Developing an Archives Program by Martha Smalley



Part I Setting the stage & receiving materials



What are Archives?

- 1. Archives are the actual records and documents that are saved
- 2. The archives is the agency responsible for saving these records
- 3. An archives is **the place** where the records are stored.

Types of collections:

- 1. Records related to your organization
 - official/non-official
 - predecessor/ affiliated organizations
- 2. Administrator / faculty papers
- 3. Personal papers and/or archival collections gathered to document a particular subject area / era / etc.
- 4. Denominational / related materials

Types of content:

- · Administrative records
- Program documentation
- Publications
- · Financial records
- Student records / parish records
- Correspondence
- Writings
- · Artifacts / memorabilia
- Photographs / videos
- · Etc.



house plants? or a greenhouse?

Keep in mind that you may not be able to have a large archives when you start. Start small if you need to start small.





It is a good thing to be realistic.



What is needed to proceed?

- Commitment of support for:
 - Staff
 - A space designated for the archives
 - Supplies
- Statement of Goals & Policies
 - A foundational document, "for the record"
 - Have it in written form & distributed!
 - Defines the rationale and parameters for your archives program

Content of the Statement of Goals

- · Whose records are being collected?
- Who is going to use the records?
- What is the relationship between the archives repository and creator of the archives?
- Who (specifically which person) is responsible for caring for the archives?

Collection Development policy:

- What will you collect?
- · How will you collect it?

Use Policy:

- Who is allowed to use materials?
- How will the use of materials be regulated?
- What about photocopying, borrowing, etc.?

Get it in writing!!

 Organization is committed to provide staff, space, and materials

 You know in theory what types of records we will seek to collect.

 You know who will be allowed to use these records and in what setting.

Getting the material into the repository:

- Acquisition: obtaining material
- Accession: registering material
- Appraisal: determining the value of material

Acquisition:

 Make an inventory what is already "in house." Gather materials that belong in the archives.

· Solicit appropriate materials.

Accessioning:

 Register incoming material with paper-based records or a computer spreadsheet, or with software such as the Archivists' Toolkit.

[See slides about Archivist' Toolkit at the end of this presentation]

tblAccession : Table										
	AccID	Date	Relation	Amour	Collection description	DonorlD	GiftDeed	CopyrightHeld		
II	200001	2000/11	RG 170		James and Margaret Goff Papers	19	V			
	200002	2000/02	RG 30	4	Rodney L. McQuary Papers	20	V	✓		
	200101	2001/03	RG 30	3	Raymond Dudley Papers	22	V	✓		
	200102	2001/10	RG 8	1	Grace McLucas - artifacts	27				
	200201	2002/10/19	RG88 Add	5	University Christian Movement-New Eng	2				
	200202	2002/04	RG8	1	Claude L. Pickens, Jr.	16	✓	✓		
	200203	2002/04	RG 30	1	George Farnham Papers	23	✓	✓		
	200204	2002	RG 8	1	Helen McCollough Papers	28				
	200301	2003/06/24	RG8	0	Lora Malvina Jones letters	1				
	200302	2003/07/18	New	10	US Catholic China Bureau Periodicals f	3				
	200303	2003/07	RG107 Add	0	Council for Ecumenical Student Christia	4				
	200304	2003	New: RG175	10	Sarah Refo Mason Papers	5	✓	☑		
	200305	2003/08	RG8	0	Hugh C. Morgan Papers	9	✓	☑		
	200306	2003/08	RG30	0	Edna Elliott Papers	10				
	200307	2003/08	RG 163 Add	1	Presidential papers - S. Taylor, E. Sane	11				
	200308	2003/09	RG 86 Add	1	Three books by Margaret Flory; one sur	13				
	200309	2003/03	RG 120 Add	2	Reuling Papers - Add	17	✓	☑		
							-	_		

Appraisal: deciding exactly what to keep

- It's okay to discard some material!
- Don't discard on an item-by-item basis too time consuming
- Types of things that can be discarded:
 - Multiple copies 2 is enough to keep
 - Printed material from another organization
 - Redundant financial records
 - Routine administrative material

How do we decide about the value of records?

- Primary value- the records' functional use to the person or agency that created them.
- Secondary value their value for research, both now and in the future.
- "Archival" value how do they fit in to your context?

Part II

Arrangement and Description

What's the difference between an archivist and a file clerk?



- An archivist has a sense of perspective.
- The archivist has a role in forming the history of an organization or person.
- This power to form the history is regulated by certain archival principles

Arrangement and description

- Increasing standardization in the archival field.
- But there is no one right way to do things!

A little bit of archival theory:

· The concept of "provenance"

Records generated by a particular individual or agency should be kept together, not mixed with records from another individual or agency.

Another archival concept:

- When records come to a repository with an existing system of organization, this system should be kept intact as much as possible.
 The archivist's task is to discover or clarify this system of organization and keep it intact.
- This is more true for organizational archives than for personal papers.

Step 1: Preliminary Inventory

- Find and read material that provides an idea of the background and significance of the individuals or organizations in question.
- Go through each box or file cabinet drawer and make a preliminary inventory of what types of material are present
- Preserve the original order of the collection at this stage.

Step 2: Initial sorting / grouping / establishing "record groups"

 You may need to establish the "provenance" of the material. Who generated or created the records?

• A "record group" reflects the source or provenance of the material.

Case 1: All the records you are dealing with come from your institution, the Northeast Theological Seminary:

- · Administrative records / Dean's office
- Student records / Registrar
- Committees / Faculty, etc.
- Publications /
- Programs from events /
- Financial records /

Case 2: Records in your repository have been generated by various sources:

- · Records related to your institution
- Records related to your parent church body
- Papers of church leaders
- Records of organizations related to your church

Step 3: Establish "series"

- A series is a grouping of similar material within the larger record group. The material may be similar in format or in purpose. The series can be defined in any manner that makes sense.
- Creating series allows for a kind of architecture or structure that will make the collection as a whole easier to describe and access.

Some possible series titles:

- Legal and policy records
- · Committee records
- · Correspondence
- Executive director's files
- Collected material
- Financial material
- Audio-visual materials

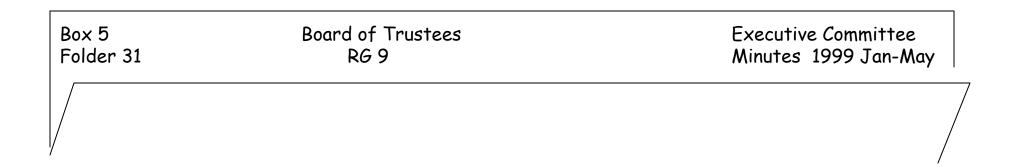
Step 4: Organize material within series:

- Put each series into an appropriate order - alphabetically, chronologically, by subject, by type, or whatever.
- But not all materials are important enough to warrant painstaking efforts to put them in alphabetical or chronological order.
- · Use common sense

Step 5: If possible, put the records in new acid-free folders

- Putting records into folders of manageable size facilitates identification of appropriate segments of the records and makes it more likely that the records will be kept in good order when they are used in the future.
- Label the folders with descriptive headings, not with a list of each item in the folder.
- It is useful to number the folders -- and the boxes, or drawers in which the folders are housed -- so that material can be more easily retrieved and re-filed.

Example of folder labeling:

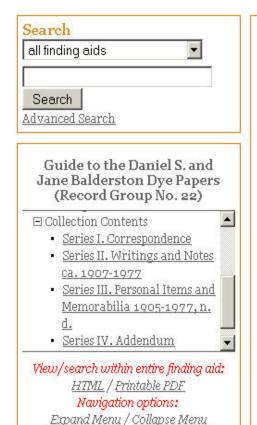


Step 6: Prepare a finding aid

- The finding aid provides the researcher with information necessary to evaluate and gain access to a group of papers
- It can be distributed so that others learn about the contents of the collection or archives.

The parts of a finding aid:

- An historical or biographical note regarding the organization or individual documented
- An introduction describing the kinds of materials in the collection, the quantity of materials, and the general arrangement
- A folder listing (or sometimes a box or drawer listing) for each series



Yale University Library Divinity School Library

Guide to the Daniel S. and Jane Balderston Dye Papers

(Record Group No. 22)



Compiled by Nathan H. Price and Martha Lund Smalley

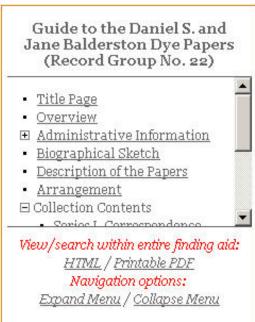
1992, 2000

New Haven, Connecticut

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http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.022





Biographical Sketch

1884 Feb Daniel Sheets Dye born in Ohio.

1886 Apr Jane Canby Balderston born in Maryland.

1907 DSD graduated from Denison University, Phi Beta Kappa.

1908 JBD graduated from Wellesley College.

1908 DSD went to Szechuan, West China to study Chinese in preparation for tea University.

1908-1915 JBD taught at secondary schools in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

1910-1949 DSD taught at West China Union University, serving under Americ an avocation, DSD recorded and analyzed window lattice and woven belt patter throughout West China. DSD was a founder of the West China Border Research! University museum.

1915 JBD went to West China under the auspices of the Friends Foreign Mission taught at Szechuan Boarding School in Tungchwan.

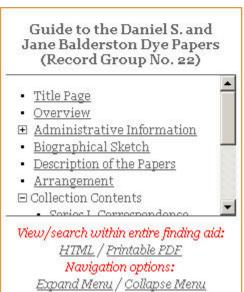
1919 DSD and JBD married. Under the auspices of the American Baptist Foreig: mathematics and education at Woman's Normal School in Chengtu and West Cl became an expert on birds of West China.

Study during furloughs in the United States led to an M.A. from Cornell Univer University for JBD.

1937 Two volume work by DSD entitled A Grammar of Chinese Lattice published

1940 DSD received honorary doctorate from Denison University.

Search all finding aids Search Advanced Search



Description of the Papers

I. Correspondence, 1908-1987.
II. Writings and Notes, 1907-1977.
III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1905-1977, n.d.
IV. Addendum

These papers provide valuable documentation regarding West China. Substantive letter scene in the Chengtu area, as well as providing biographical information regarding the I their educational mission work at West China Union University. These papers compleme of West China Union University found in YDSL Record Group No. 11, Archives of the Uni Education in Asia. Daniel Dye was also a friend and colleague of Thomas Torrance, whose Record Group No. 16.

The papers include unique documentation of patterns and designs used in West China lat pottery. Drawings of hundreds of different patterns recorded by Dye and his artistic assis collection. Dye spent many years in analyzing the origins and symbolism of the patterns to complete the scholarly work which he hoped to produce on this subject, but his explan for appraisal in myriad drafts.

The Dye Papers are also valuable for the thorough documentation they provide regardin missionary. Jane Balderston Dye, married but childless, found herself in ideal circumstateaching career, to travel broadly, to assist her husband in his scholarly pursuits, and to study of birds in West China.

The correspondence in Series I consists primarily of letters written by Dan and Jane Dye States. For many years they wrote long, descriptive letters to their "home folks" every we marriage in 1919, Dan and Jane alternated weeks writing to both families. The correspondence condensed during the 1930s and 1940s. During the early part of 1927, Jane was e political unrest in West China. The months of separation, before Dan joined her in Shang correspondence between Jane and Dan (1927 Feb-Apr.)

Series II consists of published writings by Dan and Jane Dye, unpublished essays by Dan, drafts by Dan for his anticipated work Swastica Sinica. The Pattern of Patterns of the Fax

Series I. Correspondence

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
		Series I. Correspondence	
		Family Correspondence	
		Daniel Dye to family	
1	1	on board ship and journey to West China	1908 Oct-Dec
1	2-6	primarily from Suifu and Chengtu	1909 - 1911
1	7	from Shanghai, Jan-Aug	1912 Jan-Aug
1	7	from Ichang to Chengtu	1912 Aug-Dec
1	8	primarily from Chengtu	1913
1	9	journey home for furlough	1914 Feb-Apr
		Jane Balderston to family	
1	10	on board ship to China	1915 Oct-Dec
1	11	journey from Shanghai to Chungking	1916 Jan-Mar
1	12	from Friends Mission, Chengtu	1916 Apr-Jun
2	13-14	from Friends Mission, Chengtu	1916 Jul-Dec
2	15-20	primarily from Tungchwan	1917 - 1918
		DSD and JBD to families in U.S.	
2	21	from Chengtu	1918 Apr-Dec

Delivery system that searches throughout all available finding aids:

Yale University Library Research Tools

Finding Aid Database / Help



Welcome to the Yale Finding Aid Database

This database consists of finding aids for archival and manuscript materi information about the creation, historical context, arrangement, and cor information necessary for users to identify and request the portions relev depth of detail, and amount of materials covered, but their common purp manuscript collections.

Libraries & Collections

Aboutt

Finding aids represent holdings from:

- · Manuscripts and Archives (Sterling Memorial Library)
- Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- Yale Divinity School Library
- Irving S. Gilmore Music Library
- Visual Resources Collection

For more information on conducting research with archival and manusc:

Also important to make a catalog record:



Daniel S. and Jane Balderston Dve papers,

Author: Dye, Daniel Sheets.

Title: Daniel S. and Jane Balderston Dve papers, 1905-1987 (inclusive)

Description: 8 linear ft. (18 boxes)

Available Online: Finding aid

Location: LSF-Request for Use at Divinity Library

Call Number: RG 22

Status: 18 c.1 - Request for use as shown above in Location. Notes: Gift of Nancy Balderston Conrad and Herbert E. Sloan.

Organization: Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence, II. Writings and Notes, III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, IV. Addendum.

Biographical/Historical note: Daniel Sheets Dye was born in Ohio and graduated from Denison University. He taught science courses at West China University in Chengtu from 1910 to 1949, serving under the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. As an avoca recorded and analysed window lattice and woven belt patterns, which often had swastika designs, throughout West Cl founder of the West China Border Research Society and of the West China Union University museum of Chinese cultur Balderston was born in Maryland and graduated from Wellesley College. She went to West China in 1915, serving under Foreign Mission Association of Great Britain and Ireland, After her marriage to Daniel Dve in 1919, she taught mathem education courses at Woman's Normal School in Chengtu and West China Union University Normal School.

Summary: Substantive letters refer to the social and political scene in the Chengtu area, as well as providing biographical informat the Dyes and a thorough account of their educational mission work at West China Union University. The papers include documentation of patterns and designs used in West China latticework, woven belts, and pottery. Drawings of hundred and notes regarding their origins and symbolism are included.

Indexes/Finding aids: Unpublished finding aid in repository.

Cite as: Daniel S. and Jane Balderston Dve Papers, Manuscript Group No. 22, Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Subjects (Library of Congress): Dye, Daniel Sheets.

Dye, Jane Balderston, 1886-1976.

Hua xi xie he da xue. Missions--China. Minorities--China. Swastika in art. Education--China.

Art--China--Szechuan Province.

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100 1_ |a Dye, Daniel Sheets.
245 10 la Daniel S. and Jane Balderston Dye papers, |f 1905-1987 (inclusive)
300 __ | a 8 linear ft. | f (18 boxes)
351 ___ |a Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence, II. Writings and Notes, III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, IV. Ac
545 ___ |a Daniel Sheets Dye was born in Ohio and graduated from Denison University. He taught science courses at We
    to 1949, serving under the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. As an avocation, Dye recorded and analys
    which often had swastika designs, throughout West China. Dye was a founder of the West China Border Research 5
    museum of Chinese culture. Jane Balderston was born in Maryland and graduated from Wellesley College. She went
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    Woman's Normal School in Chengtu and West China Union University Normal School.
520 ___ |a Substantive letters refer to the social and political scene in the Chengtu area, as well as providing biographical
    account of their educational mission work at West China Union University. The papers include unique documentation
    latticework, woven belts, and pottery. Drawings of hundreds of patterns and notes regarding their origins and symb
561 ___ |a Gift of Nancy Balderston Conrad and Herbert E. Sloan.
555 0_ |a Unpublished finding aid in repository.
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610 20 | a Hua xi xie he da xue.
656 _7 | a Missionaries.
656 7 la Educators.
650 0 | a Women missionaries.
851 ___ |a Special Collections |b Yale Divinity School Library, |c 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511.
856 42 | 3 Finding aid | u http://webtext.library.yale.edu/xml2html/divinity.022.nav.html
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Part III

Preservation

Preservation actions

- Remove hardware (paper clips, etc.)
- Remove rubber bands
- Keep materials in acid-folders and boxes
- Have oversized storage available
- Encapsulation

Preservation common sense:

- Some records are valuable as physical artifacts while others are valuable primarily for the information they contain.
- For some deteriorating items, photocopying them onto acid-free paper and discarding the originals makes more sense than spending money to deacidify, repair, or encapsulate them.

Storage

- Documents should be in containers that prevent dust from entering
- Large items should be stored flat.
- Files should fit snugly in container.



Repairing materials:

- · NEVER use cellophane tape
- · Get some basic supplies:
 - archival repair tape
 - wipe cloths
 - acid free paper

Special needs for photographs

- If possible, put photographs in chemically stable polyester or paper sleeves (e.g., made of a material such as Mylar, or acid-free paper.) Such sleeves help prevent curling of photographs and reduce physical contact with the photos. It is also possible to label the sleeves with identifying information or to insert a separate written label inside the sleeve.
- If it is not feasible for you to use sleeves, be sure to store the photographs in such a way that they will not curl over time and will not be subject to excessive handling.

Photographs, cont'd:

- Photographs should be handled with cotton gloves, or held by the edges to avoid skin contact with the image.
- Photographs are very susceptible to water damage and should not be stored near sources of water. If you ever have a flood situation in the archives, be sure to rescue the photographs first.
- Photographs are susceptible to insect damage, so may be best stored in a metal container if insects are likely to be a major problem.
- Photographs should not be scanned or photocopied repeatedly.

Special needs for films and videos

- Be aware of the dangers of nitrate film
- Make a "use" copy; save the archival copy
- Store videos upright with tape on bottom.
- · Rewind films and videos periodically

Audio tapes, CDs and DVDs are not permanently viable

 Transcripts are the archival record of oral history

Electronic formats

- Word processed documents
- Email
- Digital photos and videos
- CDs and DVDs
- Databases

Electronic formats are always evolving

- We have two choices right now:
 - Keep paper records of important documents
 - Keep up with evolving electronic formats through constant monitoring & refreshing the data on a regular basis.

Rescuing the Memory of our Peoples Archives Manual

See:

http://www.library.yale.edu/div/RTMmanuallinks.

html

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ARCHIVISTS' TOOLKIT

The Archivists' Toolkit™, or AT, is the first open source archival data management system to provide broad, integrated support for the management of archives.

Types of information associated with archival collections:

- Accession records
- Location of materials waiting for processing
- · Finding aids describing processed materials
- Collection-level catalog records
- Monthly/yearly statistics
- Location shelf lists

Problems with having separate systems for all these different types of information:

- Information duplicated across many spreadsheets or documents; more work for staff, increased chance for error
- · Compiling statistics is laborious
- Name authority work done only at time of catalog record creation
- Links between original accessions and processed collections not consistently preserved

Solution: an integrated relational database – Archivists' Toolkit, an application that supports:

- accessioning and describing archival materials;
- establishing names and subjects associated with archival materials, including the names of donors;
- managing locations for the materials;
- exporting EAD finding aids, MARCXML records, and METS, MODS and Dublin Core records.

http://www.archiviststoolkit.org/



The AT project is a collaboration of the University of California San Diego Libraries, the New York University Libraries and the Five Colleges, Inc. Libraries, and is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

There are other types of archival management software such as Archon and PastPerfect. Archivists' Toolkit has similar functionality and is available as a free open-source application.

Archivists' Toolkit will require some IT support:

- The Archivists' Toolkit requires both a client application and a relational database.
- The client application is free. It provides an interface for entering, editing, searching, and deleting data, which is stored in the database.
- Before downloading and installing the client, the repository or the repository's IT support staff must install one of the three database backends that the Toolkit supports - MySQL 5.0, Microsoft SQL Server 2005, and Oracle 10g.

NAMES and SUBJECTS modules

- The "NAMES" and "SUBJECTS" modules provide:
 - A tool for recording persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with accessions or collections
 - A means to track the relationships between archival materials and all above entities
 - A way to manage name and subject authorities



Cheney, Howell

Cleary, Edward

Coa George Albert

Chinese Students Christian Association.

Person

Person

Person

Dercon

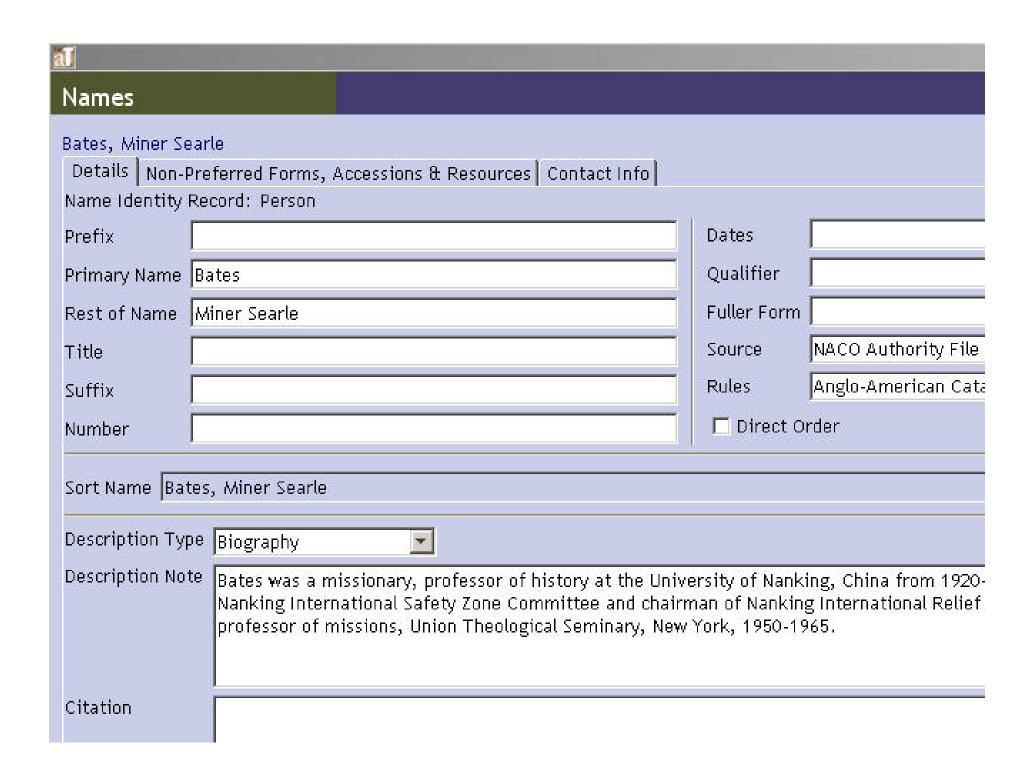
Corporate Body

Local Sources

Local Sources

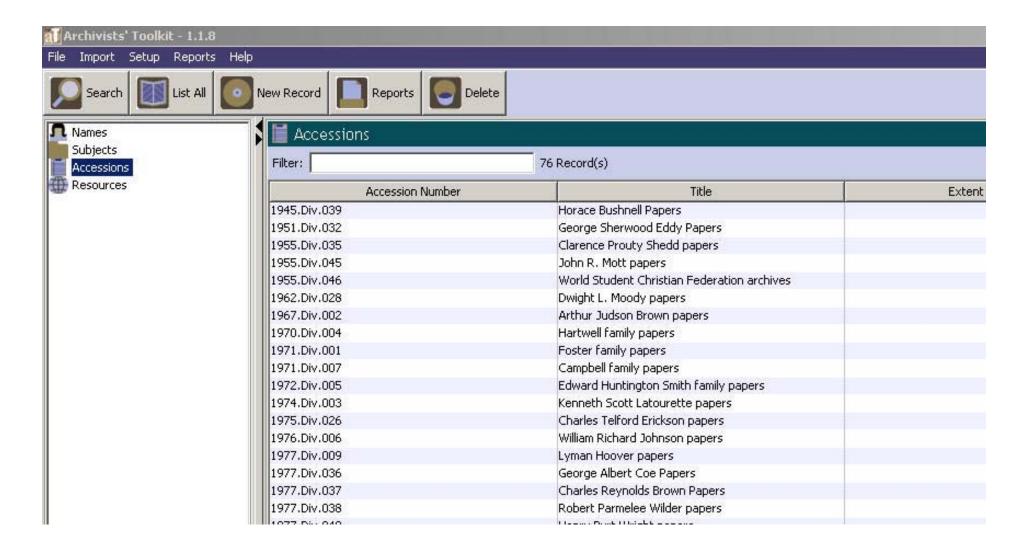
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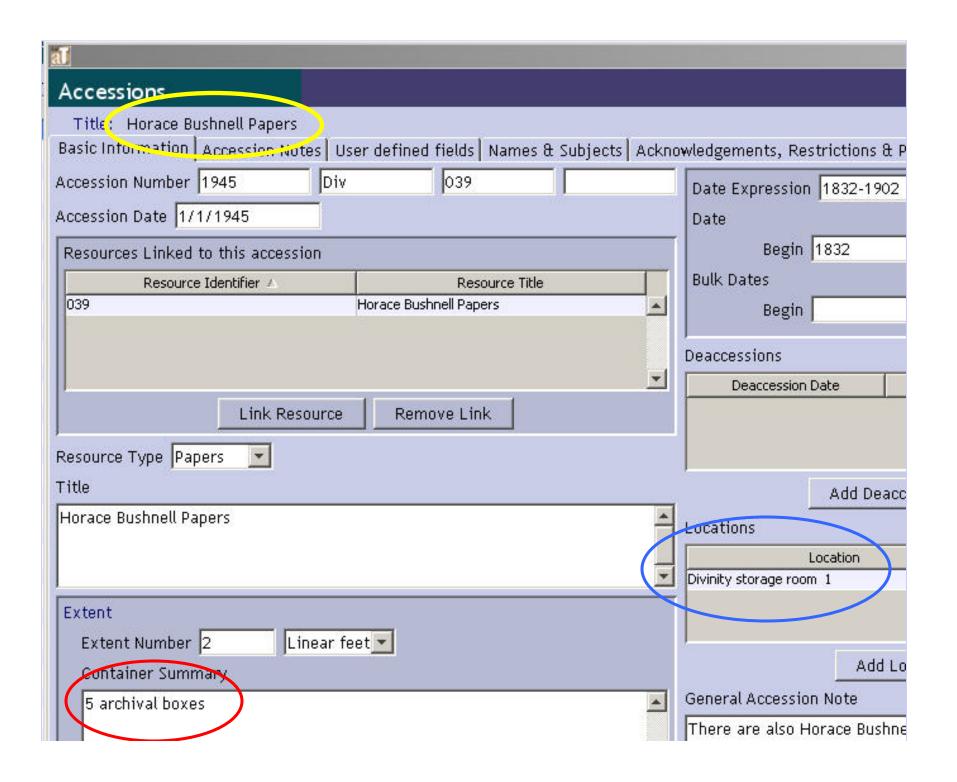
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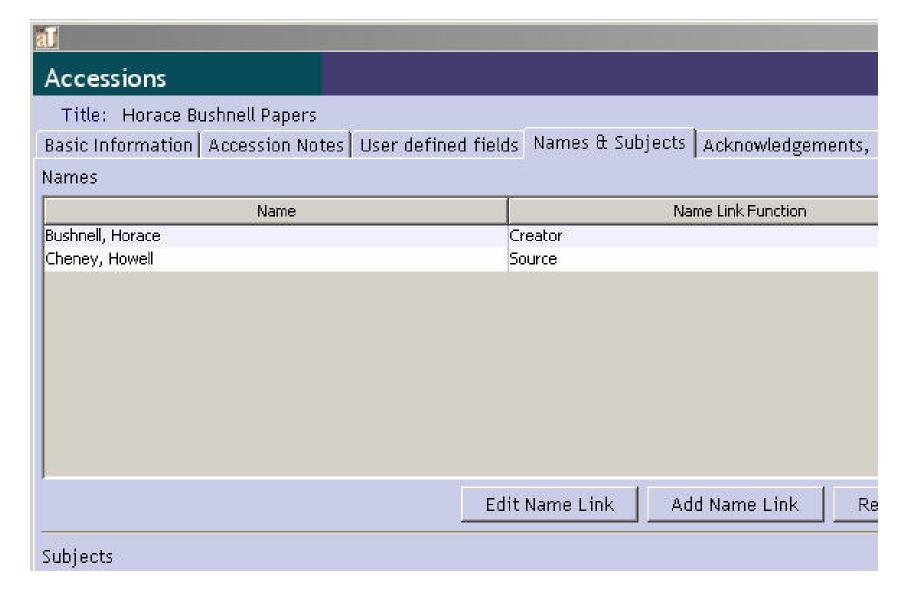
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3	<u>J</u>				
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	Caldwell, Polly				
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	Address 1	4728 86th S.E.			
	Address 2				
	City	Mercer Island	Region WA	Mail Code	
	Country				
	Telephone			FAX	
	E-mail	Polly Caldwell [pcaldwell@w-link.net]			
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ACCESSIONS module

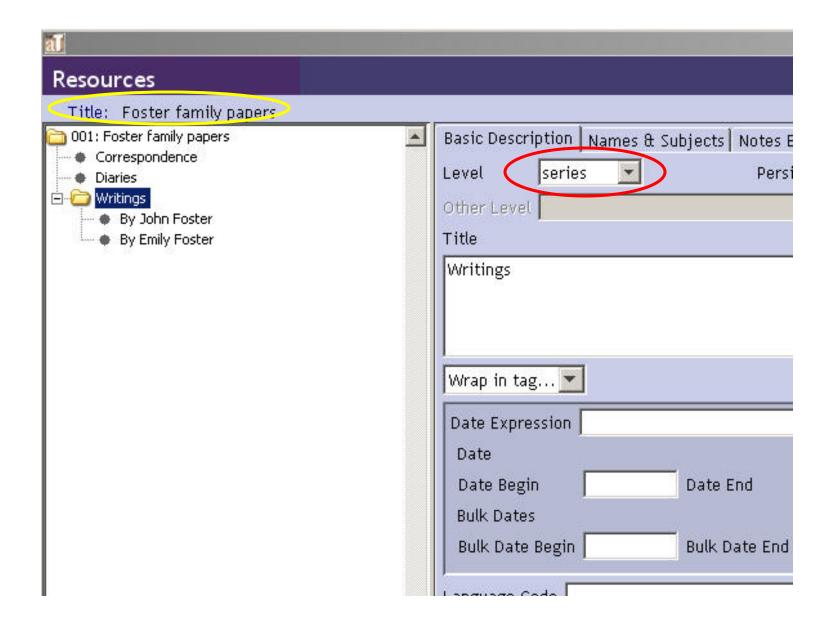




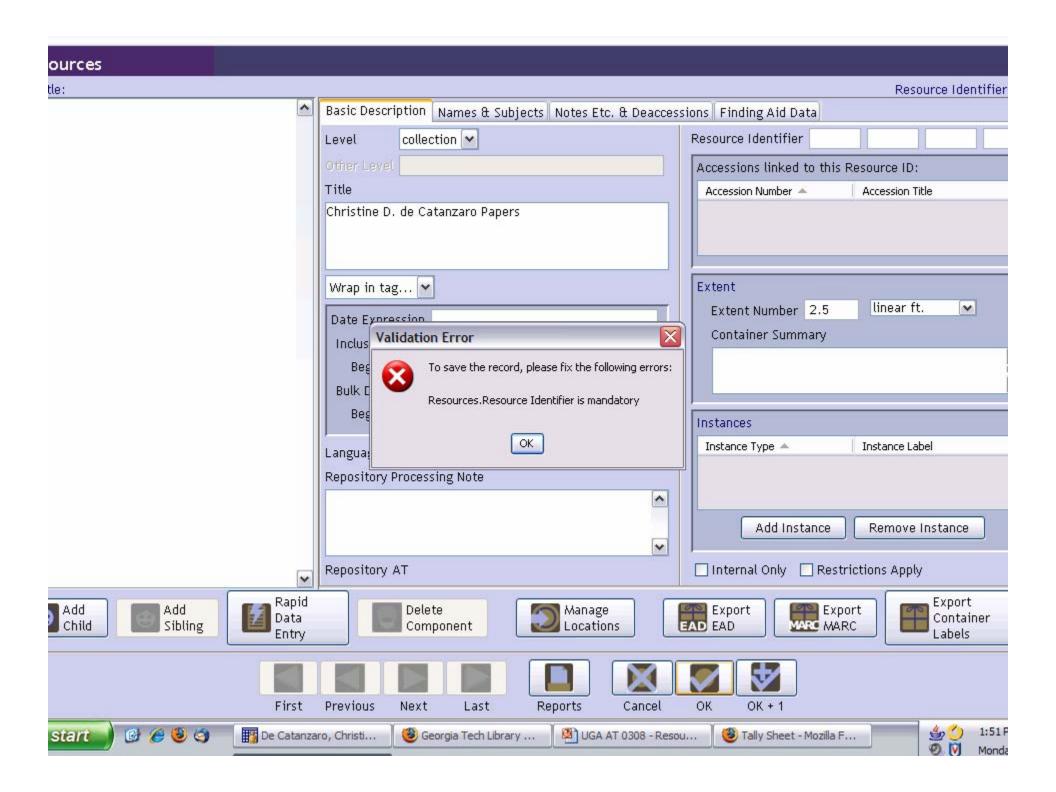
Places for brief description, donor information, etc....



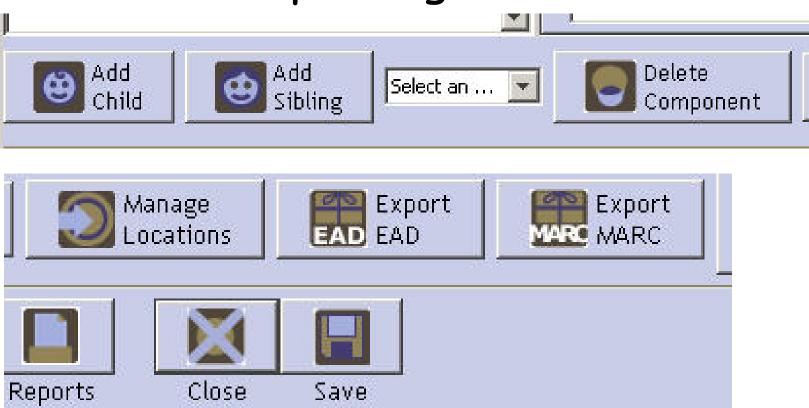
RESOURCES module

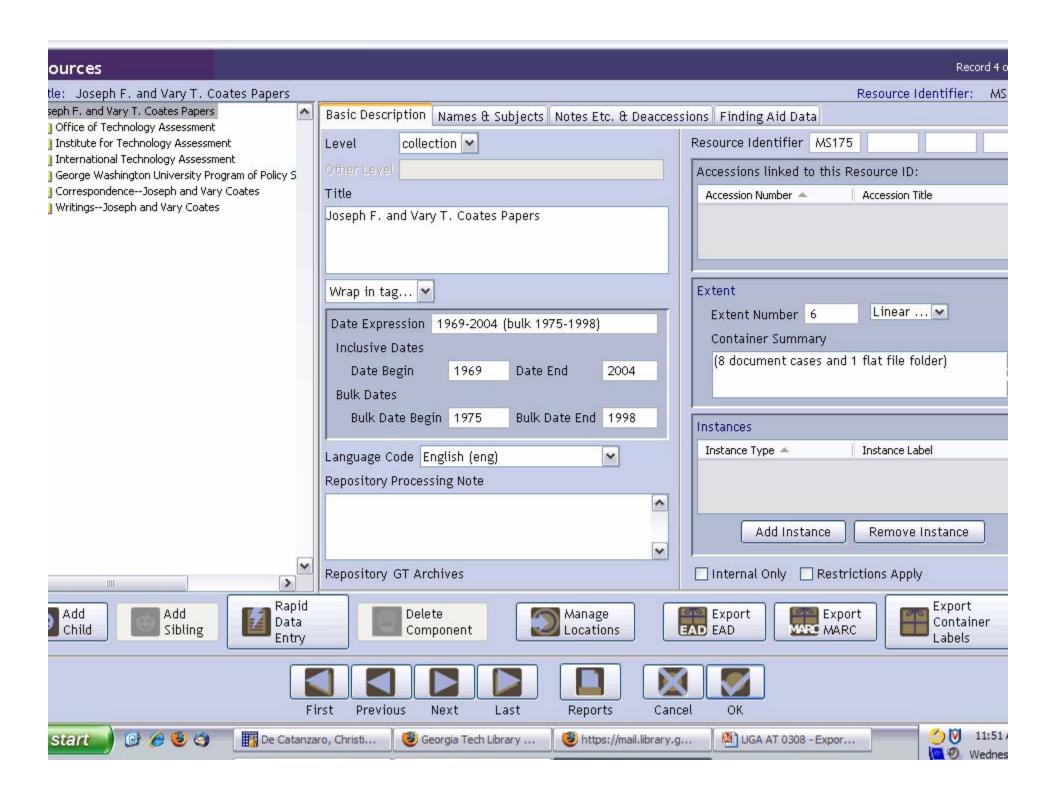


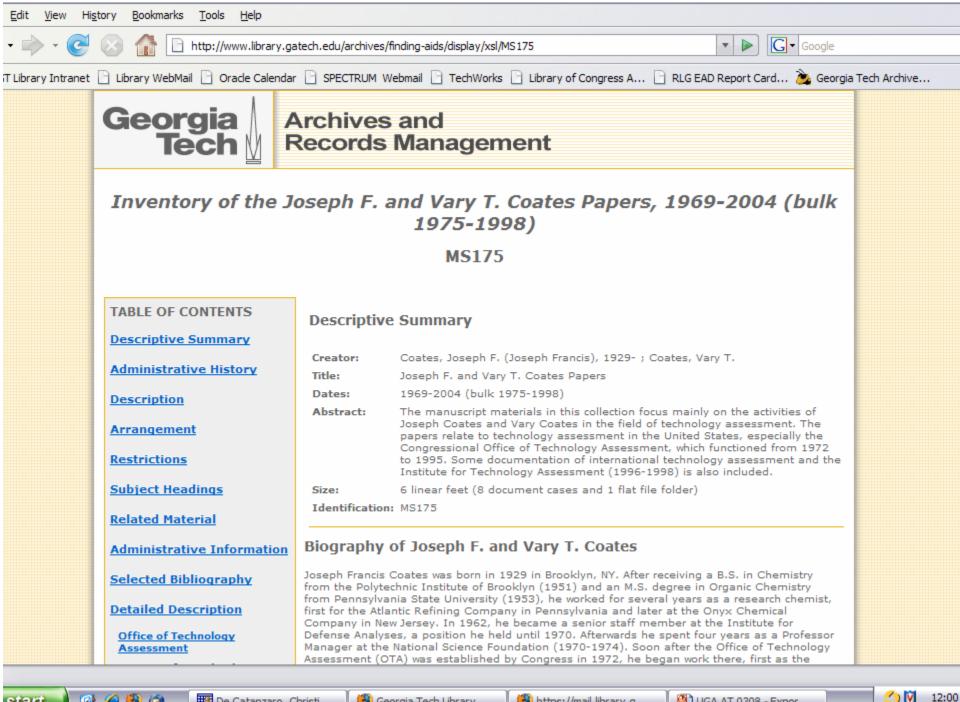
- Collections can be divided into series, subseries, files, items etc.
- AT allows description of each of these levels and offers the possibility of very detailed description
- AT uses the "Child" and "Sibling" metaphors to add components to a finding aid



Buttons for adding "components" and for exporting the record:



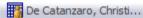
















AT user manual:

 See link from http://archiviststoolkit.org

