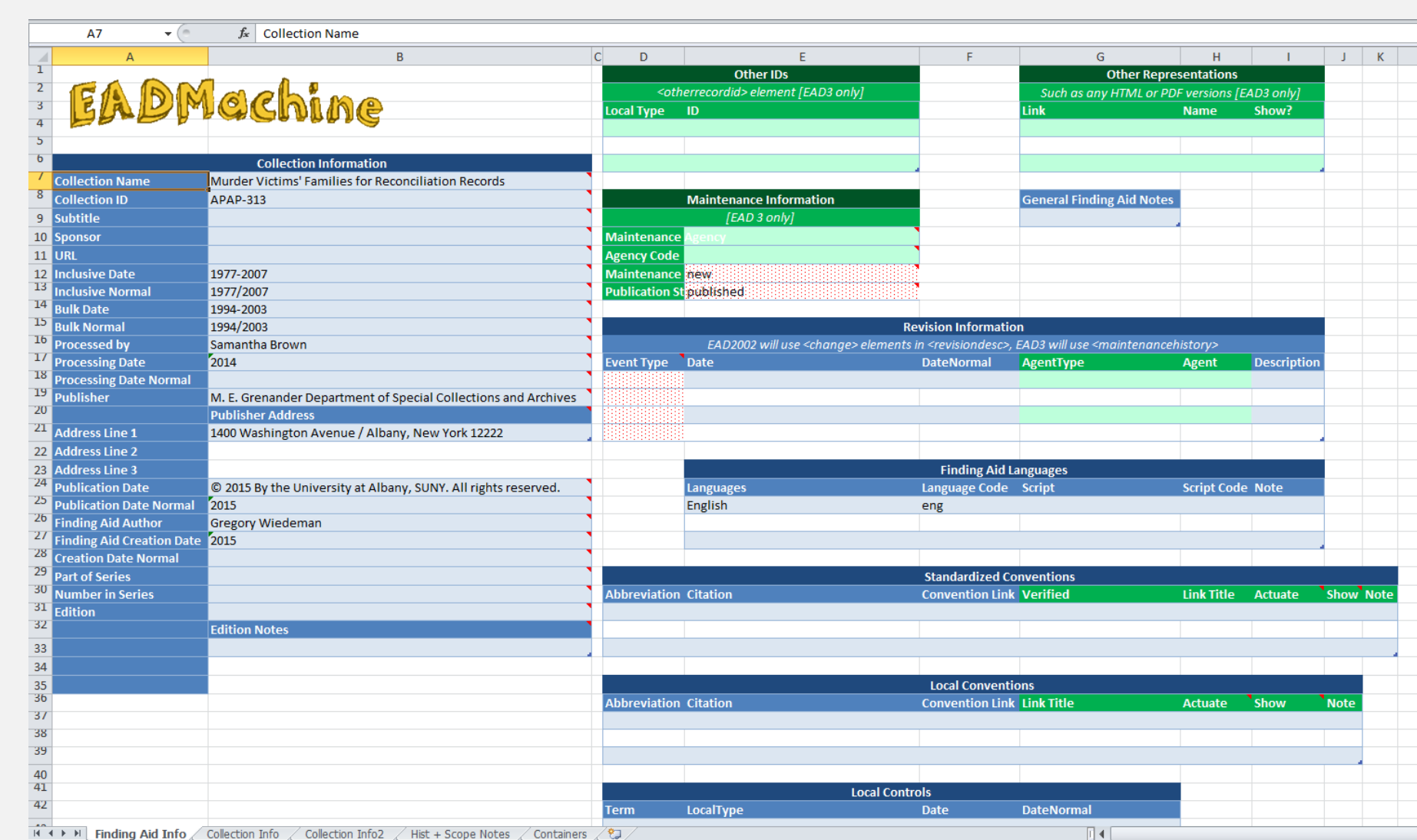# EADMachine: An Easy EAD Creation and Editing Tool

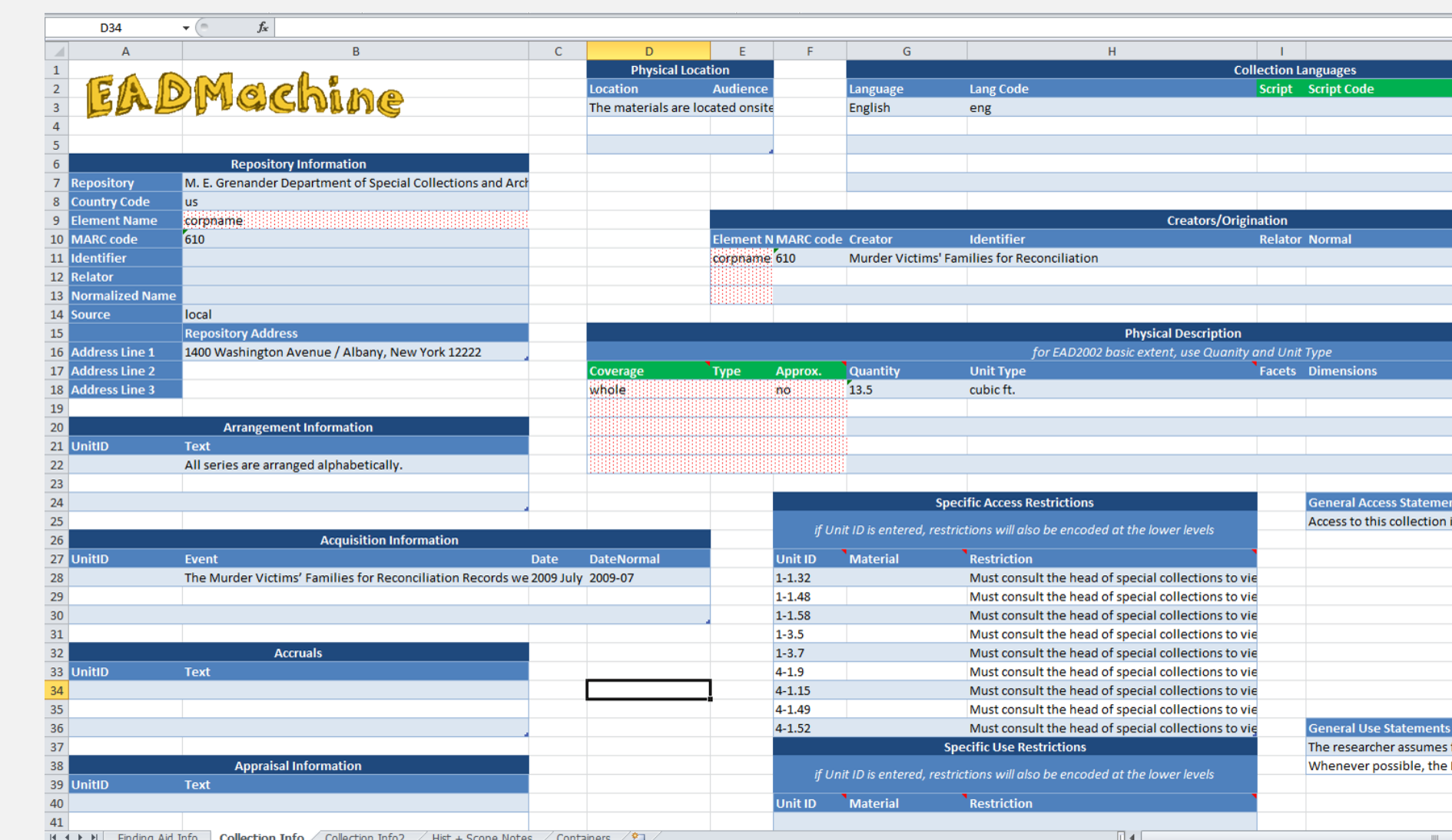## Automating Complex EAD Finding Aids for the National Death Penalty Archives

The Problem:

- Data entry interface familiar to Student Assistants
- Consistently Replicate Local EAD Usage
- No Variation Among Finding Aids
- Unitized and Portable
- Not dependent on Project Archivist

The Solution:

- Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet mapped to internal XML schema
- Python GUI application that encodes new data matching the structure of a local EAD file
- Application reads a local EAD file and matches tag usage
- Produces EAD file consistent with local practices and a flat HTML file for simple online display
- 100% automated, no hand-coding or XML experience required

EADMachine features:

- Data-Entry using Microsoft Excel template
- Comments from the EAD tag library and formatting promote robust and consistent metadata
- Macro reads italicized and bold text and inserts <emph> tags
- Formula automates customizable unique identifiers at every level
- Make use of Excel features like spellcheck, find and replace, etc.

- 100% native XML behind the scenes
- Uses an EAD Template to match local tag and attribute usage
- Use a default template or your own local EAD file
- Made small customizations by adding or changing elements or attributes within the EAD template

- Uses automated and customizable unique ID system
- Encode unique IDs at every level
- Not container-dependent

- Supports both EAD2002 and EAD3, a near-full implementation
- Includes new <control> elements, including refined revision and maintenance elements
- Includes experimental <relations> element
- Adds all complex elements at any level

- Automatically produces a flat HTML finding aid
- Produces text files that are easily inspected and edited

- Complies to C to be run on any Windows Machine as .exe application
- Runs entirely on Windows desktop, no server required
- Free and open-source GNU-GPL license
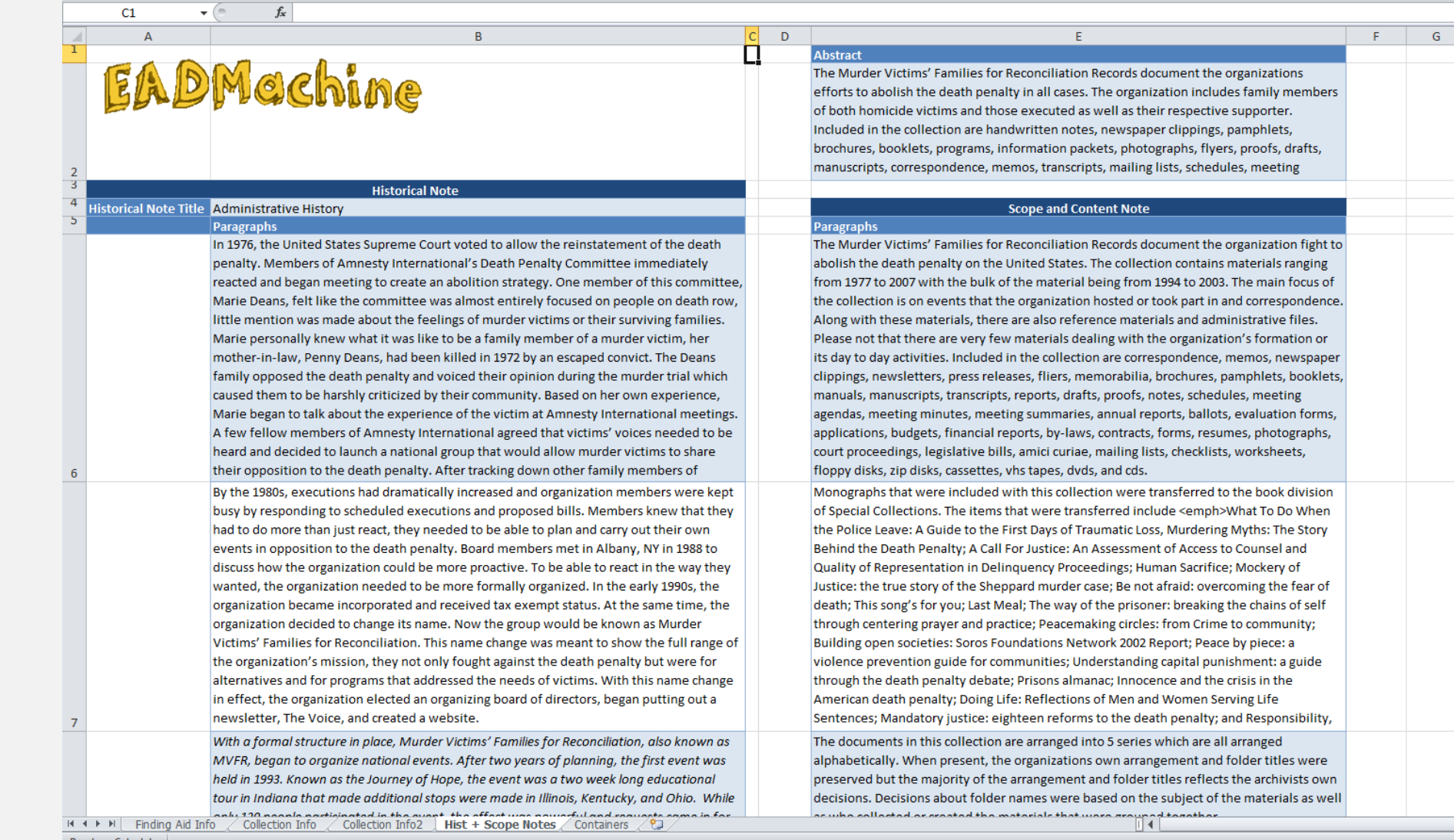
Simple Data Entry with Excel Template:

- Enter detailed Finding Aid information for <eadheader> and <control>
- Comments provide information about fields from the EAD Tag Library
- Allows for simple finding aids, just leave fields blank
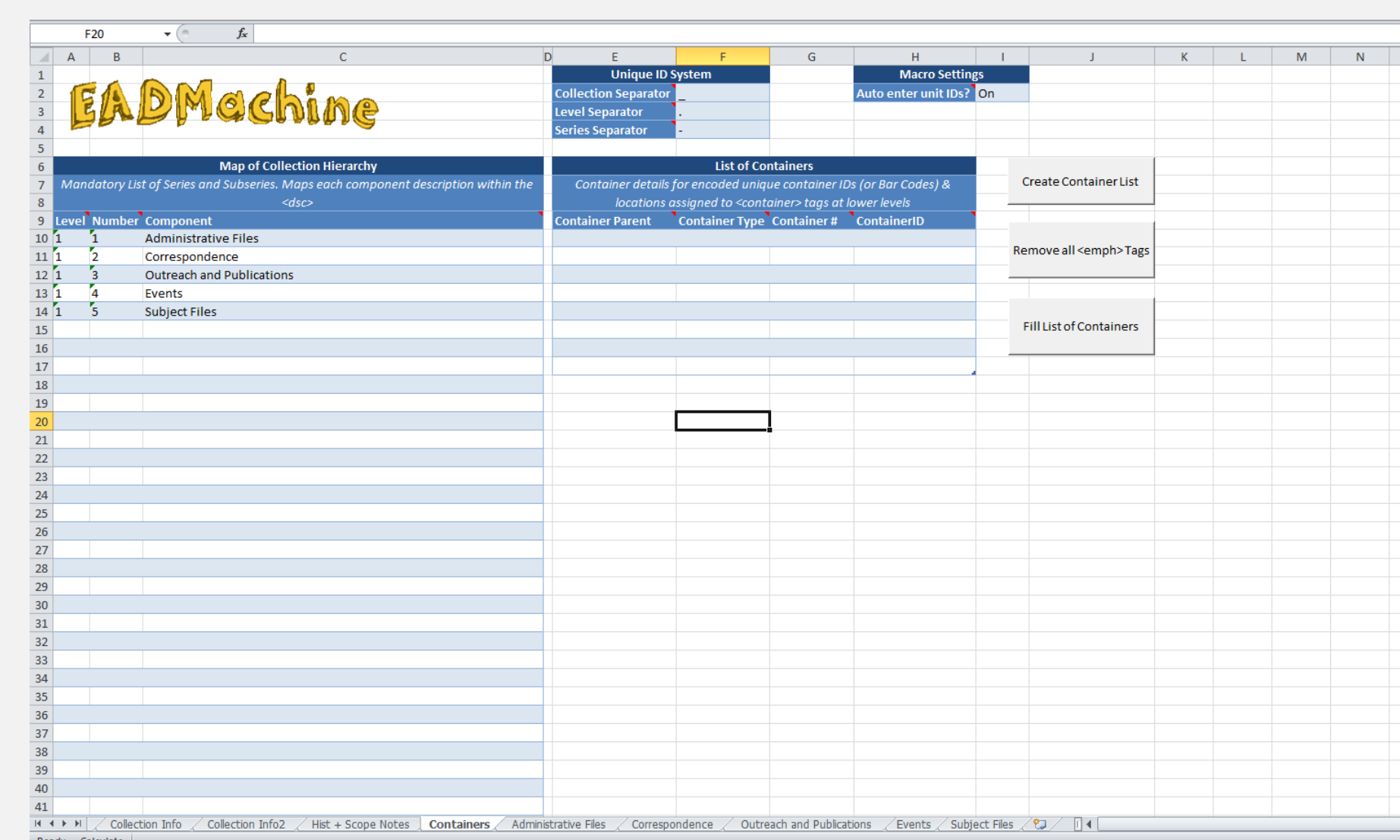
- Formatting identifies EAD3 only elements and mandated content
- Include complex <physdesc> and <physdescstructured> information
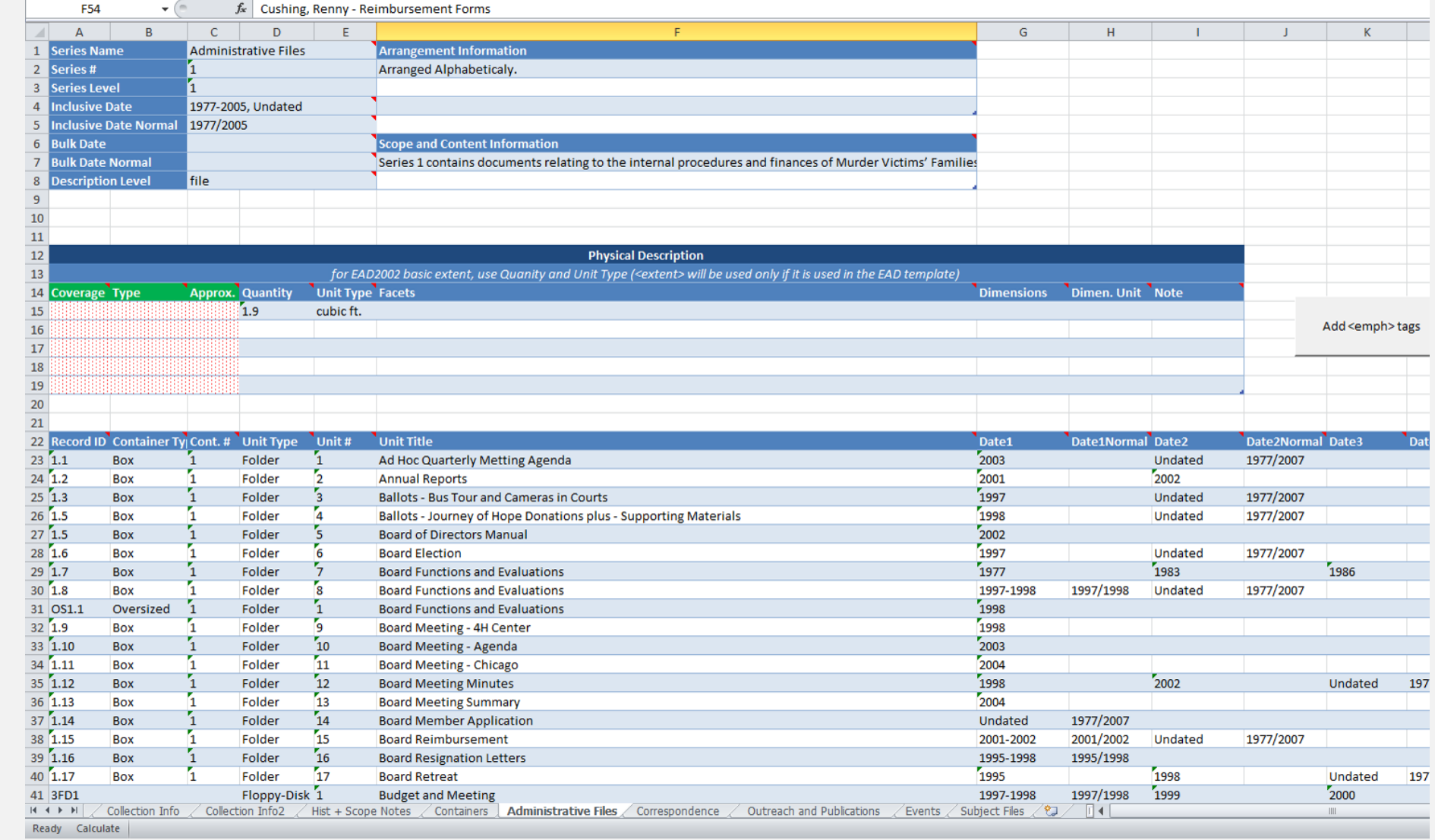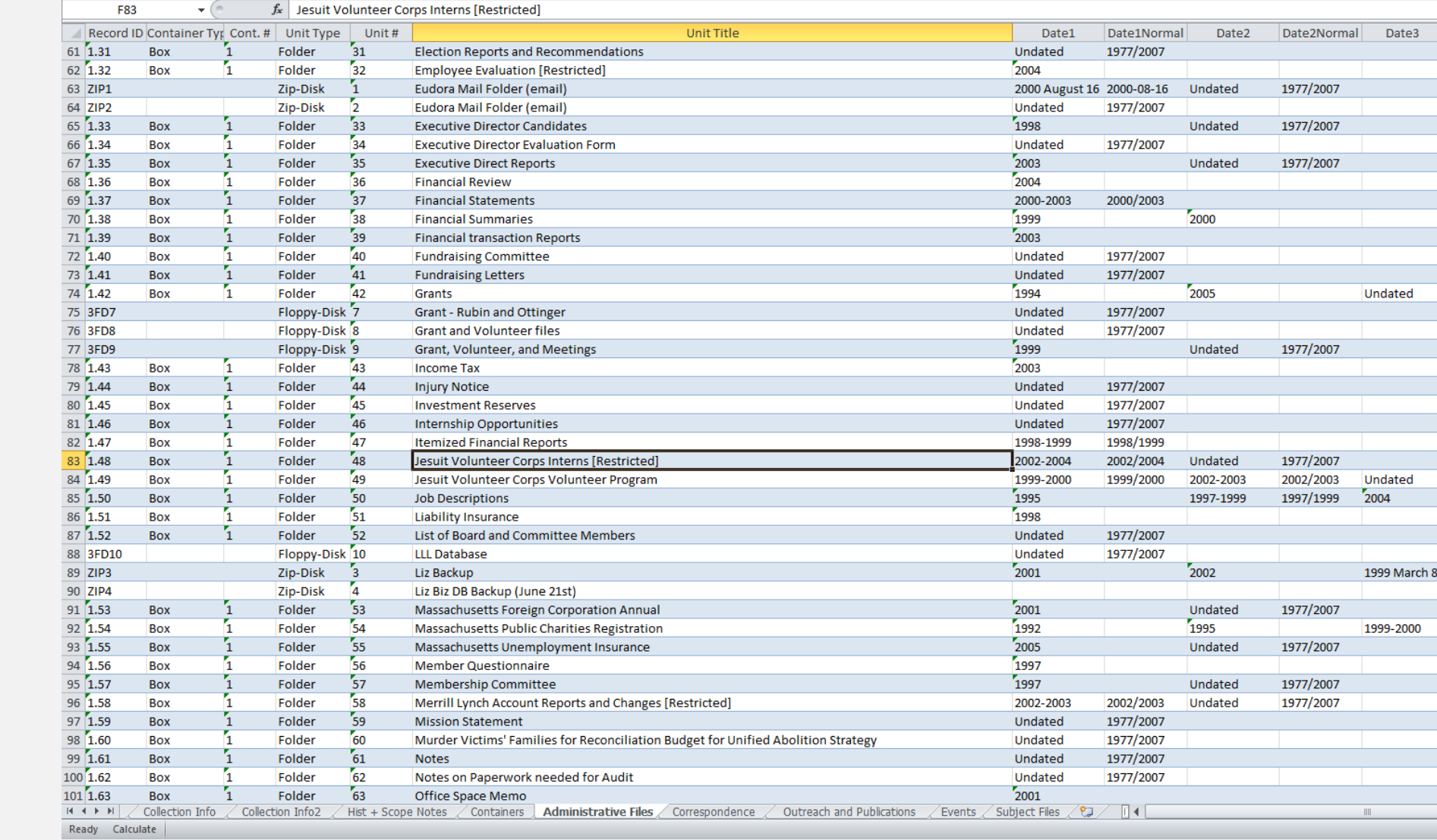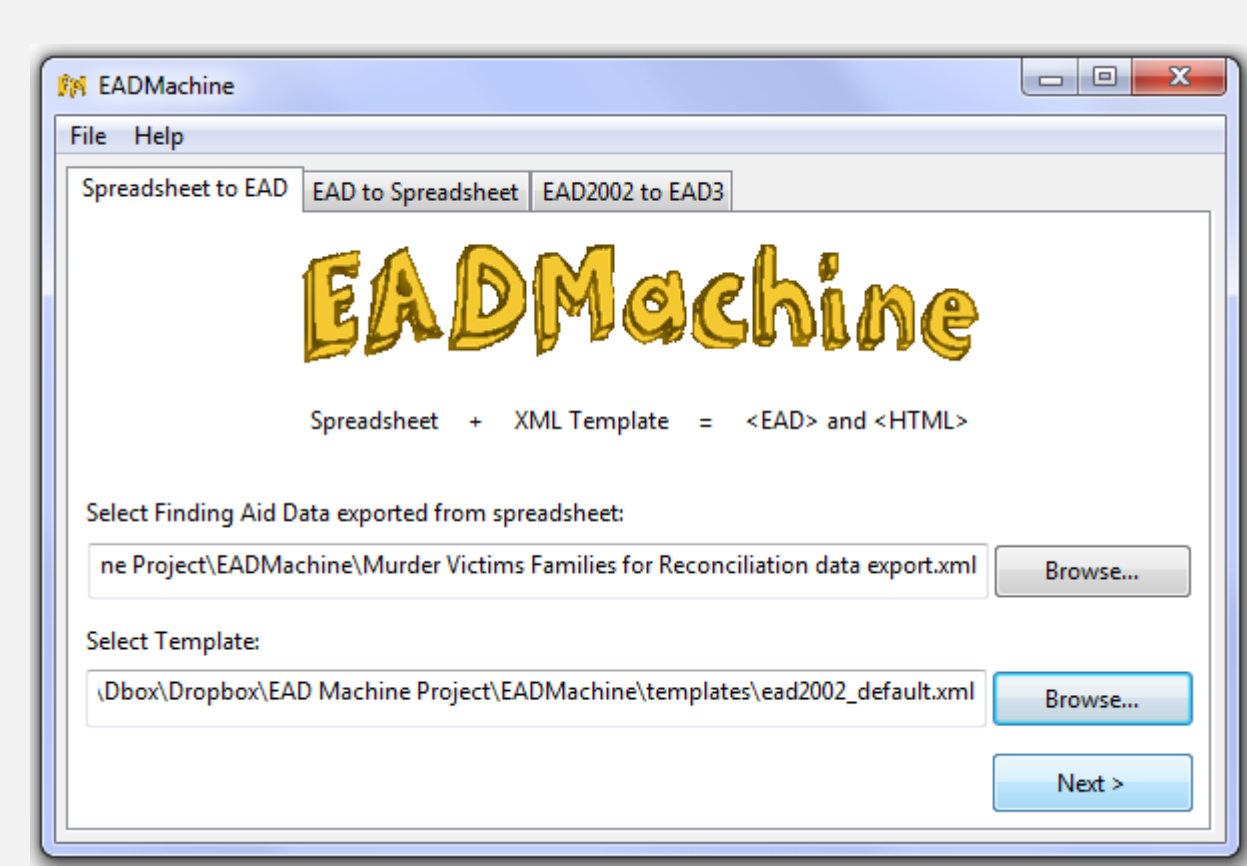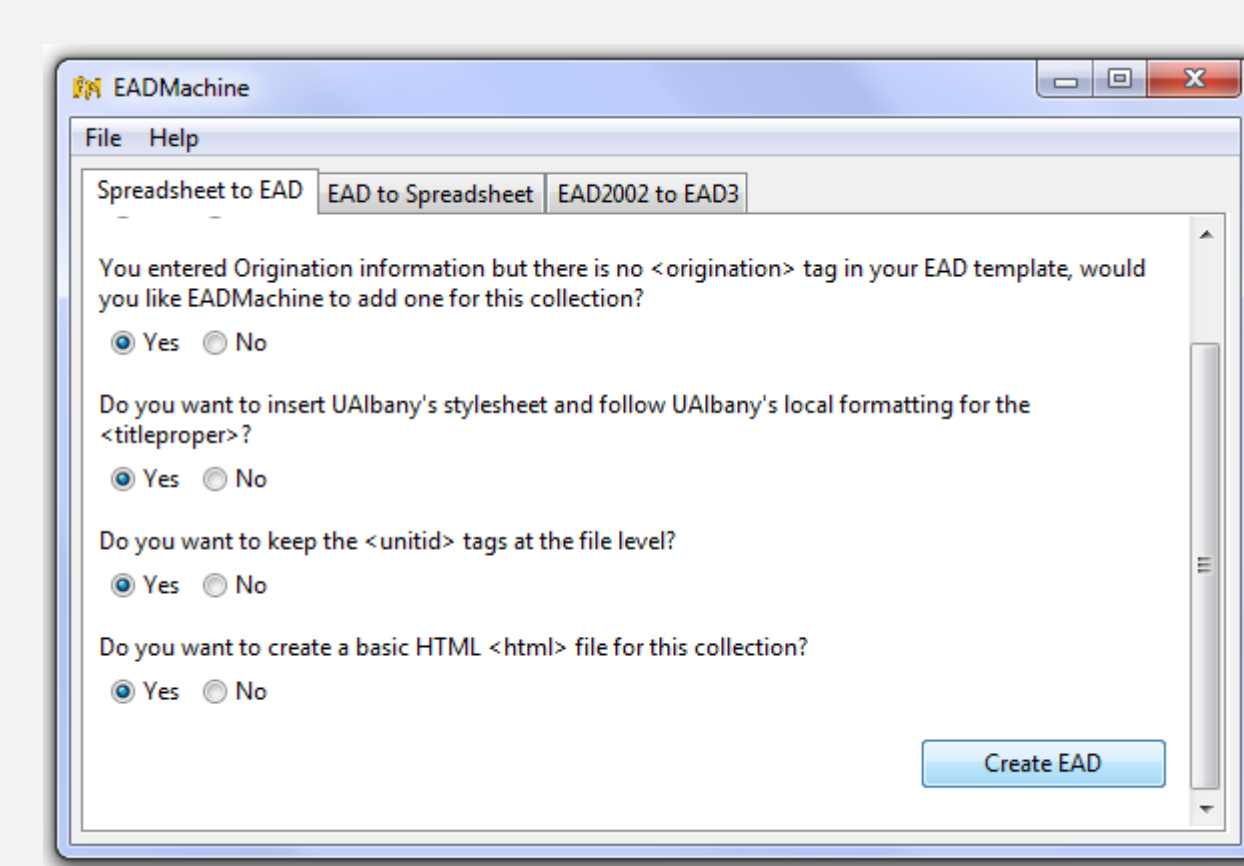- Encode special <archdesc> elements at any level using unique IDs

- Enter Abstract, Scope and Content Notes and Historical Notes by paragraph
- Use <scope> at lower levels using unique IDs

- Enter list of components and a Macro automatically creates each series sheet
- Customize the unique ID system with your own punctuation
- Enter list of containers to add container IDs such as bar codes

- Enter complex information at the series level, including complex <physdesc> info
- Fields for up to 5 unitdates per record, with fields for normalized dates
- Automatically enters <emph> tags for italicized or bolded text

- Familiar data-entry environment
- Unique ID automated with box and folder numbers, or enter IDs manually
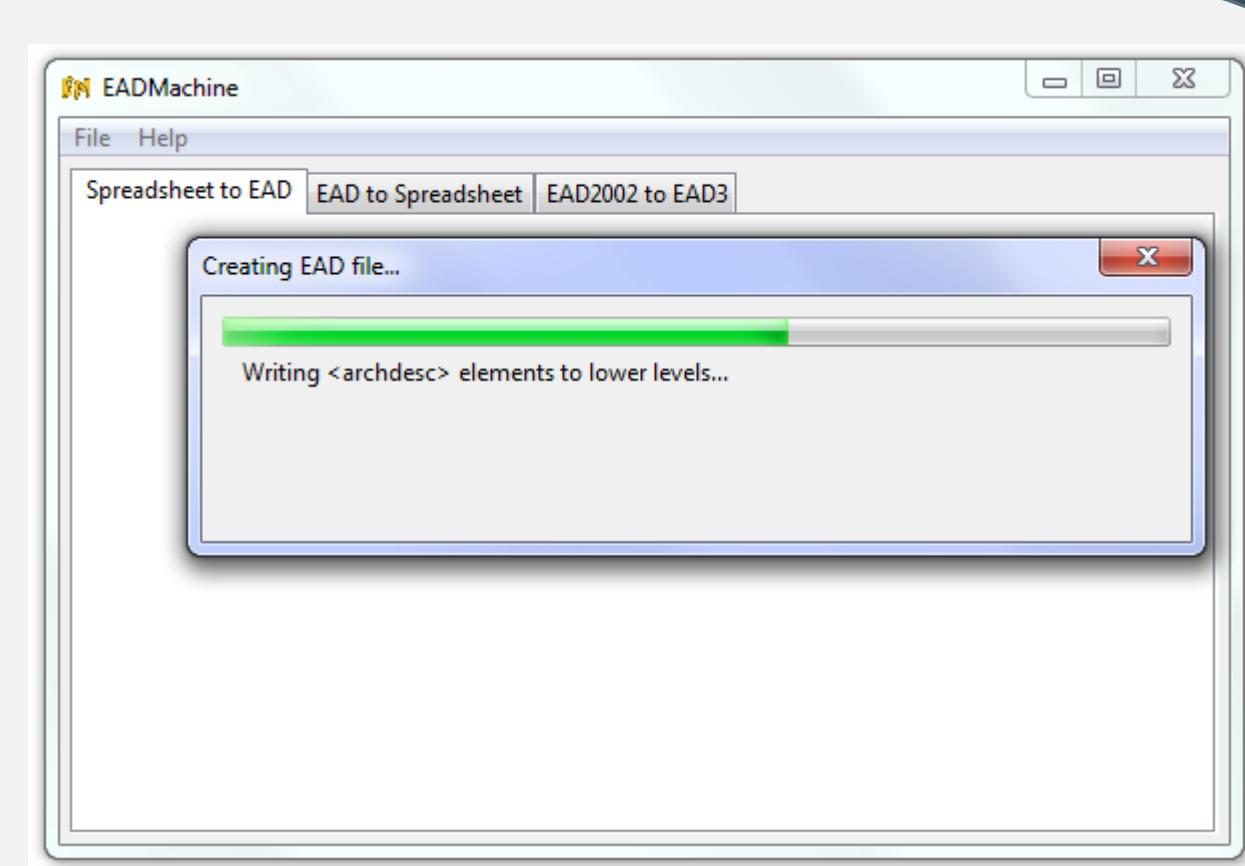- Make use of spellcheck, copy and paste, find and replace, etc.

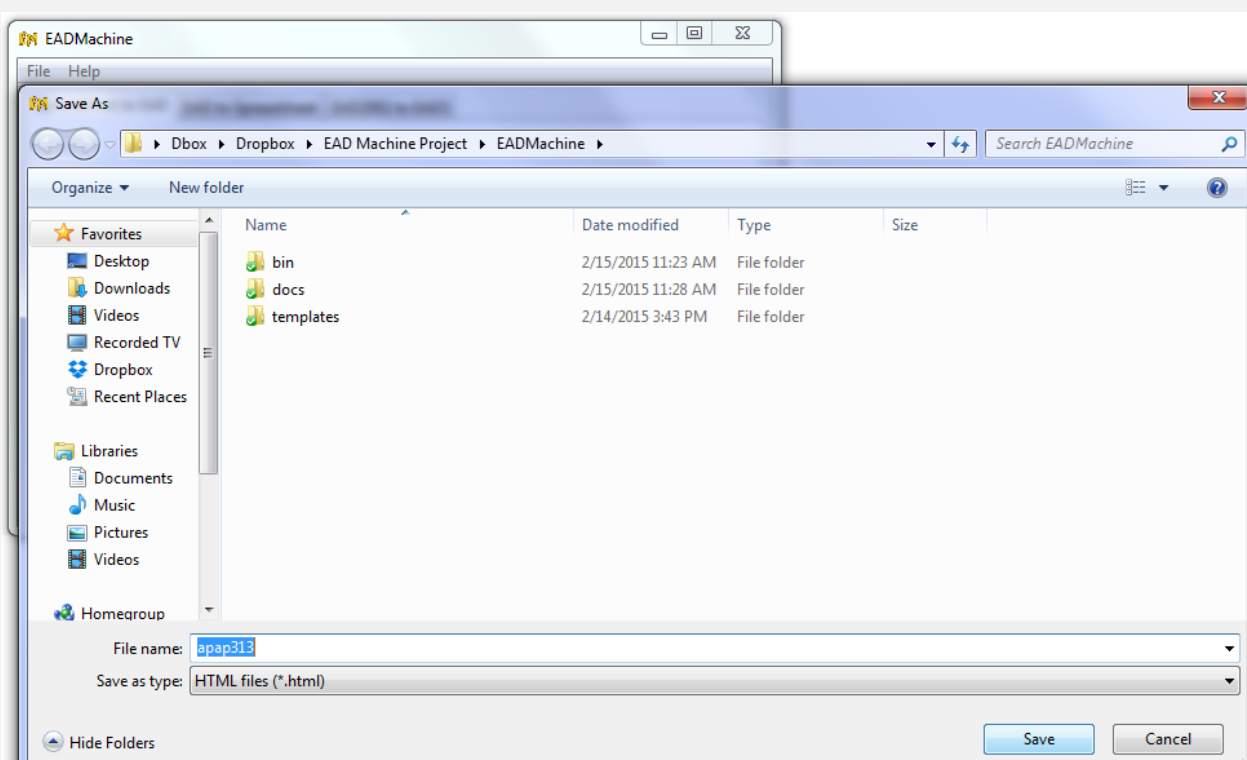### Easy Automated Encoding, Matching Local EAD file:

- Simply download and run as .exe application
- Browse and select data from Excel and EAD template
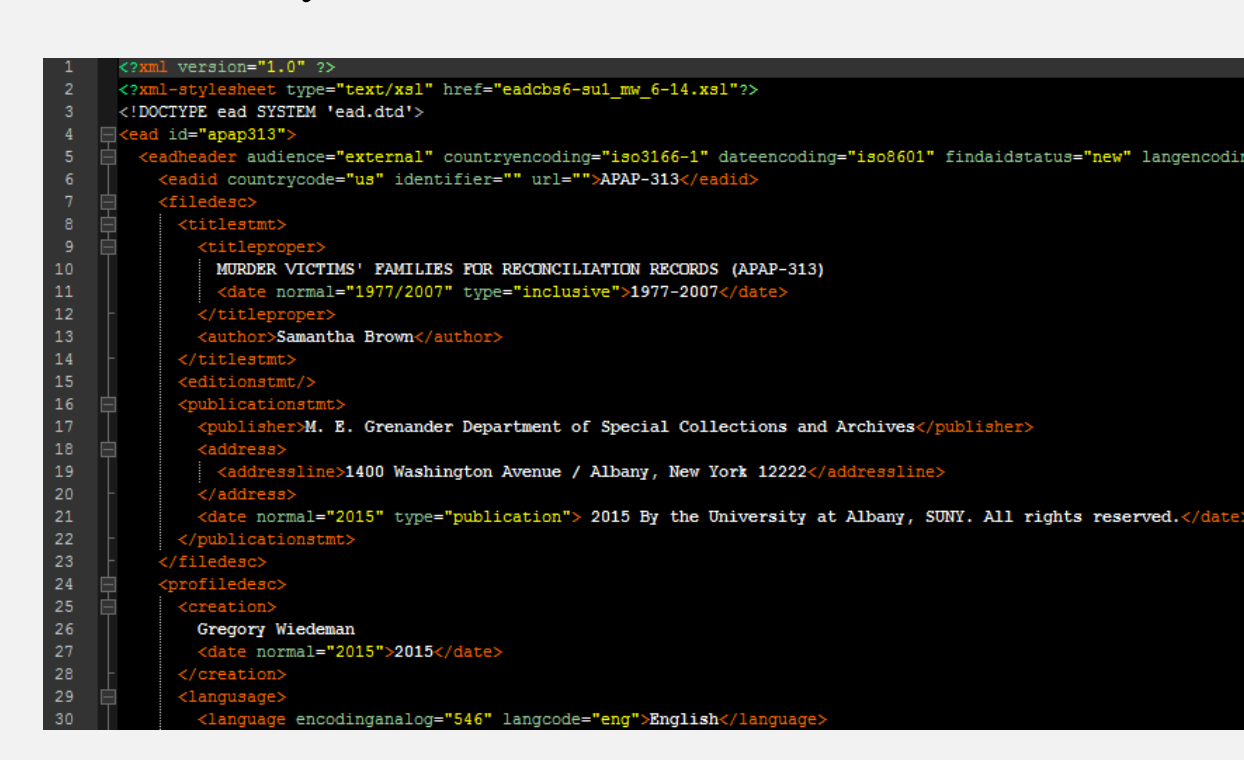- Use a default template or your own local EAD file!

- Automatically recognizes EAD2002 and EAD3
- Asks basic format questions
- Asks if you want to create a flat HTML file

- Simple GUI monitors progress

- Simply save your complete EAD XML file

- EAD can be opened and examined for quality control

- Can create basic HTML page for simple and straightforward finding aid display on the web

Building New Access Tools for the National Death Penalty Archive (2013)

In 2013 the University at Albany, SUNY was awarded a CLIR Hidden Collections grant to create EAD finding aids for ten archival collections held in the National Death Penalty Archive (NDPA) by December 2015. The NDPA consists of records and papers of leading national figures and organizations who work in the legal, political and educational fields, and documents the contentious legal, political and legislative struggles over capital punishment. The project will arrange, describe and catalog ten NDPA collections totaling 710 cubic feet, including the David Baldus Papers, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Records, and Capital Jury Project interviews with over 1,200 jurors from 353 capital trials in 14 states.

EADMachine available at:

www.github.com/gwiedeman/eadmachine

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Project Archivist For CLIR Hidden Collections Grant:
"Building New Access Tools for the National Death Penalty Archive" (2013)
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