**Name of project:** WikiProject Archival Description

**URL:** <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_Archival_Description>

**Summary (1-2 sentences):**

“Create the world’s most comprehensive high quality database of archival fonds and heritage collections, to represent archival structures within Wikidata where this is deemed useful and to ensure the interlinking between archival finding aids and Wikidata.”

**Discussion:**

1. **Background**

There are several activities that this project aims to coordinate. Among others there is the creation of an inventory of all existing public databases on archival fonds and collections, the implementation and maintenance of ontologies and multilingual thesauri relating to the description of archival fonds and collections, and the use of such data to create applications that improve the user experience when it comes to searching several archives at once.

Furthermore, there are various use cases that the project pursues, e.g. representing internal structures of heritage institutions to bridge the gap between the description of heritage institutions at the organisational level and individual artefacts, i.e. what we would describe using ISDIAH (or EAG) and the component levels in an EAD file.

Participants seem to mainly be individuals, among others Mark Matienzo.

There is one related WikiProject listed: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_Heritage_institutions>

The Wiki page includes a section on data structure:

* three main entities:
  + the institution
  + the institution’s collections
  + the building where the institution and its collections can be found/accessed
* eight main relations:
  + “archives at” between a person/family/corporate body and an institution, extended by “is subject of” between such entities and an archival fonds/collection
  + “collection creator” between a set of archival records and a person/family/corporate body
  + “maintained by” between a set of archival records and an institution
  + “has part” between a collection and several archival fonds
  + an archival fonds is part of a “collection”
  + “is part of” between a series or an item and an archival fonds
  + “location” between an institution and a building
  + “occupant” between a building and an institution
* the related metadata formats listed are ISAD(G), ISAAR(CPF), ISDIAH, ISDF and RiC (but not EAD, EAC-CPF, EAG)

1. **What it does well (1-2 sentences)**

I think, the approach of addressing the gap between the - at parts - detailed descriptions of constituent archival fonds and collections and the descriptions of the institutions holding such descriptions (even if only in the form of the institution’s website) is well worth considering. Especially in cross-institutional, cross-domain and/or cross-national environments it’s often difficult for users to get an understanding of what is held where and what’s available in general.

1. **Shortcomings (1-2 sentences)**

While listed as one of the main activities of this project, I can’t see much connections to existing public databases on archival fonds and collections (yet).

1. **Possible relation to archival description and structured archival data (1-2 sentences)**

With regard to the above mentioned shortcomings, wondering whether this might be a good use case to reinstate the “Aggregators Brown Bag Lunch” at SAA Annual Meeting, or maybe even a more formal setting such as a joint session of TS-EAS, EAS Section and Linked Data Interest Group.