISAD(G) I.5).

The second standard is *International Standard Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families* (ISAAR(CPF), also in two editions, 1996 and 2004. The standard was elaborated in order to cover the Principle 8 from *Statement of Principles…,* "especially in view of the increasing complexity of administrative structures, an explanation of the context in which the material was created is an important aspect of archival description". As a particular case of ISAAR(CPF), *International Standard for Description of institutions with Archival Holding* (ISDIAH) was elaborated in 2008, in order to provide the framework for description of institutions with archival holdings. Also, in order to expand the description of context, the *International Standard for Description of Functions* (ISDF)[3] was elaborated in 2008.

Based on my observations, the ICA standards recorded different stages of adoption. While ISAD(G) was worldwide acknowledged[4], followed closely by ISAAR(CPF), ISDF and ISDIAH rates of implementation were rather low. This may be the result of the fact that description of holdings and description of institutions were traditionally the most developed in archives, and, when standardised, the data already existed and had only to be mapped to the standards. It must also be taking into account that there is a large gap of time between the first and the last two standards that may also have influenced the rate of adoption.

Some inconsistencies (for instance, a common area for the control of archival descriptions) and a new focus on relationships between the four standards, made the International Council on Archives/ Committee on Best Practices and Standards (ICA/CBPS) to prepare a compendium of the four standards previously developed, in order to:

> *"- to explain to the professional community how the four ICA standards relate to one another as a unique set of standards that together will produce archival descriptions that will make records accessible;*
>
> *- to ensure the creation of consistent, appropriate and self-explanatory descriptions, and therefore to provide elements to describe the different types of archival entities and their relationships at particular points of time, or over time;*
>
> *- to make possible the integration of descriptions from different repositories into a unified system and to facilitate the retrieval and exchange of information about archival material;*
>
> *- to create and share a common understanding of the structure, content and intended uses of standards and formats, in order to promote consistent use of the standards;*
>
> *- to enable archivists to better understand their areas of knowledge and to promote a dialogue with other professionals".* (ICA/CBPS, 2012a, p. 3).

[3] *"Functions are recognized as generally being more stable than administrative structures, which are often amalgamated or devolved when restructuring takes place (ISDF, I.3)".*

[4] *Not necessarily adopted, but anyway influential (Yeo, 2010, 96).*

The intended compendium failed to be built (ICA/CBPS, 2012a, p. 3). A close scrutiny of the standards revealed many inconsistencies in definitions, elements of description and the way standards should work together (ICA/CBPS, 2012a, pp. 3-15). This is why EGAD decided only to prepare "*a draft of a common chapter to be included in all 4 ICA standards on relationships between different types of archival entities, as well as the present progress report which is intended to focus on improving the consistency between the content of the standards in their current versions and the main directions of future revisions*" (ICA/CBPS, 2012a, p. 3). Also, ICA/CBPS prepared an extended exemplifying paper about relationships in archival descriptive systems (ICA/CBPS, 2012b). In the end of the progress report, ICA/CBPS asserts that "*the only way to eliminate the redundancy in the suite of standards would be to first develop a conceptual model and then to go back to the rules and identify those unique and shared elements based on all potential relationships*" (ICA/CBPS, 2012a, p. 15).

2 A BROADER VIEW OVER ARCHIVAL WORD

The view over the archival description universe, as seen through the lens of the four standards, was subject to some criticisms and suggestion for improvement, from minor issues to the strategic perspectives[5]. Even more, the above cited statement about ICA intentions was received with reluctance, since it did not seem to be radical enough[6].

The fact is that, despite a rather rich literature on the topic, beyond some positions, reflecting parochial views or some personal dissatisfactions, the evolution of archival discipline and the cultural and technical environment really raises some issues, making a case for improvement of the four standards. In the following lines, I shall review some considerations raised about the provenance, archival entities, hierarchy or multilevel description—all grounding an improved perspective over archival description, as proposed by EGAD.

3 CREATION ENVIRONMENT: PROVENANCE AND ORIGINAL ORDER

Established since the second half of the 19th century as the basis of archival science, the Principle of Provenance (PoP) still seems today to be the main feature of archival approach (Yeo, 2010, p. 91; Mazikana, 1990), individualising archival science among other discipline in cultural or information area (Popovici B.-F. , 2007). Simply stated, PoP means the records should be kept according to their origin and preserved in the original order the creator gave them. This principle was under scrutiny even since 1940, but, after the 1970s, different professionals raised also some doubts about its validity (Horsman, The Last Dance of the Phoenix, or The De-discovery of the Archival Fonds, 2002, p. 2).

---

[5] *To note only some of the interventions, (Hurley, [2005]; Yeo, 2012; ICA/CBPS, 2012a; MacNeil, 2009, str. 99-101; Yeo, 2010, str. 96-99). Also, a paper in this respect, focusing on detailed aspects, was presented in Radenci, in 2014 (Popovici 2014).*

[6] *"The Committee on Best Practices and Standards of the International Council on Archives has plans to develop a new conceptual model, but its scope for creative problem-solving seems likely to be constrained by expectations that it must accommodate the existing standards – ISAD(G), ISAAR(CPF), and ISDF – in any modelling it undertakes" (Yeo, The Conceptual Fonds and the Physical Collection, 2012, p. 73).*

The principle was, in a first form, enounced by French National Archives[7], in 1841, stating the preservation of records based on their source of creation (office of origin that generates fonds), allowing however for a discretionary arrangement inside fonds[8]. Despite some previous practices in this regard, it was for the first time that a national body assumed this type of arrangement, declining the pertinence, that is arrangement based on the content of records. Later, the Dutch archivists Muller, Fruit and Fruin added the need for inner respect, that is not only to group together records of the same provenance, but also to respect the order the offices of origin gave to those records (Horsman, 2002, p. 2).

As some scholars noticed, the principle was founded in a certain cultural environment and upon special practical needs. Thus, facing large accruals of long-ceased organisations, archivists in National Archives found it is an optimized way of processing records… by not processing them and keeping them as they were when accessioned. The endeavour of grouping records on subjects, formats etc. was impossible, due to the increasing amount of records of the time and, of course, the multitude of possibilities. Moreover, at a closer look, it was noticed this way of keeping records had some collateral advantages (Horsman, 1994, pp. 54-55; Douglas, 2010, p. 38). Firstly, it helped preserving, in many ways, the authenticity of records, taking into account the unbroken custody. Also, in a time when the aim of writing history was to reconstruct the facts "as they truly were", having sources kept as they were produced by historical actors, represented a corner stone for historians, archives playing then a central role among historical sources (MacNeil, 2008, p. 13) (Blouin jr. & Rosenberg, 2013, pp. 23-29). In a time when rationality was the main goal for science or culture, such criteria for arrangement of records, "objective" since it does not belong neither to archivists' or historians' caprices could not be other than most-welcome[9].

The critics though observed that, in real life, the provenance is not so clear as it was presented at theoretical level and original order raises also difficulties in interpretation and implementation. First of all, there are many types of provenance: which one to be respected? There can be a custodial and an archival provenance (Duranti, 1998, p. 98) or diplomatic, custodial, transmissive and archival provenance (Livelton, 1996, pp. 119-120) or it may be an institutional and a documentary provenance (Eastwood, Putting the Parts of the Whole Together: Systematic Arrangement of Archives, 2000, p. 95) or the threefold provenance envisaged by Laura Millar (Millar, 2002, p. 12)… These views are sometimes not overlapping. Moreover, including original order here, it was noticed that the created records aggregations are subject to their own life and destiny, being managed in multiple ways after their creation, so it may be hard to set which would be the "true" provenance and original state[10]. The postmodern approaches raised also the issue of subjectivism in identifying the provenance, suggesting there is not only one, but a network of relations, some obscuring others and thus affecting exactly what is at the theoretical core of the PoP, that is authenticity and reliability of records

---

[7] *I emphasize it was not "invented", but formalized in France. See a large set of examples of previous use of this principles in France, Italy, Spain, Denmark etc. in (Lodoloni, 2005, pp. 195-197).*

[8] *The second rule of the order stated although that inside fonds, records should be arranged by subject-matter group (Douglas, 2010, p. 25).*

[9] *See an interesting perspective at http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/10/13/ ideological-inheritances-in-the-data-revolution/ (visited 15.01.2016).*

[10] *"…archives do not just happen but they are consciously shaped and sometimes distorted by archivists, the creators of records and other individuals and institutions" (Cox, 2004, p. 12). Also, for an elaborated discourse about multiple provenance see (Hurley, [2005], p. passim) or (MacNeil, 2008, p. 14). See also, for the Italian aproach of »structure« instead of »order« (Savoja & Vitali, 2007).*

(MacNeil, 2008, p. 23; Nesmith, Seeing Archives: Postmodernism and the Changing Intellectual Place of Archives, 2002, pp. 34-36).

A radical position was expressed by Peter Horsman: "*Archival methods centred on respect des fonds, therefore, serve custody and the convenience of the archivist in managing collections in tidy and well defined groupings. They do not necessarily serve users or researchers. Of course archivists pretend-and they may actually believe-that their own administrative convenience also best serves users by protecting provenance. The user, however, has often been seriously misled by archivists and their fonds. The archival methods of arrangement and description, based on respect des fonds, present to the user a monolithic "grouping" of records that in reality never existed at any one point in time, outside the archives.*" (Horsman, 2002, p. 22). Attempting to "re-discover" the original order, Tom Nesmith, suggested: "*Perhaps in place of original order, we should speak of the* received order of the records*, which would refer to the order the records are in when they are received by an archives. That may be more like a snapshot of a moment in time, not the original order but a possible approximation of it.*" (Nesmith, 2005, p. 264). Jennifer Meehan also proposed a reinterpretation of original order as "conceptual framework" (Meehan, 2010, pp. 38-39, 41-43).

The situation is even more complicated when electronic records come to the scene. In a networked environment, with collaborative way of creating records, provenance is hard to be identified with certainty and, almost in all cases, is a matter of pluralism (Bailey, 2013). A nice example is the functionality for "download archive" (sic!) from Facebook: if one tries to archive the content of the account, only her/his own posts will be zipped, not everything that was on the wall. That is, the "archive" will be poorer that the true scene (read 'wall'), lacking exactly the networked input that is the essence of the social network.

Of course, when one is handling old records, with poor information about the creator and creating circumstances, all the records may look like a solid block, with clear and indisputable source. But dynamic modern administrations (Bearman & Lytle, 1985, pp. 17-18; Gilliland-Swetland, 2000, p. 13; Horsman, 2002, pp. 12-13; Cook, 1992, p. 53 sqq.) and postmodern understanding of various influences over the life of records bring "new conceptualities" (Nesmith, 2005, pp. 261-263). The relativity of "truth" as reflected in records (Ketelaar, 2002), the social demands of participating in the creation of memory and even to amend the memory as it is preserved in records (see, for instance, the (in)famous "right to forget") raise the question of identifying the provenance where parts are played by the creator/ the custodian/ the processor, the functions or the goals affecting and affected by the records. Such approaches are far away from viewing a compact and unitary aggregation and outline aggregation of records as being a complex and dynamic network of "provenances", each one of them with a part to play in a ful understanding of records (Horsman, 2002, pp. 21-22; Cunningham, 2012, p. 7; Cook, 1992, pp. 64-71).

4 REPRESENTATION ENVIRONMENT: HIERARCHIES AND LEVELS

"By default", ISAD(G) assumes that relationships between units of description are hierarchical. It is the way archives were traditional represented, as a mirror of the structure of traditional institutions (Bearman & Lytle, 1985, pp. 16-17). But, this mono-hierarchical view was considered incapable "to capture the complexity or large organizations can be illustrated by organization tables", as Bearman and

Lytle, among others, noticed. The complexity of relations, besides hierarchies, that are embedded in an archive, made Giorgio Michetti write the famous sentence: 'Archives are not trees!' (Michetti, 2012).

With a basic example, the discrepancy between physical and intellectual arrangement of records is visible when trying to track the description to the physical location, making visible the fact that there are no hierarchies, just rows of folders; one may conclude—if necessary, anymore—that relationships presented in descriptions are pure intellectual, and between physical arrangement and description it might not exist a perfect overlapping (Yeo, 2010, p. 91). Adding the above considerations about provenance and original order, it looks perfectly reasonable to consider that, above the physical layer of folders, all the upper archival aggregations are pure intellectual, either fonds (in European tradition) or series (in the Australian system). In this regard, despite the fact ISAD(G) implicitly presumes that description mirrors arrangement (ISADG, I.8; see also Stibbe 1992, 109) and that arrangement is physical[11], description might very well be only a conceptual one, describing entities and arrange descriptions of entities, without this affecting the physical order on the shelves[12].

In fact, one question can be raised about the accuracy of naming archival hierarchies as such and how they are characterized in descriptions. In an article about *The Role of Classification in Knowledge Representation and Discovery*, Barbara Kwasnik presented the characteristics of 'hierarchical' and 'tree' classifications, emphasizing that "a tree divides and subdivides its classes based on specific rules for distinction just as in a hierarchy, but does not assume the rules of inheritance" (Kwasnik, [2000], p. 6). In some cases, this contradicts the archival practice. For instance, when describing a file, an archivist is taking the span dates as "From Year1 to Year2". The first remark is that those dates reflect the content, not the file; by a way of "reverse inheritance", the dates of children become the dates of parent. The second remark is that such a description obscures the life of the entity "file", that could have been collected and formed on another time than the records or, even more provocative, the records contained were re-filed several times. But this information is not accommodated anywhere in ISAD(G). Of course, they can be inclusive to other elements, but practice shows at least a lack of conceptual discipline in indicating dates.

Leaving aside the fact that ISAD(G) gives no explicit joint element between a parent and children units of description, it is striking that, besides its links within larger block (fonds, for instance), the standard also lacks an explicit and dedicated area for (horizontal) relationships. For instance, a major responsibility (read function) is changed from organizational unit A to organizational unit B. The subfonds A is, therefore, continued by subfonds B[13]. ISAD(G) formally accommodates such relationships in element *3.5.3 Related units of description*, but this is too narrative, has few possibilities to characterize the relationship and, most importantly, leaves little room for handling relationships as to generating new meanings. Also, the relationships allowed formally by ISAD(G) are mainly inside the same fonds and only inside archival entities groups or between archival materials and the authorities. In comparison with later standards, like ISADF, for instance,

[11] *Arrangement. The intellectual and physical processes and results of analyzing and organizing documents in accordance with archival principles. (ISADG).*

[12] *As presented by P. Horsman, such a 'conceptual arrangement' was suggested even from 1910 (Horsman, 2002, p. 17).*

[13] *Assuming the decision for arrangement is to have two separate subfonds, instead of one, with two creators. But we shall come again to this later.*

where the section for relationships is quite well elaborated, within ISAD(G) there is a list of elements and the description looks rather isolated, embedding even creator description. I do believe this was a matter of initial architecture of the standards and the paper mind-set behind it. However, today there are more technical possibilities and more needs of networked descriptions, as to make room for an ISAD(G) improvement.

Speaking about the technological evolution, I was wondering if "technical aspect", invoked several times in this paper, would not be an insulting reference: do we need to change our practice because the computer wants to? In my opinion, archivists need to regard the technical aspect as one of the environmental contexts in which they are working. The formulation of PoP was conditioned by the cultural and technical framework of the age; the new reformulation of different aspects of our profession should also take into account the present possibility and, most importantly, expectations of users. Neither paper or the computer dictate how the archivists do their job; but, both paper and computers are tools facilitating the way our professional goals can be fulfilled and how our profession is responding to the challenges of the society.

In 1970s-1980s, big relational databases were built in some archives, as to host archival information. They were tools for retrieving information from the descriptions delivered by archivists and were cheered by researchers who could discover information they needed in a quicker way. But in 1990s, it was noticed that contextualisation is rather missing from the picture; and that XML technology seemed as to have been invented for the archivists, since, with its hierarchical structure, it made everything look like an archival hierarchy (Gilliland-Swetland, 2000, pp. 18-19). Which, later, was criticized!... (Michetti, 2012).

Later on, the increasing awareness about the amount of data and information in the World generated new responses, emerging technologies that are able to tackle big data, such as graph or semantic technologies[14]. As we all know, before even the "big-data" buzz word to be invented, the first big data centres were (and maybe still are) the archival repositories. As a consequence, these emerging technologies can be extremely useful for archival description, allowing for new relations, new connections between archival entities and open the way for trans-disciplinary interactions.

The evolution of archival thinking and the way technology may serve archival material representations affected, of course, also the way descriptive standards were developed. In order to read and understand the traditional paper finding aids, for more than a century the users of archival services had to go through an "initiation" process in each archives, about organisation of holdings, structure of records aggregation and use of the specific finding aids. By contrast, ISAD(G) was supposed to open the possibility for a certain identity of expression (read *standardisation*) of finding aids across parochial practices (ISDG, I.7), and thus ease the access and understanding of archives, even if in practice it was not necessarily so[15]. The standard was designed as an expression of archival principles (as understood at that moment), and it was also guided by and as it was reflected in classical finding aids, already familiar to archival researchers. In this regard, taking

[14] *See, for instance, a presentation of the use of graph technology: http://dataconomy.com/making-big-data-meaningful-with-graph-technology/.*

[15] *A colleague from Vienna City Archives once said that "after we changed the traditional finding aid into ISAD(G) compliant ones, claiming it will ease the retrieval, we have to start classes for teaching researchers how to use the new finding aids…".*

into account the moment in time when the *Statement of Principles* was adopted (1992), one can notice the IT experience in Archives was still limited (Horsman, 2002, p. 16; Eastwood, 1990, pp. 10-11), both in development and technologies, and this led to a rather simple view of "what computers can do for creating finding aids"[16]. So, it clearly looks that the ICA standards, or at least the first two of them, were developed bearing in mind the "paper experience"[17]. The members of the Committee that authored ISAD(G) seemed to attempt to identify the common grounds from their professional experience and selected what they considered relevant from their experiences, considering it would best serve the archival community. However, a sort of conservativism—or it could have been the results of accommodating different perspectives— can be noticed in developing standards. As Peter Horsman put it "*Paradoxically - at least so it seems to me - after the publication of Cook's essay, Canadian archivists abandoned the record group and adopted the fonds as the highest level of grouping, as would the ICA ad-hoc Commission on Descriptive Standards. Where Cook basically defined the fonds as a kind of virtual reality, both RAD and ISAD still see it as a physical gathering of records, following Duchein's notion rather than Cook's thinking.*" (Horsman, 2002, pp. 16, n. 44).

But today, considering the technological (r)evolution, it should also be noticed that there is a different trend of expectations. These days, the users are in a socio-cultural environment where collaborative practices, re-use of (archival) information, are common and, above all, a simple string query is expected to give The Answer (well, an answer…). It is, therefore, a professional duty to update the way archival information is described, much more than a need to be "fashionable". In this prospect, ICA descriptive standards should be more specific, more flexible and adapted to the requirements of the new technologies, as to take full advantage of their new potential and opportunities, not to forget the need for integration with other knowledge areas. The true challenge, however, is how all these will be implemented, at the same time promoting professional values with relevance across ages and technologies.

It should also be noted that adapting archival descriptions to some technological demands may also make room for some changes also envisaged as improvement of professional practice. It is the case with the "multilevel description rules". In a perfect hierarchy, with **one** provenance, the multilevel description rules are necessary and useful, in order to create a consistent description (Gilliland-Swetland, 2000, p. 19). There are, however, several issues with this approach, some of them long and loudly preached by the Australian archivist Chris Hurley[18]. From

---

[16] *An example is how making paper finding aids seemed easier than doing on computer: "It means that any description from a lower level must be displayed with its higher level descriptions to make sense. Such displays are not very difficult to design for a finding aid, but much more difficult on a computer screen based on information in a database" (Stibbe, 1998, p. 139). Or how the rules are specifically designed for finding aids: "These rules were designed to obtain a logical construct of descriptions which is assumed to be universal and both economical to implement and easy to adopt or adapt in the construction of finding aids" (Stibbe, 1998, p. 138).*

[17] *A good example in this regard would be two article by Hugo Stibbe (Stibbe 1992 and Stibbe 1998, 138-139), where, despite some reference to computers ad automation, the basic thinking is grounded on the way paper finding aid works. The opposite example could be that of Terry Eastwood: "...[systems should] link... related entities in determined ways. Each determined way will reflect a specific archival relationship, such as the link between successive competent offices or the link between a series and all of the offices creating or having custody of it... The whole aim of using automation is to capitalize on its capacity to relate specified entities within or across hierarchical boundaries whenever or wherever appropriate for information retrieval". (Eastwood, 1990, pp. 9-10).*

[18] *His ideas are expressed in several papers, published in different journals and made available online on http://descriptionguy.com/description.html (visited 15.01.2016).*

the perspective of the ISAD(G), the arrangement—based on provenance—should be a prerequisite of description. Despite that, somehow fuzzy, but still present, there are other criteria than provenance and original order in making a description. Hugo Stibbe notes: "*These rules were designed to obtain a logical construct of descriptions which is assumed to be universal and both economical to implement and easy to adopt or adapt in the construction of finding aids*" (Stibbe, 1998, p. 139). Therefore, not only provenance is relevant, but also logic[19]; that means, due to the complexity of network of relationships surrounding records creation and management, it is **imposed** an order (the logical one) that not only breaks the goal of original order and provenance, but also introduces a new dimension—the subjectivism of the archivist (while the logic may vary). Considering the fact that, as Chris Hurley notes "*in a recordkeeping taxonomy, the relationships are not logical, they are contingent*" (Hurley, 2012, p. 10), it could be agreed that *description from the general to the specific* or *non-repetition of information* cannot offer a full support for describing contingent relationships, in an 'non-logical' arrangement. And, despite the fact they are pertinent in ISAD(G) mind-set, it has to be noticed, if relationships among archival entities would be more flexible, it would mean that each entity should be self-sufficient, meaning, furthermore, information would be in a certain amount, repetitive[20]. A simple query retrieving an entity 'file' needs to give some information about upper levels also, in order to be contextualized.

As a matter of fact, not only rules for multi-level description might bring issues, but also the very notion of 'level'. ISAD(G) is not clear whether levels of description differ from units of description: a fonds (unit of description) cannot be at file level, obviously, but only at a fonds level. And, such is the case with all other units of description. On the other hand, in the rationale of the authors of ISAD(G), emphasizing 'levels' (also used in RAD or MAD) imposes the idea of hierarchy and vertical relations which, as I mentioned above, is at least incomplete, from the range of relationships point of view .

5 ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTIVE ENTITIES

At the beginning of ICA standards development of, ISAD(G) was the central element, implying that the archival description should focus on records, the true archival objects. At first, as it is still visible, the broader context about provenance and context of records was embedded into records description[21]. Later, creating organisations (subject of ISAAR(CPF)) were considered access points, despite the fact that some authors were aware of their larger importance, in representing the environment for records (Stibbe, 1992, pp. 120-123)[22]. Later more, these two pillars were extended with functions, as it was noticed the records are not necessary

[19] *Quoting Terry Cook: "…archivists often seem biased against irrationality or disorder, preferring to present a <<well-organised… view of record collection that may never have existed that way in operational reality" (Yeo, 2010, p. 99).*

[20] *One can see the same approach in the latest European specification for electronic records (MoReq2010).*

[21] *See Sue MacKemmish's comments, in parallel with Austrialian system, in Are Records Ever Actual? at http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/research/groups/rcrg/publications/smcktrc.html.*

[22] *"Authority control systems using ISAAR(CPF) - and the subsequent development of EAC - can be seen as tentative responses to the challenges of documenting multiple creators of single aggregations, but some commentators remain doubtful whether any authority system can adequately represent the contexts of archival materials" (Yeo, 2012, p. 71). See also (Savoja & Vitali, 2007).*

organised/contextualized by units of the creators, but rather by functions, especially in modern and dynamic bureaucracies (ISDDF, I.3-I.6)[23].

Agreement on the need of these main elements of archival description did not solve the complexities of the archival realm. For instance, the intellectual fight of different traditions and practices concerning the use of fonds, series or records group is well known. Started as an European tradition, the archival fonds was influencing also the North American practice, in founding the concept of 'records group'. Following the Australian Peter Scott, who grounded "the case of abandonment" of these concepts in favour of what was to become the "Australian Series System", in Canada started a process of rediscovery of provenance and reinforcing the fonds concept as a conceptual entity. Radical positions or more balanced emphasized pros and cons for both approaches[24]. It is clear, though, that the initial European approach, seeing fonds as a physical mono-hierarchical reality, was transformed by Australian and Canadian interpretation of fonds as a conceptual construct, a virtual reality rather than a tangible object (Cook, 1992, pp. 73-74)[25].

Even more, insights, as those belonging to Laura Millar, Peter Horsman or Geoffrey Yeo, had puzzled the world of archival entities even more. Basically, these interpretations assert that in the Archives there are no fonds (and, we might add, no series), because almost never "the whole of records" could not have been preserved as it was "organically" created by their creators. Archives only hold "remnants" of the ideal fonds (Millar, 2002, p. 7), that might be called… "records group" (Horsman, 2002, pp. 20-21) or "collections" (Yeo, 2012, pp. 52-53, 57-58).

Anchored by its strong connection with fonds as a physical object, ISAD(G) remains outside of these debates, its clearly denomination of units of description indicated the European archival tradition—which is, by the way, at least "politically incorrect" regarding other traditions. The real issue, though, is that despite a larger network of relations than initially intended (archival material + authorities + functions), archival description as it is outlined by ICA standards, does not provide enough means to reveal more complex contexts[26], nor a fuller integration and perspective over relationships of the entities involved, nor sufficient integrating points with other cultural area, in order to transform isolated archival information in integrated information. *"What appears to be needed*—noted G. Yeo—*is a richer framework that does not require us to impose a single set of boundaries (…) The growing interest in modelling entities and their relationships reflects a growing awareness in our domain that logical associations of records extend beyond the*

---

[23] *This expansion was though seen as a never-ending story (Yeo, 2010, pp. 98-99).*

[24] *For Australian position, see papers written by Chris Hurley (http://descriptionguy.com/ description.html). One response at Eastwood 2000. Rather balanced positions at (Cook, 1992), (Horsman, 2002) (Yeo, 2010, pp. 96-97).*

[25] *(MacNeil, 2009, p. 94) noticed though: "The advantage of separate but linked representations of creators, functions, and associated records is that records can be connected easily to a multiplicity of creators and functions over time, and in cases where the records of a given creator are physically dispersed across a number of archival repositories, those records can be intellectually reunited.On the other hand, in a structure of this kind in which abstract wholes are juxtaposed with material parts, the relationship between record creators and their records is an asymmetrical one since the records that document some aspects of the creator's history or its functions may not have survived. This means that the identity of the records communicated through the archival description is, at least partly, an idealized rather than a localized one. Even in the absence of an explicit authority structure an asymmetry persists since the administrative/ biographical history itself is not supposed to be tailored to a specific body of records".*

[26] *In this regard, I would like to remind some archivists' opinion about the posibilty of existance of many creators for one fonds; in my opininon, this is in total contradiction with the definition itself of the fonds, claiming to be the whole of records produced by a creator! It is, in my opinion, this is an unhappy response to the correct identified need of revealing »n to n« relationships between records and agents of their creation/maintainance/use.*

records themselves and embrace relations with other entities in the wider world. These include relations not only with creators and business functions, but potentially also with collectors and custodians, whose role is largely ignored in existing standards" (Yeo, 2012, p. 71).

6 TOWARDS A NEW APPROACH: *RECORDS IN CONTEXTS*.

Reading the lines above, one may understand that ISAD(G) and the companion standards are the worse products ever. Seeing the amount of literature criticising the work of the "founding parents" of ICA descriptive standardisation, it might look surprising that anybody is still using those standards in practice! However, such intentions are far from me to suggest. I see ISAD(G) as one the most important milestone in the history of archival science, one that managed to summarize, at the international scale, professional experiences from many countries. Maybe it was not perfect, as is the case with any of the human works; but without it, many of the practical learning that led the profession towards new areas of understanding might have never existed[27].

With the advent of networked technology, of interrelated and communicated information, the general pool of human knowledge, a need for a clearer identification of the services our profession can offer was felt. As long as each discipline or institution worked as it was mandated, independently undertaking their tasks, everyone made their own rules and practices, trying to achieve their goals in best conditions. The (post)modern society broke and continue to break the barriers, in a trans-disciplinary, globalized world. What is, in such an environment, the role of the archival science? What is archival science bringing to the World? Which are the specificities of our profession and are they relevant anymore? Such "philosophical" questions were posed and many answers were given[28], but behind responses there is a need for practical manifestation of this contribution, proving the validity of archival approach (of course, if it is the case, I take no assumptions!). In this environment, as outlined, the challenges for the new established Expert Group for Archival description within ICA were:

> *"- to develop a single reference model for descriptive standards, enabling archivists to describe different types of archival entities (archival materials, corporate bodies, persons or families, and functions) and to document these entities in relationship to each other at particular points of time, or over time; (…)*
>
> *- to clarify key concepts such as 'Fonds', 'Mandate', 'Function', 'Levels of description';*
>
> *- to look at the conceptual relationships behind ICA standards, in order to facilitate interchange of archival, bibliographic and museum information"* (ICA/CBPS, 2012a, p. 15).

[27] *See for instance, H. Stibbe's remark: Also, the distinction which is made between description and access points is something new to archives and archivists (Stibbe 1998, p. 135). Today, it is considered self-implicit…*

[28] *See, for example, (Nesmith, 2005, p. 261)with a generous list of other articles on the this topic.*

The vast literature cited above (which is, however just a small part of it), shows the challenges in front of the profession at the very core of its theory and practice. Some of the answers EGAD attempted to provide are not therefore theoretical whims, but requests of the professional community and, in many cases, practical needs requisitions solutions.

Taking into account the previous accumulation in archival profession, gaps identified in the application of the four ICA descriptive standards, technological opportunities at date and need of interconnection with allied professions, the Expert Group for Archival Description started the development of a conceptual model for archival description, that will be doubled by an ontology of archival entities[29]. At the core of the conceptual model will be archival entities and relationships connecting them. These relationships, separate and together, allow the revealing of different contexts in which records play parts; this is why, the conceptual model was called *Records in Contexts* (RiC).

The conceptual model was taking into account also different models from Spain, Finland or Australia. Basically, RiC defines 8 specific archival entities and 10 shared entities, common with other allied domains. Each archival entity is characterised by a set of properties, some specific, some shared. Identifying the values of these properties for the entities leads, basically, to the archival description. Besides, each entity was conceived as having a rich range of relations, between both of the same types and different entities, allowing for shaping various contexts.

The first archival entity[30] is 'Agent' defined as "*known identity that is responsible for acting and producing effects*". Despite the fact that former entities (persons, families and corporate bodies) are still considered the main agents, the definition aims to include also "*entities that are created by a person or group that act on behalf of the creating Agent in an autonomous or semi-autonomous manner (e.g., software agents; space and underwater probes that generate data (records) that is in fulfilment of the function or function mandated by the creating Agent*".

Archival material was divided in 3 different entities: *record*, as the basic element of archives, *record component* and *records set*. Despite the fact it is generally agreed within the profession that "the fundamental unit of description is the aggregate" (Eastwood, 1990, p. 9), it was appreciate that for medieval records, often described at the item level, for the personal papers/fonds or for the electronic records it might be useful to accommodate item description and, even "deeper", the records component. Record is considered to be "*information represented in any form, on any durable carrier, by any method by an agent in the course of life or work events and activities. Such information may serve a variety of purposes, including documenting the events and activities. Because of its relation to the events and activities, it serves as evidence for them*". The record component is defined as "*element of a record with discrete information content that contributes to the record's physical or intellectual completeness*".

---

[29] *It is to be noticed these developments were envisaged in the professional literature (see, for instance, G. Yeo 2012, 72-74, 76-77).*

[30] *Definitions that follows are the result of common work within EGAD and the author of this paper, individually, holds no credit for them. Quotations are taken from the 1st draft of RiC. Also, the reader is advised the definitions and entities are a work in progress, therefore some differences may appear between this presentation and the final release.*

Discussions were carried out within EGAD about naming "collections" of records. As the term "aggregations" is rather spread, it was an option to use it, in order to denominate any group of records, agnostic from series/fonds debate, for instance. In the end, it was agreed to use the term "set", where the mathematical connotations were intentional. Records set is "*one or more records that are grouped together by an Agent(s) (e.g. administrator, records manager, archivist, end-user, etc.), wherever the records may reside and whatever the shared properties or relations among them may be (e.g., same provenance; documenting the same business activity; being different states of the same document; the same documentary form; being about the same subject; etc.)*". As it is defined, the records set covers also the previous concept of units of descriptions (fonds, sub-fonds, series, files), but can also cover the ad-hoc associations created, for instance, during processing operations, or accessions etc. It is intended to be an umbrella term, helping to denominate any aggregation of records and describe it accordingly to archival practices. As it may be noticed, the approach accommodates provenance-based perspective, but also other ways of association for records, including pertinence-based arrangement. (Thus, RiC might be the unifying bridge between provenance and pertinence principles…)

The way Agent interacts with records is defined by the 4 entities. Function is *"any high-level purpose, responsibility or task assigned to the accountability agenda of a corporate body by legislation, policy or mandate. Functions are then decomposed into a related set of activities"*. Activity is *"a transaction or set of interrelated transactions employed in realizing the objective or objectives of a Function. Activity describes how an Agent realizes a Function"*. The rules are *"regulations that govern the way in which a Function is realized or the Activity(ies) is(are) performed. Such Rule(s) may be in the form of a plan (e.g. a sequence (timeline) with milestones, specific activities and sub-functions)"*. Finally, the mandate is defined as *"an act in which one or more Agents authorizes and assigns responsibility for one or more Functions, Activities, or Occupations to one or more Agents."*

The shared entities are: Place, Date, Occupation, Function (abstract), Documentary Form, Subject (abstract), Figure/Character/Being, Named Event, Named Period, Movement. In implementation they might be related to controlled vocabularies, and may serve as access point in retrieving information and connection to other informational resources.

The properties considered to be shared by all 18 entities are:

- identifiers (Global Persistent Identifier and Local Identifier) helping uniquely identification of the entity, even in a global framework,
- name (title) of the entity,
- a general note, that *"is used for any textual description of the entity that is not otherwise addressed by an explicit property."*

For the 8 main ('first order') entities there are defined characteristics, some of them common to all, some specific. Because an extensive presentation of all properties for all entities are beyond the scope of this paper, I shall briefly present only some of the properties for record and record set.

A record, as entity within RiC, is characterised by the following properties:

- *Dates* —cover all kinds of data connected to the entity (Creation date, Accumulation date, Start of validity date, End of validity date, Capture date, Opening date, Transfer date, Disposition date etc.)
- *Record State* — reflecting the Diplomatic status of transmission of the record: draft, original, copy etc.
- A property (to be decided) characterizing *classification or arrangement status*
- *Authenticity and Integrity Note*, describing the characteristic of authentic and integrity of the record
- *Scope and Content Note*, serving the same goals as in ISAD(G)
- Quality of Information Note that will accommodate a description of "conditions of a record that impact the quality of the recorded information, and thus its use. Such conditions may be associated with the quality of the information when the record was created (such as poor image capture quality) or the deterioration of the record (or loss of information) over time"
- A property (to be decided) defining the *documentary form characteristics* of the record
- *Content type* (indicating the way humans experience information: text, pictorial material, notated music, graphic material, geographic material) and properties related to the content (*Media Type*— "g*eneral type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc., the content of the record"; Encoding Type*— "*Information about the logical form of digital represented information", Language)*
- *Carrier Type*, defined as *"Physical material in or on which information is represented"*
- *Production technique*, identifying *"the method used in the representation of information on the carrier"*
- *Extent*, identifying the *"quantity, physical dimensions, logical size or duration of the record"*
- *History of record*, that is intended to record *"the history may include events associated with custody, actions taken on the record as part of its management (appraisal, description, classification and reclassification, data storage migration, encoding type conversions, and so on) that have contributed to its state at the time of description"*
- *Conditions of access*, indicating regulations or physical aspects that may impede the access of the record
- *Rights* indicating the fair use of records, once the access is granted.

These properties reflect the characterisation of a unit of description by descriptive elements in ISAD(G), with some differences accommodating a better description for electronic records.

A more significant change in properties occurs at the characterisation of the entity records set. The properties are divided into:

- *Properties of the records set* (as a whole): Record Set Type; Accrual status; Dates of Record Set; History of Record Set; Accrual; Arrangement; Authenticity and Integrity Note
- *Properties summarizing contained Records or Record Sets*: Dates of contained Record Sets or Records; Scope and Content Note; Extent
- *Properties that may be shared by all descendant Records*: Record State; Classification Code; Documentary Form; Content Type; Carrier Type; Encoding Type; Media Type; Language; Physical Characteristics; Production Technique; Conditions of Access; Rights

It can be noticed it is intended for a higher precision in describing characteristics of an aggregation of records. As I invoked above, dates of a file resulted from the dates of the oldest and the newer record inside. But, creation of the file itself, as aggregation (read *set*) may date in another moment, and, in some context, this might have its relevance.

The most significant change would be at the "relationship area", that basically allows relationship with all others entities within the model: *Related Agent Note; Related Place Note; Related Record Note; Related Record Component Note; Related Record Set Note; Related Function or Activity Note; Related Mandate Note; Related Rule Note*. Relationships are not necessarily hierarchical, but accommodate this view also. An imaginary example of relation may look like this:

Record1	is part of	Record set1 (title = file1)
Record1	is part of	Record Set2 (title = series1)
Record1	is part of	Record Set3 (title = fond1)
Record Set1	was part of	Record Set4 (title = series2)
Record1	is created by	Agent1
Record1	is collected by	Agent2
Record1	is evidence of	Function1
Record1	results from	Activity1
Activity1	Is performed to fulfil	Function1

Taking into account the graph technology, it is expected that creation of relationships in this manner will allow for a higher degree of integration of archival description and will facilitate a better and more precise retrieval of information existing in archives.

7 CONCLUSIONS

What will be RiC? Will it change the four ICA descriptive standards universe? I dare to say it will be the four standards and much more. It is an effort towards abstractisation of our professional principles and practices, in order to make the archival resources and archival perspective more relevant to the world. It will allow for independent description of history of each archival entity. It will accept descriptions revealing provenances and various contexts, also for granular entities or for collective ones. It will allow a greater possibility of exploitation of the rich network of relations between entities, accommodating various perspectives, from pertinence to provenance, from official to participatory descriptions. There is a grounded hope it will allow the integration of description of electronic records,

updating the professional practices to the new type of records. However, overall, with its flexibility and graph based expression of relationships, using semantic web technologies, it is expected to ensure that archival resources will be integrated in the vast universe of electronic shared knowledge of mankind.

What about scopeArchiv? Well, I would say that scopeArchiv is a fake representation of ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF). With its possibilities of linking physical aggregations (accessions or containers) with units of description, with the possibilities of expanding elements of description including controlled vocabularies, with powerful thesaurus that offers a multifaceted view over archival content, I would say it is not ISAD(G); it is rather one manifestation of RiC.

Therefore, nothing to be scared of: RiC will be ISAD(G) and much more.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bailey, J. (2013, summer). Disrespect des Fonds: Rethinking Arrangement and Description in Born-Digital Archives. *Archive Journal, 3*. Retrieved 01 15, 2016, from http://www.archivejournal.net/issue/3/archives-remixed/disrespect-des-fonds-rethinking-arrangement-and-description-in-born-digital-archives/.
- Bearman, D., & Lytle, R. (1985). The Power of the Principle of Provenance. *Archivaria, 21*(Winter), 14-27.
- Blouin jr., F., & Rosenberg, W. (2013). *Processing the Past. Contesting Authority in History and the Archives*. Oxford University Press.
- Cook, T. (1992). The Concept of Archival Fonds: Theory, Description and Provenance in the Post-Custodial Era. In *The Archival fonds: from theory to practice* (pp. 31-86).
- Cox, R. J. (2004). *No Innocent Deposits: Forming Archives byRethinking Appraisals*. Lanham, Mariland and Ohio: The carecrow Press Inc.
- Cunningham, A. (2012). Peter J. Scott And The Australian 'Series' System:Its Origins, Features, Rationale, Impact And Continuing Relevance. *International Congress on Archives, Brisbane, Australia, 23 August 2012*. Retrieved from http://ica2012.ica.org/files/pdf/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00414.pdf.
- Douglas, J. (2010). Origins: Evolving Ideas about the Principle of Provenance. In H. M. Terry Eastwood, *Currents of Archival Thinking* (pp. 23-44).
- Duranti, L. (1998). *Diplomatics. New Uses for an Old Science*.
- Eastwood, T. (1990). *Putting the Parts of the Whole Together: a Systematic Approach to Access to Information From the Archives of Contemporary Administration*. Paper delivered at a Seminar on Arangement and Description of Archives, Weimar.
- Eastwood, T. (2000). Putting the Parts of the Whole Together: Systematic Arrangement of Archives. *Archivaria, 50*(Fall), 93-116.
- Gilliland-Swetland, A. (2000). Enduring Paradigm, New Opportunities: The Value of the Archival Perspective in the Digital Environment. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub89/pub89.pdf.
- Horsman, P. (1994). Taming the elephant: An orthodox approach to the Principle of Provenance. *he Principle of Provenance. First Stokholm Conference on Archival Theory and the Principle of Provenance (2-3 September 1993)*, (pp. 51-63). Stockholm.
- Horsman, P. (2002). The Last Dance of the Phoenix, or The De-discovery of the Archival Fonds. *Archivaria, 54*(Fall), 1-23.

- Hurley, C. ([2005]). *Parallel Provenance*. Retrieved 01 10, 2016, from www.infotech.monash.edu.au: http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/research/groups/rcrg/publications/parallel-provenance-combined.pdf.
- Hurley, C. (2012). *Relationships in Records*. Retrieved 01 15, 2016, from http://www.descriptionguy.com: http://www.descriptionguy.com/images/WEBSITE/relationships-in-records.pdf.
- ICA/CBPS. (2012a). Progress report for revising and harmonising ICA descriptive standards.
- ICA/CBPS. (2012b). Relationships in archival descriptive systems.
- Ketelaar, E. (2002). Archival Temples, Archival Prisons: Modes of Power and Protection. *Archival Science, 2*, 221-238.
- Kwasnik, B. ([2000]). *The Role of Classification in Knowledge Represantation and Discovery*. Retrieved 01 15, 2016, from www.surface.syr.edu: http://surface.syr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1147&context=istpub.
- Livelton, T. (1996). *Archival Theory, records and the public*.
- Lodoloni, E. (2005). *Archivistica* (12th ed.). Milano.
- MacNeil, H. (2008). Archivalterity: Rethinking Original Order. *Archivaria*(66 (Fall 2008)), 1–24.
- MacNeil, H. (2009). Trusting Description: Authenticity, Accountability, and Archival Description Standards. *Journal of Archival Organization, 7*, 89–107.
- Mazikana, P. (1990). *Archives and records management for decision makers: a RAMP study*. Retrieved 15.01.2016, from www.unesco.org: http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ramp/html/r9008e/r9008e06.htm#5.1. provenance and sanctity of the original order.
- Meehan, J. (2010). Rethinking Original Order and Personal Records. *Archivaria, 70*(Fall), 27-44.
- Michetti, G. (2012). Archives Are Not Trees. Hierarchical Representations in Digital Environment. *The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation. An international conference on permanent access to digital documentary heritage*, (pp. 1002-1010). Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- Millar, L. (2002). The Death of the Fonds and the Resurrection of Provenance: Archival Context in Space and Time. *Archivaria, 53*, pp. 1-15.
- Nesmith, T. (2002). Seeing Archives: Postmodernism and the Changing Intellectual Place of Archives. *The American Archivist, 65*(Spring/Summer), 24–41.
- Nesmith, T. (2005). Reopening Archives: Bringing New Contextualities into Archival Theory and Practice. *Archvaria, 60*(Fall), 259-274.
- Popovici, B.-F. (2007). Arhivele și bibliotecile: surori sau cumnate? [Archives and LIbraries: Aisters or Sisters-in-law?]. *Biblio Brașov 2007. Conferința internațională de biblioteconomie și știința informării* (pp. 323-326). Brasov: Universitatea "Transilvania".
- Popovici, B.-F. (2014). ISAD(G). A case for improvement . *Technical And Field Related Problems Of Traditional And Electronic Archiving/ Vsebinski Problemi Klasincnega in elektronskega arhiviranja*. Maribor .
- Savoja, M., & Vitali, S. (2007). Authority Control for Creators in Italy: Theory and Practice. *Journal of Archival Organization, 5*(n1o. -2), 121-147.

- Stibbe, H. L. (1992). Implementing the Concept of Fonds: Primary Access Point, Multilevel Description and Authority Control. *Archivaria*(34 (1992)), 109-137.
- Stibbe, H. L. (1998). Standardising Description: The Experience of Using ISAD(G). *Janus, 1*, 132-152.
- Yeo, G. (2010). Debates about Description. In H. M. Terry Eastwood, *Currents of Archival Thinking* (pp. 89-114).
- Yeo, G. (2012). The Conceptual Fonds and the Physical Collection. *Archivaria, 73*(Spring), 43-80.

POVZETEK

*Bogdan Florin POPOVICI**

ARHIVSKO GRADIVO V KONTEKSTIH POT K NOVI STOPNJI ARHIVSKEGA POPISOVANJA?

Prispevek se osredotoča na poglobljena razmišljanja znotraj arhivske stroke, ki so Mednarodni arhivski svet spodbudila k posodobitvi štirih standardov za popisovanje. Najprej je predstavljena zgodovina sprejemanja teh standardov in mandat, ki je bil podeljen Ekspertni skupini za arhivsko popisovanje za razvoj konceptualnega modela z namenom povezovanja vseh štirih standardov. Poleg mandata za predelavo standardov avtor pregleda še nekaj vidikov iz strokovne literature, ki so imeli vpliv na arhivsko popisovanje. Pregleda tudi pretekle in sedanje interpretacije principa provenience in prvotne ureditve, arhivske predstave hierarhije in nivojev popisovanja.

V drugem delu avtor predstavlja konceptualni model, ki ga je pripravila Eksperta skupina. Predstavljene so entitete in nekaj njihovih atributov, poudarek pa je dan na relacije v arhivskem svetu in izven njega.

* *dr. Bogdan Florin Popovici, direktor, Romunski narodni arhiv, Oddelek v Brasovu, Str. Gh. Baritiu nr. 34, 500025 Brasov, Romunija, kontakt: bogdanpopovici@gmail.com.*