

# How to dri<sup>o</sup>

## DRI how-to: Linking Digital Objects using EAD

A suitable collection organisation, as well as complete, rich metadata records for collections and digital objects is central for searching, browsing and discovering datasets. Additionally, the ability to link digital objects to one another can enhance data visualisation and also provide the end user with richer contextual information and navigation through collections. This is particularly important when exploring a vast number of digital collections.

This type of “linking” information can be catalogued in the metadata records, and as the DRI’s supported metadata standards include different types, and mechanisms, to incorporate such information, a crosswalk from each of these into “DRI relationship terms” has been implemented so as to allow for uniform, generic visualisation through the Repository’s user interface.

### Specifying linking information in EAD Metadata

While EAD metadata includes collection organisation information explicitly (i.e. metadata records hierarchically nested within the EAD finding aid), the standard does not incorporate metadata terms for linking digital objects within a collection in ways other than their hierarchical organisation. However, the metadata records can include external links to any related materials, publicly available, in other digital form. For DRI digital objects including such information in their metadata records, it will be displayed under “Related Materials”, in the form of clickable URLs.

Such types of linking, i.e. link to external, digital materials, can be added to the metadata records by using two EAD metadata terms: `<ead:relatedmaterial>` and `<ead:altformavail>`. Below is an example of how these elements can be used within the metadata record to include links to relevant digital materials external to DRI.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<ead:ead xmlns:ead="urn:isbn:1-931666-22-9">
  <ead:archdesc level="fonds">
    <ead:did>
      <ead:unitid countrycode="IE" repositorycode="IE-NIVAL" identifier="MH">IE-NIVAL/MH</ead:unitid>
    </ead:did>
    <ead:relatedmaterial>
      <ead:extref xlink:href="http://www.nival.ie/collections/artists-database/view/artist/name/healy-michael/">
        NIVAL, Artists database: Healy, Michael
      </ead:extref>
    </ead:relatedmaterial>
  </ead:archdesc>
</ead:ead>
```

## EAD Types of Relationships

The following table summarises the relevant EAD metadata terms that can be used in the finding aid to describe external, related materials in digital form.

DRI Relationship	EAD Term	Description
Has Related Material	<code>&lt;ead:relatedmaterial&gt;</code> either  within <code>&lt;ead:archdesc&gt;</code> for the collection container  within <code>&lt;ead:c&gt;</code> (unnumbered) or <code>&lt;ead:c01&gt;</code> - <code>&lt;ead:c12&gt;</code> (numbered) for any other components within the finding aid	Information about materials that are not physically or logically included in the material described in the finding aid but that may be of use to a reader because of an association to the described materials
Has Alternative Form	<code>&lt;ead:altformavail&gt;</code>  within <code>&lt;ead:archdesc&gt;</code> for the collection container  within <code>&lt;ead:c&gt;</code> (unnumbered) or <code>&lt;ead:c01&gt;</code> - <code>&lt;ead:c12&gt;</code> (numbered) for any other components within the finding aid	Information about copies of the materials being described, including the type of alternative form, significant control numbers, location, and source for ordering if applicable.

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