

Archival descriptions are non-literary texts which are written according to descriptive content standards. Adherence to these standards ensures consistency across archival descriptions.

American archivists use *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS) as their descriptive content standard. The second and most current edition was published in 2013.

Reference Code: TBD
Name and Location of Repository:
University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections
Title: Icelandic Constitutional Reform collection
Date: 2014—2018.
Extent: 4,402 digital files (approx. 2 TB).
Name of Creator(s): Eileen Jerrett
Scope and Content: Raw documentary film footage, photographs, social media content, constitutional drafts, academic publications, and other relevant documentation regarding Iceland's participatory revision process for its national constitution. After widespread protests in response to the 2008 economic crisis, Iceland's national constitution was redrafted by an elected council of 25 Icelanders. This committee decided to adopt a model of widespread active participation facilitated through social media platforms; in this way, all Icelanders were given the opportunity to collectively participate in the development of their nation's constitution.
Biography/History Note: Eileen Jerrett, a filmmaker based in Seattle, WA, began developing this collection during the production of her documentary film titled "Blueberry Soup," which focuses on the participatory rewriting process of Iceland's national constitution. In addition to her work as a documentary filmmaker, Jerrett is also the creative director of KRIA: The Iceland Constitutional Archives, a collaborative archival project which seeks to collect and facilitate access to materials relating to the development of Iceland's Constitution.
Custodial History: Photographs and film footage were created by Jerrett during the production of "Blueberry Soup." After finishing the film, Jerrett continued to collect documents and images relating to the participatory redrafting process; these primary source materials were given to Jerrett by their creators, many of whom were active participants in the redrafting process.
Conditions Governing Access: Access to raw footage of interviews, social media content, and academic publications may be restricted; contact repository for details.
Technical Access: Collection is born-digital and requires a computer with one of the following operating systems: Windows 2003, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Mac OS X 10.4+, Ubuntu 7.10+, Fedora Core 9+
Languages and Scripts of the Material: Materials in Icelandic and English. Some English translations of Icelandic-language materials are available.

Canadian archivists use *Rules for Archival Description* (RAD) as their descriptive content standard; the revised and most current edition was published in 2008.

Title and Statement of Responsibility
Title proper: Iceland Constitutional Reform collection.
Title notes: Source of title: Title was chosen by the compiler of the collection.
General material designation: Multiple media (electronic).
Level of description: Series.
Repository: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections.
Reference code: TBD

Dates of Creation
Dates of creation: 2014—2018.
Place of creation: Iceland; United States of America.
Name of creator: Eileen Jerrett.

Physical Description
Extent of descriptive unit: 4,402 digital files (electronic).
Dimensions: approx. 2 TB.

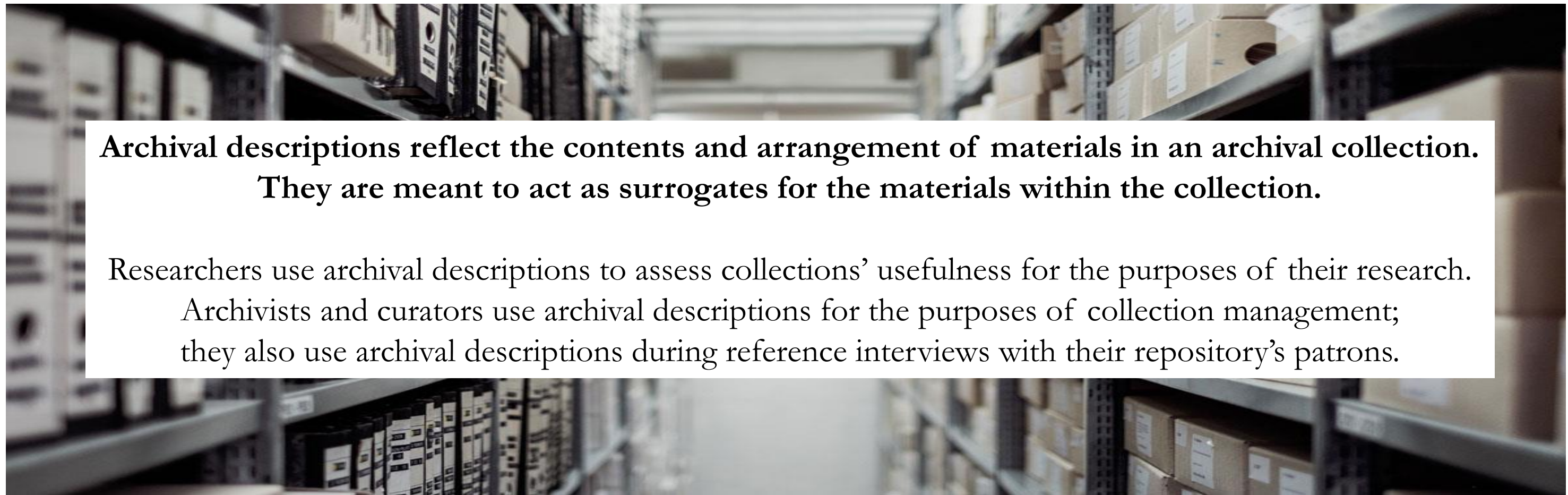
Archival Description
Administrative history/Biographical sketch: Eileen Jerrett is primarily known as a documentary filmmaker; her educational background is in journalism. After founding Wilma's Wish Productions in 2006, Jerrett travelled through Iceland in the late 2000s to investigate the nation's art scene and the effects of the 2008 economic crisis on Icelanders. She began work on her documentary entitled "Blueberry Soup," which focuses on Iceland's decision to revise its Constitution using a model of active participation facilitated through social media platforms, in order to bring attention to the way that the nation sought to recover from its economic crisis. "Blueberry Soup" was completed in 2013, and has been shown around the world. In addition to her work as a documentary filmmaker, Jerrett is also the creative director of KRIA: The Iceland Constitutional Archives, a collaborative archival project which seeks to collect and facilitate access to materials relating to the development of Iceland's Constitution.
Custodial history: Photographs and film footage were created by Jerrett during the production of "Blueberry Soup." After finishing the film, Jerrett continued to collect documents and images relating to the participatory redrafting process; these primary source materials were given to Jerrett by their creators, many of whom were active participants in the redrafting process.
Scope and content: Raw documentary film footage, photographs, social media content, constitutional drafts, academic publications, and other relevant documentation regarding Iceland's participatory revision process for its national constitution. After widespread protests in response to the 2008 economic crisis, Iceland's national constitution was redrafted by an elected council of 25 Icelanders. This committee decided to adopt a model of widespread active participation facilitated through social media platforms; in this way, all Icelanders were given the opportunity to collectively participate in the development of their nation's constitution.

Notes
Language of material: Icelandic, English.
Note: Some Icelandic-language materials are accompanied by translations into English.
Associated materials: "Blueberry Soup" may be viewed on the website for Wilma's Wish Productions (https://www.wilmaswishes.com/). KRIA: The Iceland Constitutional Archives (www.websitplaceholder.com)
Accruals: Further accruals are expected.
Conditions Governing Access: Access to raw footage of interviews, social media content, and academic publications may be restricted; contact repository for details.
Technical Access: Collection is born-digital and requires a computer with one of the following operating systems: Windows 2003, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Mac OS X 10.4+, Ubuntu 7.10+, Fedora Core 9+.

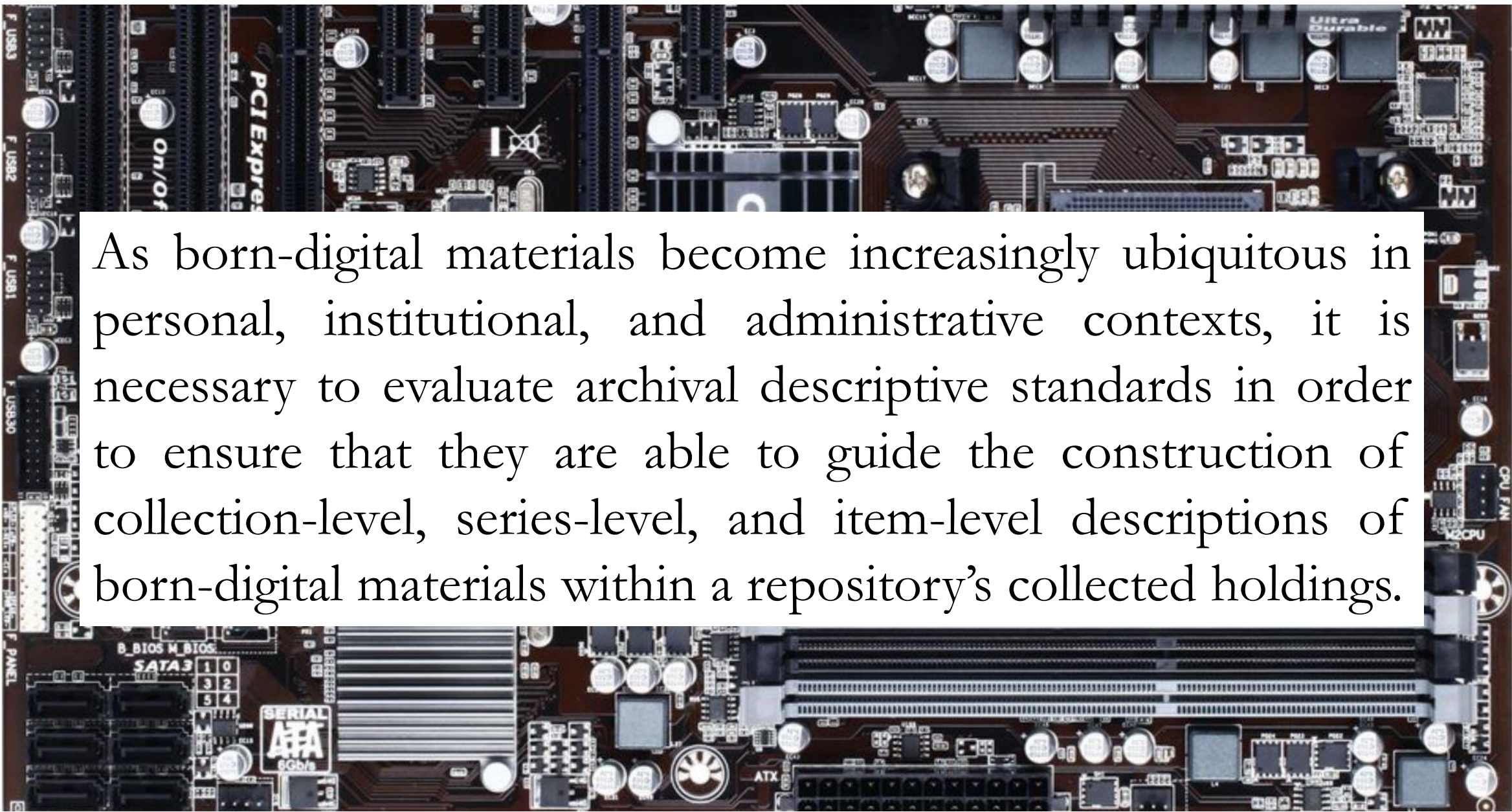
Project creator: Claire McDonald, UW iSchool
Project sponsor: Dr. Joseph Tennis, UW iSchool
Date of creation: 2018—2019.
Extent: Two folders and one notebook, containing annotated academic publications and handwritten notes; 49 born-digital textual documents, including various drafts of project deliverables (0.13 cubic feet; 32.2 MB).

Thanks to:
Emily Dominick, Eileen Jerrett, Ann Lally, Dr. Joseph Tennis, and Dr. Nicholas Weber.

Describing Born-Digital Collections: Adapting and Improving Content Standards



Researchers use archival descriptions to assess collections' usefulness for the purposes of their research. Archivists and curators use archival descriptions for the purposes of collection management; they also use archival descriptions during reference interviews with their repository's patrons.



Current editions of archival descriptive standards are not completely adequate in guiding descriptions of some documentary elements of born-digital materials:

Date of Creation

This element seeks to identify the date or range of dates during which a collection was created, assembled, and used.

Extent

This element conveys the quantity of materials within a collection. This quantity is expressed in terms of the amount of physical space occupied by these materials in linear or cubic feet, and the quantity of material types.

Material Type, or General Material Designation

This element conveys the generic form or forms of materials within a collection. These generic forms include: audio recordings, cartographic materials, moving images, technical drawings, textual records, etc.

Future research is needed in regards to the Systems of Arrangement element.

This element seeks to convey how the materials within a collection are arranged and organized. The organization of a collection usually reflects the original order of the materials.

Born-digital materials are often put into order by the platform used to store them as well as by their creator. Additionally, born-digital file structures may be significantly more complicated than their analog counterparts.

Forthcoming editions of descriptive content standards must recognize the fundamental differences between analog materials and born-digital materials, and provide explicit guidance on how to describe these additions to the human record in a way that adequately conveys their fundamental documentary elements.

Recommendations for Adapting Descriptive Standards

Dates of Creation

The description should use the date or range of dates as presented by the materials; the last date of modification should be used in the description, accompanied by a note which clarifies how the date or range of dates was derived.

Exemplified using DACS
Date: 2014—2018
Note: Dates are derived from document metadata, and reflect the last date of modification.

Exemplified using RAD
Dates of creation: 2014—2018 (Creation)
Note: Dates of creation were derived from document metadata, and reflect the last date of modification.

In future editions of descriptive standards, it may be useful to include a new class of dates intended to convey the last date of modification so that users do not have to rely on an added note for this clarification.

Extent

The description should include the number of items within a collection; this number may be derived manually or through automation. It should also include the amount of bytes occupied by the collection.

Exemplified using DACS
Extent: 4,402 born-digital documents, videos, audio recordings, photographs, memes, social media posts, correspondence, and other materials (approx. 2 TB).

Exemplified using RAD
Extent of descriptive unit: 4,402 born-digital textual documents, videos, audio recordings, photographs, memes, social media posts, correspondence, and other materials.
Dimensions: approx. 2 TB.

In future editions of descriptive standards, explicit guidelines should be given on how to quantify born-digital materials, and these guidelines should be accompanied by relevant examples.

Material Type

The description should not treat born-digital materials as a material type, but as a medium for the aforementioned material types; these material types should be listed, along with a reference to the materials' born-digital nature.

Exemplified using DACS, while considering that Material Type is represented within the Extent Element
Extent: 4,402 born-digital documents, videos, audio recordings, photographs, memes, social media posts, correspondence, and other materials (approx. 2 TB).

Exemplified using RAD
General material designation: Textual records, photographs, audio recordings, and videos (electronic).

Future editions of descriptive materials should include additional material types, and these should be updated regularly. Digital platforms allow for the creation of material types which are not possible with analog mediums, such as social media posts, and lists of material types should reflect these.