You have a PDF export error in ArchivesSpace.
All PDF exports begin as EAD exports with a stylesheet transformation that creates a PDF. Troubleshooting PDFs means troubleshooting XML in general and (possibly) EAD in particular.

The error likely points to one of two scenarios.

Scenario A

Scenario B

If the error message says **ValidationException**

Neither scenario? Yikes! Try this anyway.

If the error message says **ParseException**

This probably means an **<bracket>**encoded element**</bracket>** is not well-formed. It is the simpler of the two errors explored here.

Parsing errors will usually come up immediately and are easy to diagnose

Export the record as EAD

Open EAD file in an editor that recognizes XML

Format the text

See video and handout

This means something about your record doesn't meet the expectations of the stylesheet trying to transform EAD into PDF. This is a more complex error.

You can check the line reference in the stylesheet to see if that gives you the insight you need, but even when you know the problem, **finding it** can be difficult.

If you are an EAD user, you have a preferred editor

Validation errors are usually solved by validating the EAD, which is more advanced

Stylesheet

ASpace's ead-to-pdf stylesheet expects valid EAD, but that's not the same as *actually* validating EAD

The box you just read is a technical clarification that doesn't help you, but I don't want to imply that ASpace is actively validating EAD when it is not

If you're confused, just move past this

The author used to use OxygenXML and now uses VS Code (free) with the XML (by RedHat) extension

Google archivesspace GitHub

Looks like this

Navigate to stylesheets/ead-to-pdf.xsl

Remember to select the tag with your version number

Valerie Addonizio, Atlas Systems, March 2024

Resources for Learning XML and EAD

SAA Course Catalog
https://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/catalog

Library Juice Academy Catalog
https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/all-courses/

Beginners
- o   SAA: Encoding Standards Overview
- o   SAA: Encoded Archival Description (EAD3)
- o   Library Juice: Introduction to XML

Experienced Users
- o   SAA: EAD3: What's New?

Advanced
- o   SAA: Introduction to XML Analysis and Manipulation
- o   Library Juice: Transforming and Querying XML with XSLT and XQuery

Working with XML (free tools)
There are plenty of online tools for quickly formatting and validating XML, but whatever you pass over the internet is viewable by someone.

Visual Studio Code (VS Code)
https://code.visualstudio.com/

Install an XML Extension
- Once installed, navigate to Extensions menu on lefthand side, which looks like building blocks.
- Search the marketplace for "XML" and choose the extension simply called **XML** with the description "XML Language Support by RedHat."
- This extension will automatically recognize any file with the .xml file extension as XML. This is usually all you need for parsing error troubleshooting.
- For validation troubleshooting, this extension will automatically recognize any XML file with a properly formatted EAD header as EAD. When successfully associated with the EAD XSD, VS Code will validate EAD specifically.
    - o   EAD exported out of ArchivesSpace has this header.
    - o   However, if VS Code gives you the error message "No grammar constraints (DTD or XML Schema)", try replacing **https** with **http** in this specific line at the top of the file:
      xmlns:xsi=**https**://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance

Tips
- Open an XML file and right-click > select Format Document. This is essential for human-readability.