AOBJ—1: SCOPE

This specification delineates principles and rules for consolidating the ArchivesSpace content records for accessions, resources, resource components, digital objects, and digital object components into a single archival object record that can then be typed and extended according to the warrant of a particular object type.

For the most part, this specification builds on and ultimately references the specifications for accessions, resources, and digital objects. In addition, this specification has not been written as an instantiation of the emerging data model, but only as a possible contribution to that data model.

As an exercise alone, this specification reveals some “inconsistencies” in the specifications for individual content objects:

1) Accession records on the one hand and digital object and resource records on the other handle notes in two different ways.
Having accession records handle notes in the same way as resource record will result in a more flexible and accommodating accession record without unduly raising data entry requirements. It will also make the spawning of accession data to resource data more straightforward.

2) Accession records and resource records handle relationships to container records and location records in two slightly different ways. The relationship to containers is implicit in the accession / location relationship while it is explicit in the latter (e.g., there is a container record in the latter and not in the former).

Having accession records mirror the way containers / locations are handled in resources will probably alleviate some confusion resulting from the difference. It will also increase the data entry requirements for accessions when linking them to locations, but that increase is not onerous in our opinion.

3) There are other inconsistencies, some of which are worthy of discussion and some of which we have probably not recognized:

   a. Whether titles are a requirement for all archival objects. This will raise the data entry requirement and perhaps violate principles of multi-level description. Right now it is only a requirement for the resource and digital object records and not for the other three types.

   b. Whether the identifier pattern should be the same for all archival object types. Currently, digital objects have a different pattern than that of resources and accessions.

   c. Whether instances are only of importance to resources and resource components. How might instances bear on accessions in a way that needs to be reflected in the data model?

   d. In digital objects, instances are represented in the file version record. Do we need a term that captures the sameness of instances and file versions, while then allowing their basic differences to be expressed and used as process triggers?

   e. Accession and resource records have a repository processing note, which serves as a place for repository staff to record transient processing instructions or descriptions. The digital object record does not provide for such a note. Should it? Or should we remove that kind of feature from the accession and resource records.

   f. Accession records use user-defined fields, largely in support of a functional area that it is not defined or supported by a community
standard. Should we provide user-defined fields for resources and digital objects? There may be less need for them in those two cases since there are community standards. Also providing user-defined fields will force repositories to modify the export definitions for EADs and METS, to name two exports.

AOBJ—2: BASE ELEMENTS AND OBJECT EXTENSIONS

A: Base elements for archival object record

An archival object is an item or an aggregation of items that has research value (evidentiary, historical, etc.), which an archival repository has custody of and to which it facilitates access to a designated community. In the ArchivesSpace application all archival objects (parent and child records) may have the following properties:

- Archival Object Type [Type = “accession” | “resource” | “resource component” | “digital object” | “digital object component”]
- Identifier [Identifier currently has a four part structure for type = “accession” | “resource”; a single string for type = “digital objects”]
- Title
- Publish
- Restrictions Apply
- Repository (Linked)

Note: All Archival Object records are directly or indirectly linked to a Repository record; component records are indirectly linked. Linkage to the repository occurs when a user logon as a member of a certain repository chooses to create a new accession, resource, or digital object record in that logon context. Linkage to the repository for a component record (resource or digital object) occurs when a user adds a component to resource or digital object. The link to a repository should be capable of being made explicit for all archival objects (parents and components) if “explicit” means to show repository ownership in the UI. A user, with proper permissions, should be able to change the repository association for a parent archival object (accession, resource, or digital object), but not for a component archival object independent of the parent to which it belongs.

System Control Data (generated by application, not editable by operator, and required for every archival object record, parent and / or component):
• Record Created Timestamp
• Last Modified Timestamp
• Record Created Staff Name
• Last Modified Staff Name
• Record Suppressed (boolean)

B: **Base Object Extensions**

Elements listed below for the various object types are all additions to the base object elements listed above.

**Archival Object = “Accession”**

• Accession date

• Type of Resource of the accession (papers, records, collection, etc.)

• Acquisition type

• Retention schedule / rule

• Content description

• Condition description

• Provenance/Custodial history

• Inventory

• Disposition note

• Repository Processing note (does not export)

• User defined Boolean 1
- User defined Boolean 2
- User defined integer 1
- User defined integer 2
- User defined real 1
- User defined real 2
- User defined string 1
- User defined string 2
- User defined string 3
- User defined text 1
- User defined text 2
- User defined text 3
- User defined text 4

**Archival Object = “Resource”**

- Basic Description
  - Level
  - Other Level
  - Language
  - Container summary
  - Repository Processing note (Does not export)
- Finding Aid / Bibliographic Information (only on resource parent record)
  - EAD Unique ID
Archival Object = “Resource Component”

- Level
- Other Level
- Component Unique Identifier
- Persistent ID (automatically generated / updatable)
- Language
- Container summary
- Repository Processing Note

Archival Object = “Digital Object”

- Level
• Label
• Language
• Object Type
• XLink Actuate Attribute
• XLink Show Attribute

**Archival Object = “Digital Object Component”**

• Label
• Component Identifier
• Language

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**AOBJ—3: OBJECT LINKING RULES**

**Type = “accession” links to:**

• Sub-records:
  o Collection management records, 0 or more
  o Date records, 0 or more
  o Deaccession records, 0 or more
  o Extent records, 0 or more
  o External document records, 0 or more
  o Rights record, 0 or more

• Primary records:
  o Digital object records, 0 or more
  o Location records, 0 or more
  o Agent records, 0 or more
  o Event records, 0 or more
Type = “digital object” links to

- Sub-records:
  - Collection management records, 0 or more
  - Date records, 0 or more
  - Digital object component records, 0 or more
  - Extent records, 0 or more
  - External document records, 0 or more
  - Notes records, 0 or more (delimited set of note types for digital objects)
  - File version records, 0 or more
  - Rights record, 0 or more

- Primary records:
  - Accession records, 0 or 1
  - Agent records, 0 or more
  - Event records, 0 or more
  - Repository record, 1
  - Resource / resource component records, 0 or 1
  - Subject records, 0 or more

Type = “digital object component” links to

- Sub-records:
  - Date records, 0 or more
Digital object component records, 0 or more

Extent records, 0 or more

External document records, 0 or more

Notes records, 0 or more (delimited set of note types for digital objects)

File version records, 0 or more

- Primary records:
  - Digital object / digital object component record, 1
  - Agent records, 0 or more
  - Event records, 0 or more
  - Subject records, 0 or more

Type = “resource” links to

- Sub-records:
  - Collection management records, 0 or more
  - Date records, 1 or more
  - Deaccession records, 0 or more
  - Extent records, 1 or more
  - External document records, 0 or more
  - Instance records, 0 or more
    - Container records, 1
      - Location records, 0 or 1
  - Notes records, 0 or more (complete set of note types for resources)
  - Resource component records, 0 or more
  - Rights record, 0 or more

- Primary records:
Accession records, 0 or more
Digital object records, 0 or more
Agent records, 0 or more
Event records, 0 or more
Repository record, 1
Subject records, 0 or more

Type = “resource component” links to

- Sub-records:
  - Date records, 0 or more
  - Extent records, 0 or more
  - External document records, 0 or more
  - Instance records
    - Container records, 1
  - Location records, 0 or 1
  - Notes records, 0 or more (complete set of note types for resources)
  - Resource component records, 0 or more

- Primary records:
  - Digital object records, 0 or more
  - Agent records, 0 or more
  - Event records, 0 or more
  - Resource / resource component record, 1
  - Subject records, 0 or more
Type = “accession” requires:

- Accession identifier
- Accession date
- Access publish (default = True)
- Access restriction (default = False)
- Link to Repository record

Type = “digital object” requires:

- Digital object ID
- Digital object title
- Digital object publish (default = True)
- Digital object restriction (default = False)
- Link to Repository record

Type = “digital object component” requires:

- Digital object publish (default = True)
- Digital object restriction (default = False)
- One of: digital object title | digital object date | digital object label
- Link to digital object component / digital object record
- Link to date sub-record (if title | label are not present)

Type = “resource” requires:

- Resource identifier
• Resource publish (default = True)
• Resource restriction (default = False)
• Resource title
• Resource level
• Resource language
• Link to repository record
• Link to date sub-record,
  • Link to extent sub-record, portion = whole

Type = “resource component” requires:
• Resource component publish (default = True)
• Resource component restriction (default = False)
• One of: resource component title | date sub-record
• Resource component level
• Resource component persistent ID (automatically generated and batch updatable)
  • Link to resource component | resource record
  • Link to date sub-record if title not present

All archival object types require:
• Record Created Timestamp
• Last Modified Timestamp
• Record Created Staff Name
• Last Modified Staff Name
Reference the individual specifications for accessions, digital objects and resources for instructions on the following (not all apply to each of the three specifications):

- Browsing / listing objects
- Spawning
- Merging
- Rapid Data Entry tools
- Business rules
- Task Sequences
- Default data values
- Note types and structures
- Imports
- Exports
- Reports