

§1. A Trial to Establish an Archival Finding Aid Utilizing the Encoded Archival Description

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Since Fusion Science Archives (FSA) was established at NIFS in 2005, we steadily continued the effort to collect and preserve historical materials concerning nuclear fusion research at universities in Japan. As a result, over 18,000 historical materials were stored and registered in our working database (NIFS-FSAD) by the end of FY2007.

In order that researchers use these historical materials an appropriate catalogue of registered materials and a convenient electronic finding aid available through Internet should be provided.

Application of EAD (*Encoded Archival Description*), was proposed; EAD is a de-facto standard for data of archival finding aid and is accepted as an international standard. For this purpose, intensive collaboration with Sokendai, National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL), High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) and Institute for Molecular Science (IMS) has been performed.

NIJL has already owned a server accessible on the Internet that treats information of all historical materials related to the history of Japan, and is advancing EAD-based archiving. Utilizing tool developed at NIJL, (“Historical materials information sharing database”), we aim to establish a common database for materials information as a prototype. This will be a part of the archival union catalogue in Japan. This means that materials information on the history of Japan and on archives of Inter-University Research Institutes can be retrieved at the same time.

In FY 2007 we performed retrospective conversion around 1300 records into EAD/XML-based information retrieval system for several examples. Here we used a crosswalk (correspondence table) between NIFS-FSAD and EAD. Two web pages for data retrieval were prepared, i.e. for “standard search” and “advanced search”. On the later part, search by key words for individual fields is available.



Fig. 1 Screen view of the “standard search” page.

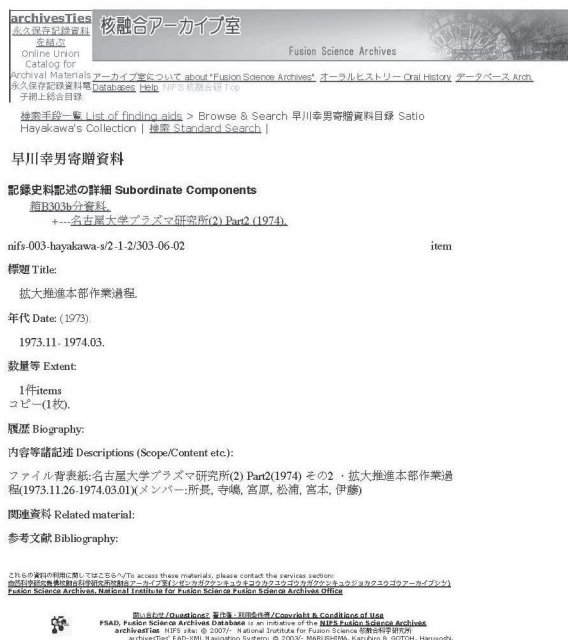


Fig. 2 Detailed description of materials in EAD-based finding aid.

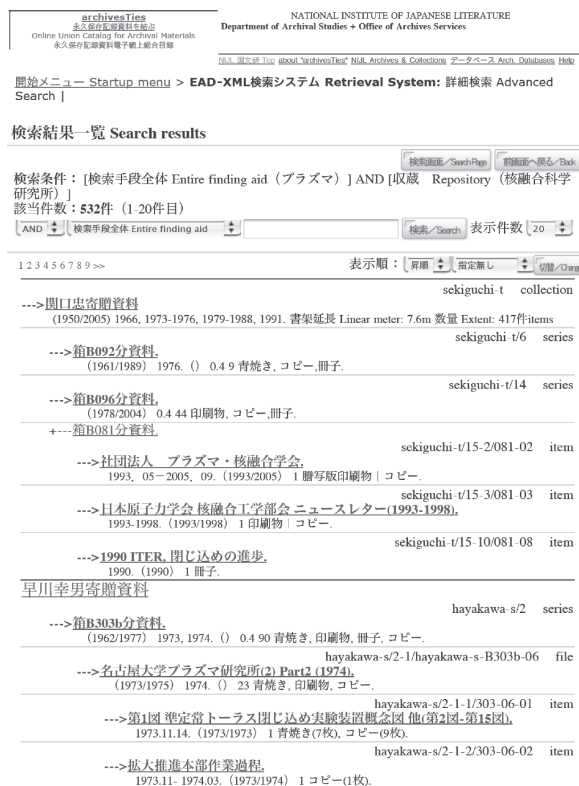


Fig. 3 An example of a search result. Here we can see the hierarchy structure of database, i.e. the origins of materials are recognized as “collection”. “Series” corresponds to a box-number, where the documents are stored and so on.

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