

**docuteam context**

## **A New Archival Information System Based on Records in Contexts (RiC)**

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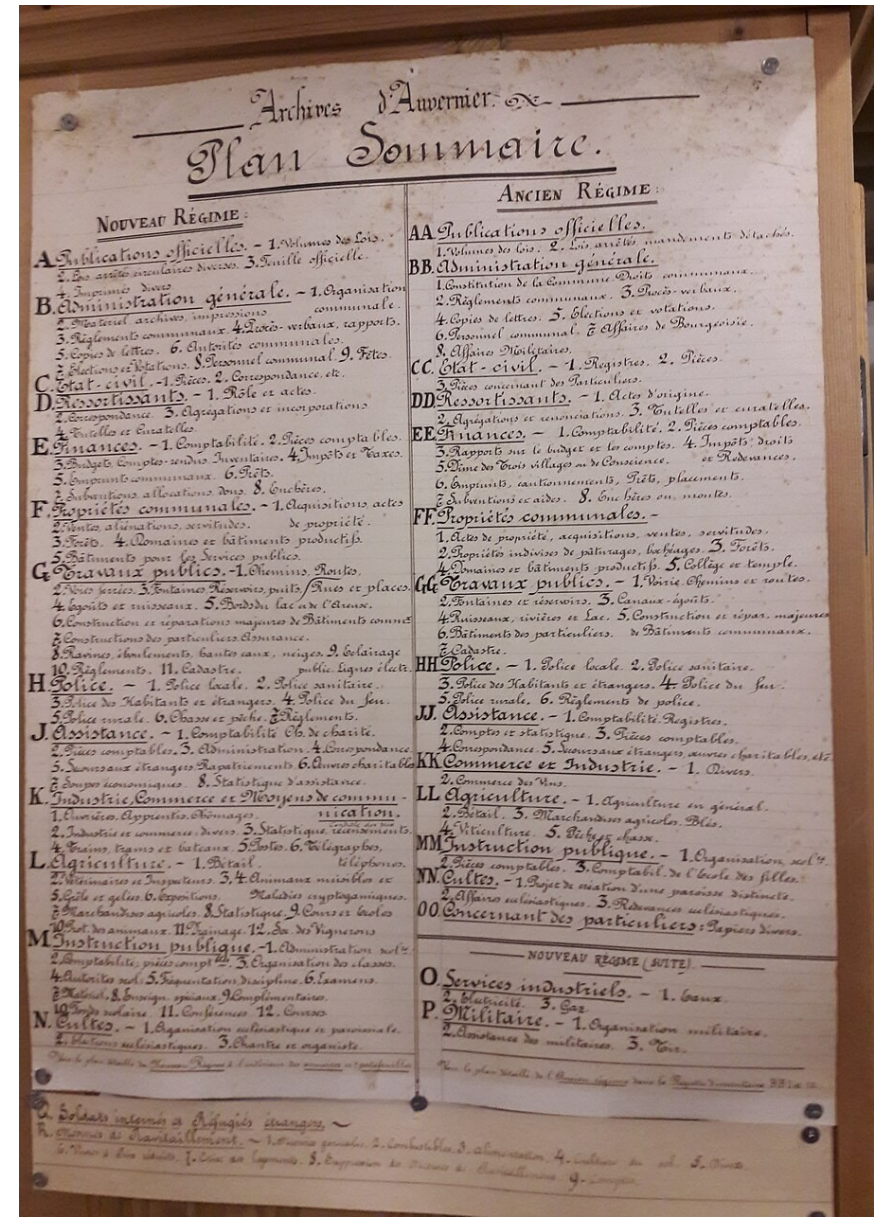
# The Problem: A Generation of AIS Past Its Prime

## Setting the stage – why change is necessary

- Today's Archival Information Systems (AIS) landscape: systems built in the 1990s–2000s, barely maintained
- Conceptual monoculture: almost exclusively ISAD(G)-based, strictly hierarchical
- The world has changed: digital records, complex provenance, multi-hierarchical relationships. The old model can't keep up
- A generation of archivists working with tools that don't reflect the administrative and archival reality anymore

Historical finding aid at the municipal archives in Auvernier

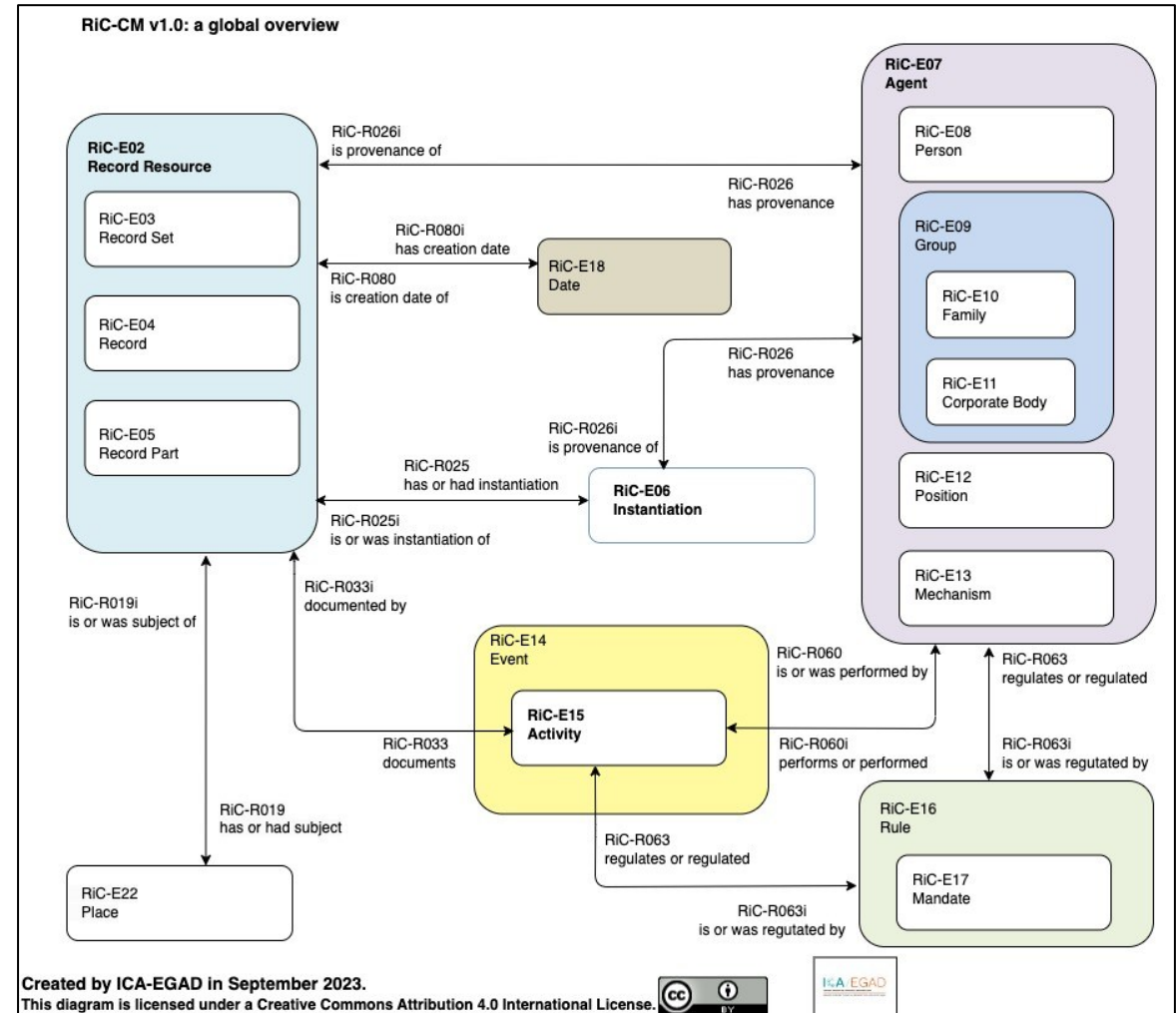
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finding\\_aid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finding_aid)



# The Answer: Records in Contexts (RiC)

## The new international standard as foundation

- RiC: developed by ICA's Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD) – docuteam actively involved
- Key conceptual shift: from a strict mono-hierarchy to multi-hierarchical, relational description
- RiC-O (Ontology): machine-readable, Linked Data-ready formalization of the standard
- Not just a new data structure, but a new way of thinking about archival context and provenance



# docuteam's Unique Position

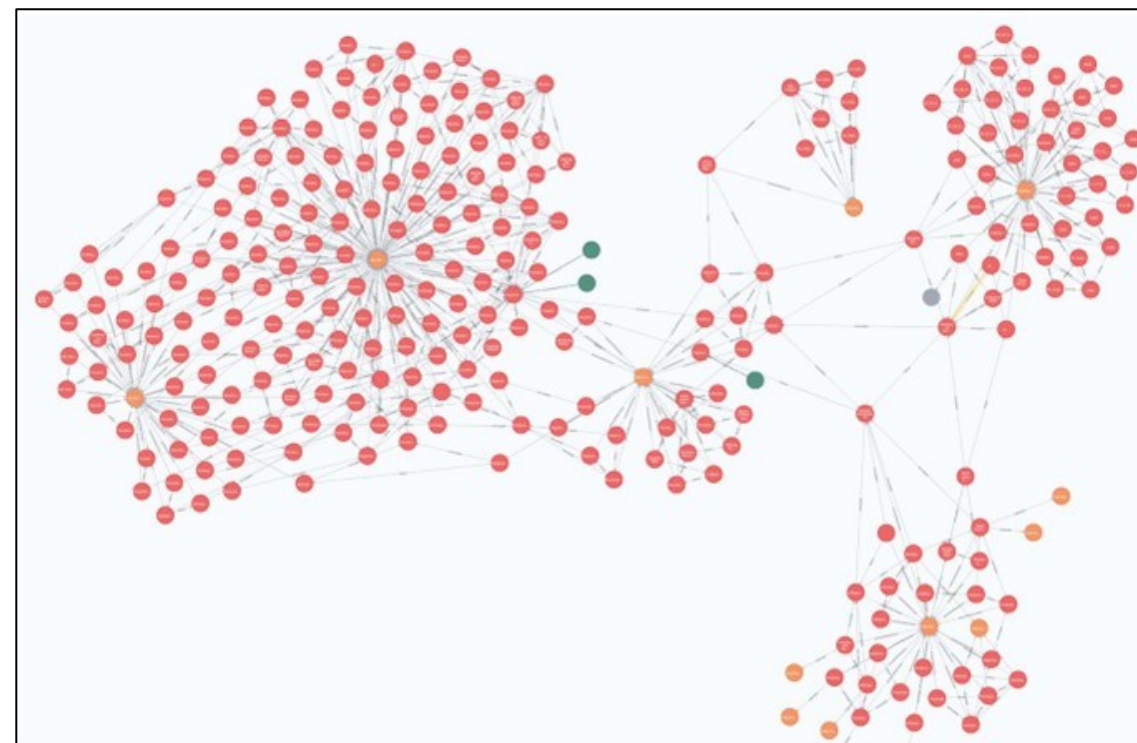
*Why we built this – and why we could*

- docuteam: not only software developer, but active archival services provider
- Our own research archivists use docuteam context daily → real-world feedback loop from day one
- This dual role shaped a system that answers genuine professional needs
- Two members of EGAD work at docuteam: direct involvement in standard development



## *What's under the hood*

- Graph database backend. Reflects the networked, multi-hierarchical nature of RiC natively
- Strict adherence to open standards throughout. No vendor lock-in
- Web-based, multi-tenant, multilingual, SSO-capable
- Data stored as a graph: archival descriptions, agents, places, concepts as interconnected nodes









# Working with docuteam context: Familiar, Yet More Powerful

*The archivists' perspective – no need to be afraid*

- Classical archival tree (Archive tectonics) still present: navigate, drag & drop, create/delete units
- Form-based cataloguing: configurable forms per institution, per record type
- ISAD(G) workflows fully mappable. Institutions don't have to abandon their existing practices
- Grid view for efficient bulk editing and quality control
- «You catalogue the way you always did – the system does the RiC part for you»

The screenshot displays the 'Archiv der Republik der Vergessenen Erinnerung' interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with icons and labels for 'Records', 'Sites', 'Authority data', 'Accessions', 'Search', and 'Administration'. The main area features a search bar at the top and a hierarchical tree view below it. The tree structure is as follows:

- Archiv der Republik der Vergessenen Erinnerung
  - Republik der vergessenen Erinnerungen
    - Institutionelle Archive (1830-07-18)
    - Private Archive (1780-01-01 - 2023-02-28)
      - LECL Bestand Familie Leclerc (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
        - 1.1 Familienkorrespondenz (1780-01-01 - 1878-01-01)
        - 1.2 Photographies et albums de famille (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
          - 1.2.1 Geburts-, Heirats- und Sterbeurkunden (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
          - 1.2.2 Diplome und Zertifikate (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
          - 1.2.3 Testamente und juristische Dokumente (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
        - 1.3 Tagebücher und persönliche Unterlagen (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
        - 1.4 Erinnerungen an Kindheit und Jugend (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
        - 1.5 Private Korrespondenz von Jonathan Leclerc (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
        - 1.6 Dokumente über das politische Engagement von Jonathan Leclerc (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
        - 1.7 Souvenirs von Reisen und Freizeit (1780-01-01 - 1890-12-31)
      - BOUC Bestand Familie Bouchard (1856-03-03 - 2023-02-28)
        - Bildbestände
        - Deposita
        - Inbox

-  **Records**
-  Sites
-  Authority data >
-  Accessions
-  Search
-  Administration >

- ▼ Republik der vergessenen Erinnerungen
  - ▶ Institutionelle Archive (1830-07-18)
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    - ▶ BUC Bestand Familie Bouchard (1856-03-03 - 2023-02-28)
  - ▼ Bildbestände
    - ▼ Q Hauri, Hans, Fotos von Dättwil (2004 - 2023)
      - ▶ 1 Autobahn A1 (2025-10-03)
      - ▶ 2 Dorfstrasse, auch mit Dättwil Hof und ehemaligem Schul- und Kindergarten (2025-10-03)
      - ▶ 3 Dättwilerstrasse (2025-10-03)
      - ▶ 4 Dättwilerstrasse Siedlungen auf Höchizelg und Siedlung Am Dättwil (2025-10-03)
      - ▶ 5 Friedhof, Kantonsspital Baden mit Kubus, Parkhaus , Blick von Dättwil (2025-10-03)
      - ▶ 6 Galgenbuck Stimmungsbilder (2025-10-03)

[+ New entry](#) [+ New sub-entry](#)

### Identification

Reference code	1.1
<input type="text" value="LECL1.2"/> . <input type="text" value="1.2.1"/> <input type="checkbox"/> use ID System	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature visible	
Old reference code	1.1
<input type="text"/>	
Title *	1.2
<input type="text" value="Geburts-, Heirats- und Sterbeurkunden"/>	
Date	1.3
<input type="text"/>	
From	1.3
<input type="text" value="1780.01.01"/>	
To	1.3
<input type="text" value="1867.12.31"/>	
Description level *	1.4
<input type="text" value="File"/>	
Extent	1.5
<input type="button" value="+ Add"/>	
<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="shelf metre"/>	
Note for extent	1.5
<input type="text"/>	

[Save changes](#) [Revert changes](#)



[Instantiations](#) [Attachments](#)

[+ Add new instantiation](#)

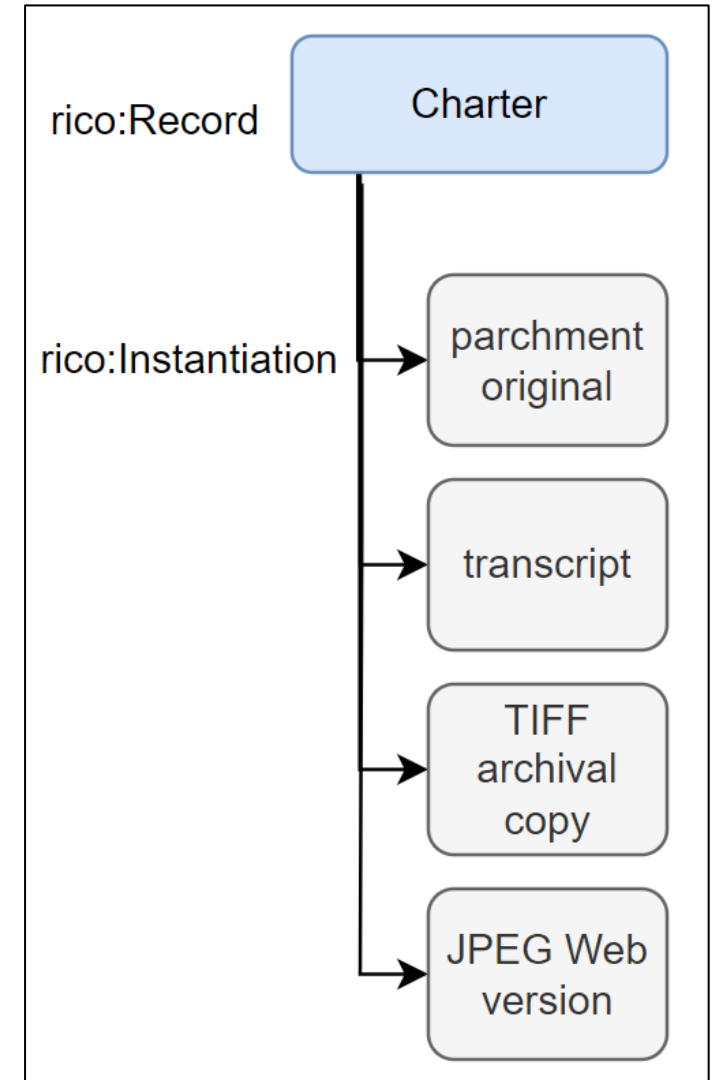
- Instantiation 18-07-2024 01:27:51 ▼
- Instantiation 18-07-2024 01:28:34 ▼

Form [Record Resource] default ▼

# Records and Instantiations: A New Conceptual Layer

*One key innovation explained simply*

- RiC distinguishes: the **Record** (intellectual description) vs. its **Instantiations** (physical/digital manifestations)
- Example: a medieval charter → parchment original + high-res digitization + future format migration = multiple instances of one record
- This is not complexity for complexity's sake. It's archival reality, finally formalized (and was always a problem in ISAD(G))
- Directly relevant in the digital age



- Records**
- Sites
- Authority data >
- Accessions
- Search
- Administration >

Q Search term (min. 3 characters)

- ▼ Republik der vergessenen Erinnerungen
  - ▶ Institutionelle Archive (1830-07-18)
  - ▼ Private Archive (1780-01-01 - 2023-02-28)
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Signature visible

Old reference code 1.1

Title \* 1.2  
 Geburts-, Heirats- und Sterbeurkunden

Date 1.3

From 1.3  
 1780.01.01

To 1.3  
 1867.12.31

Description level \* 1.4  
 File ▼

Extent 1.5

1 shelf metre

Note for extent 1.5

Content type

### Instantiations Attachments

**Instantiation 18-07-2024 01:27:51** ^

Form  
 [Instantiation] physisch einfach ▼

Location  
 Nationalarchive, Depot der Archive ... x ▼

Box identifier  
 34625672472

carrier type  
 paper ▼

**Instantiation 18-07-2024 01:28:34** ^

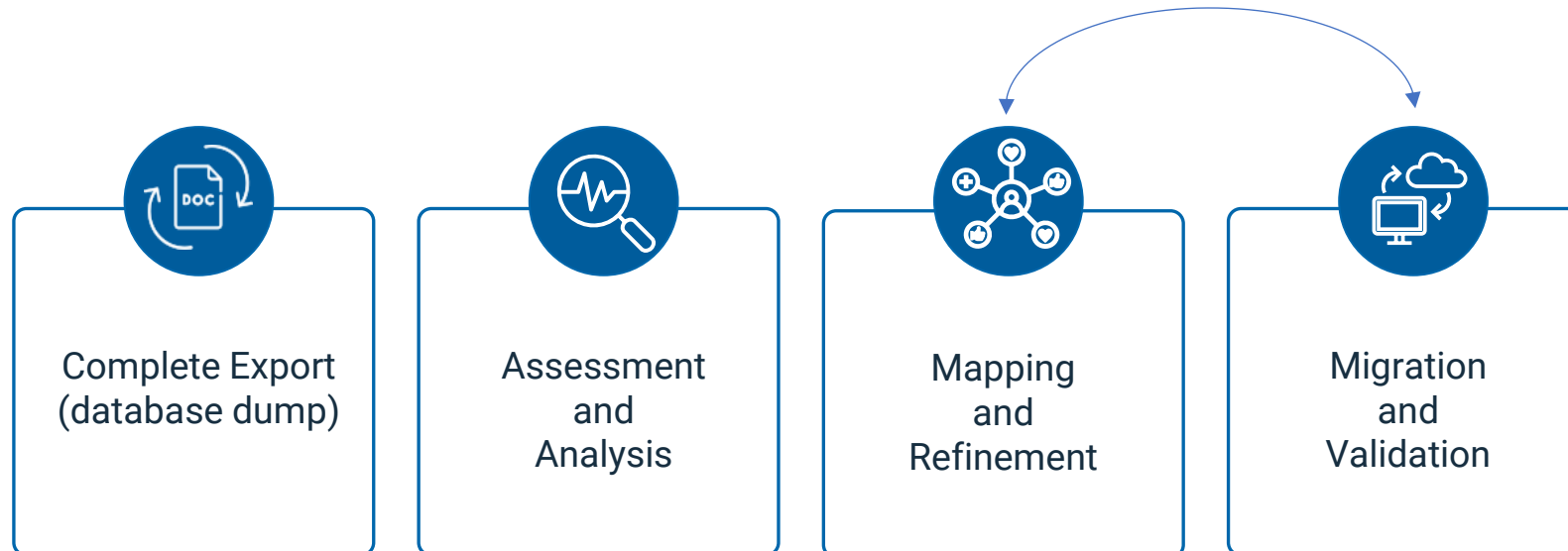
Form  
 [Instantiation] digital einfach ▼

PID  
 2342532546

Form  
 [Record Resource] default ▼

## *Lessons from two years of real migration projects*

- Over the past two years: numerous legacy AIS successfully migrated
- Methodological approach developed: assessment → mapping → migration → validation → go-live
- Migration is not a one-shot, but an iterative, repeatable process
- Key challenge: conceptual translation (ISAD(G) hierarchy → RiC graph), not just technical data transfer
- Authority data: Agents, Places, Concepts – enriched and interlinked during migration



## *What we learned the hard way*

- Data quality in legacy systems: inconsistencies surface during migration – a feature, not a bug
- Institutional diversity: every archive is unique. Flexible configuration is not optional, it's essential
- Change management: the technology is the easy part; getting archivists on board takes time and trust
- Open standards pay off: data portability, future interoperability.
- Institutions invest in their own data and metadata, not a vendor

*Where docuteam context fits in the wider ecosystem*

- RiC-O enables export as Linked Open Data. Integration with national and international authority files
- Import/export in multiple formats; search with boolean operators, wildcards, fuzzy search
- Scans can be linked as instances. Bridge to digital preservation workflows (docuteam cosmos)
- docuteam cosmos has the same RiC-based data model for digital preservation. Fully integrated, but modular implementation of the OAIS.
- The archive is no longer an isolated island

*Publish the content online to a wider public*

- context serves the archivist
- for the wider public / publication we offer docuteam sirius as a specialized tool
- for security reasons, sirius a completely decoupled publication platform

Stadtarchiv Baden Portal DE EN FR

Struktur Suche Erweiterte Suche Vokabulare

< Zurück zur Ergebnisliste < 16 von 30 >

## Adelsbrief Kaspar Ludwig Schnorff

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**Stadtarchiv Baden** ^

- ∨ A Urkunden, Bücher und Akten bis 1798 2123
  - ∨ A.01 Urkunden bis 1798 1152
    - > A.01 Regesten 4
    - > A.01 Urkunden Nr. 1-2057 1130
    - A.01 Urkunden Nachträge 1
    - ∨ A.01 Urkunden verschiedene 16
      - A.01.4001 Adelsbrief Kaspar Ludwig Schnorff 1**
      - A.01.4002 Haus zum Falken, Verzinsung: Urkunde 1
      - A.01.4003 Haus zum Affen, Verzinsung: Urkunde 1
      - A.01.4004 Weingarten in Ennetbaden, Verkauf: Urkunde 1
      - A.01.4005 Haus zur Sonne, Verzinsung: Urkunde 1
      - A.01.4006 Gültkauf durch Hans Schmid, Johannes Mülli und Hans Bachmann von Ulrich am Berg: Urkunde 1
      - A.01.4007 Stephan Trächsel, Befreiung der Leibeigenschaft durch Abt Paulus von Tegernsee: Urkunde 1
      - A.01.4008 Adam Brunner von Würenlos klagt gegen Johann Jakob Häffel von Oberbüren: Urkunde 1



# Conclusion and Outlook

## *Takeaways and invitation*

- The old AIS generation has served us well – but archival description has outgrown it
- RiC is not a revolution in daily work; it's an evolution in data quality and future-proofing
- docuteam context: RiC-native, open, configurable, field-tested
- Continuous development driven by real archivists' needs (→ public roadmap)
- Invitation: We're happy to discuss your specific situation



## Contact

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