A VISUAL REFERENCE · ditaa

ditaa,
one change at a time

From a plain-text box to decisions, responsibilities and complete process maps. 40 original examples in eight chapters follow a field archive from sample receipt to publication. Each complete ASCII file produces a real diagram. Spacing carries geometry; words carry the meaning of the process.

The Org file is the canonical source. Read the HTML beside your editor, or download its PDF and source for offline reading. Counts and times are illustrative.

> **Last changes: 2026-11-15.** Added a pinned offline ditaa renderer, complete ASCII examples and native SVG/PNG plus vector PDF downloads.

40
worked examples

8
topic families

1
canonical Org source

All diagrams at a glance

Choose a diagram to open its complete ASCII source, explanation and downloads.

01 · First diagrams

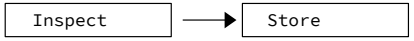
6 diagrams

Start with one bounded activity. Add one connection or labeling idea at a time; the spaces in the source are part of its layout.



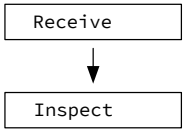
DTA-01-001

Bound an inspection



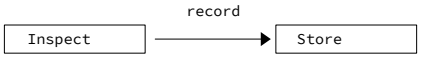
DTA-01-002

Connect the next action



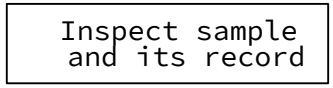
DTA-01-003

Stack a short process



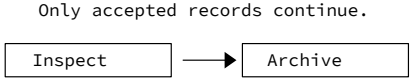
DTA-01-004

Name the handoff



DTA-01-005

Write a two-line activity



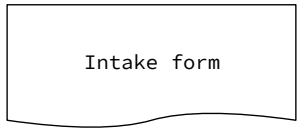
DTA-01-006

Reserve room for a note

02 · Shape vocabulary

8 diagrams

Choose a shape by the role of the item, and write that role in words. Tags change a closed source box into a specialized figure; they do not add process behavior.



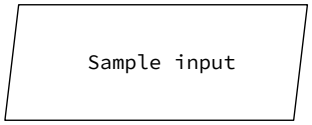
DTA-02-001

Mark an intake document



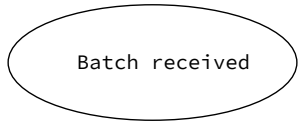
DTA-02-002

Identify persistent storage



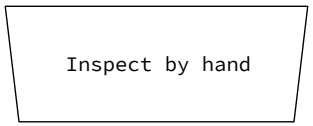
DTA-02-003

Show an input or output



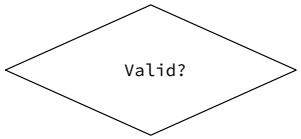
DTA-02-004

Identify a process endpoint



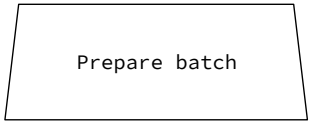
DTA-02-005

Identify manual work



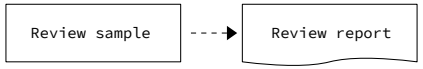
DTA-02-006

Ask one decision question



DTA-02-007

Distinguish a preparation stage



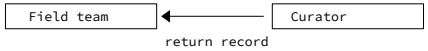
DTA-02-008

Separate an artifact from its action

03 · Connections and routing

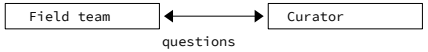
6 diagrams

Connect shapes deliberately. Arrow direction, bends, junctions and line style carry different information; explain each convention before combining them.



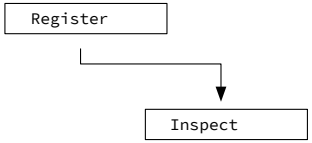
DTA-03-001

Return a record to its owner



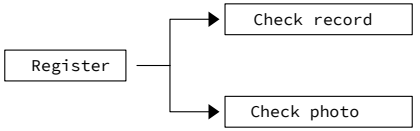
DTA-03-002

Show a two-way exchange



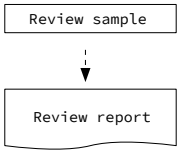
DTA-03-003

Route around a corner



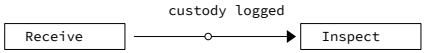
DTA-03-004

Split work at a junction



DTA-03-005

Carry a report on a dashed edge



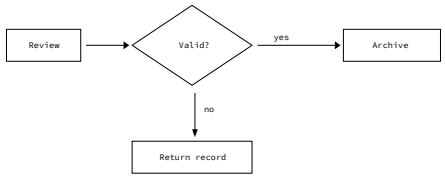
DTA-03-006

Mark a checkpoint on an edge

04 · Decisions and rework

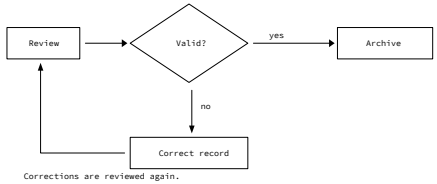
4 diagrams

Ask one question per decision and label every exit. An exclusive merge accepts one selected path; a return edge sends corrected work through the same check again.



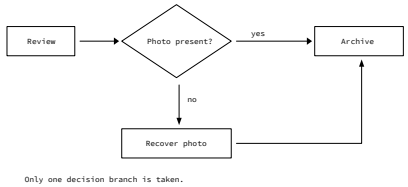
DTA-04-001

Label both decision outcomes



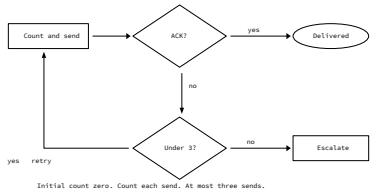
DTA-04-002

Review a corrected record again



DTA-04-003

Merge mutually exclusive paths



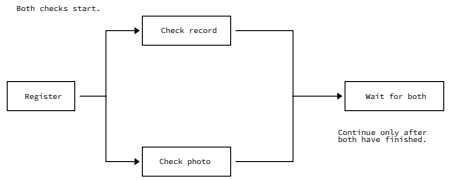
DTA-04-004

Bound a retry loop

05 · Parallel work and handoffs

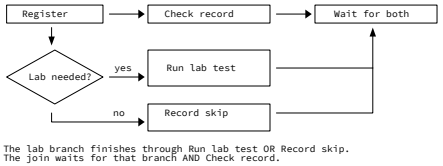
4 diagrams

Separate work that starts together from work that must wait. State who owns each handoff and whether a signal means received, finished or accepted.



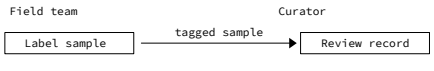
DTA-05-001

Wait for both independent checks



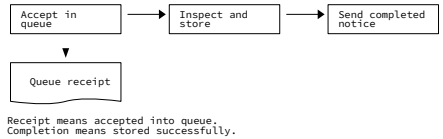
DTA-05-002

Finish an optional branch explicitly



DTA-05-003

Assign a handoff to its owners



DTA-05-004

Separate receipt from completion

06 · Appearance and readable text

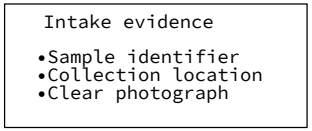
4 diagrams

Keep geometry and wording legible before adding decoration. Pair colors with written states, and use text structure or corner treatment only when it helps the reader.



DTA-06-001

Pair status colors with words



DTA-06-002

List the acceptance evidence



DTA-06-003

Round selected corners in the source

Field team	Curator
Label sample	Check record
Send record	Archive record

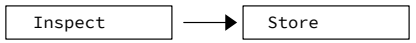
DTA-06-004

Keep a responsibility matrix compact

07 · Render and export

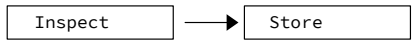
4 diagrams

The filename selects SVG or PNG in the pinned driver; every example also has an SVG-derived vector PDF. Change one export setting while retaining complete, editable ASCII input.



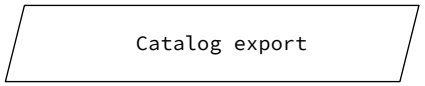
DTA-07-001

Enlarge an export without redrawing



DTA-07-002

Export a transparent background



DTA-07-003

Fix the slant of an input shape



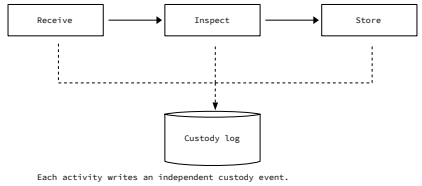
DTA-07-004

Add a shadow for a presentation

08 · Complete operational processes

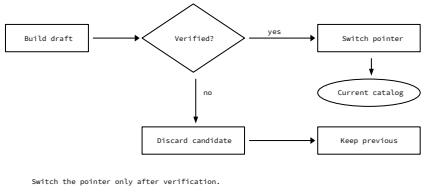
4 diagrams

Combine earlier notation into four complete archive procedures. State the success condition, record flow and recovery action before discussing how the drawing is arranged.



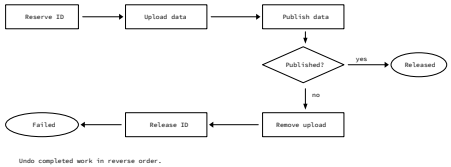
DTA-08-001

Audit an intake from receipt to storage



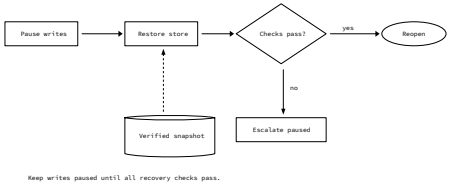
DTA-08-002

Release only a verified catalog



DTA-08-003

Compensate a failed publication



DTA-08-004

Reopen only after verified recovery

READING THE TOUR

Three ways to see a change

ASCII source

Read the whole file in a monospaced editor. Spaces position the drawing.

Actual diagram

Inspect native ditaa output beside its source, or open a gallery thumbnail.

Try a change

Compare a sibling, download the text file and make one concrete edit.

Follow the chapters or narrow the gallery with search and topic filters. Back to diagram overview returns to the matching thumbnail. Use spaces instead of tabs, keep labels short and leave room around shape tags. Solid arrows in these process examples order work; dashed arrows carry records or acknowledgements where the description says so. Ditaa draws these conventions; it does not execute or validate workflow semantics.

Reproduce the diagrams

The tour pins the unchanged official **ditaa 0.11.0** standalone JAR. Its own banner says **0.11**. The reviewed JVM is **Temurin 11.0.33+10**; `tools/ditaa` checks Java and verifies the JAR and font SHA-256 values before rendering. Select that JVM with `JAVA=/absolute/path/to/java` if several Java installations coexist.

Install the shared publisher dependencies once with `make setup` in the sibling publisher folder, plus Emacs and Poppler. The tested publisher uses Python 3.14.10, Emacs 31.1 / Org 9.8.7, WeasyPrint 70.0, PyMuPDF 1.28.2, FontTools 4.66.1, librsvg 2.63.4 and Poppler 26.11.0. `VERSIONS.json` records the release URLs, font commit and checksums. The JAR, its corresponding source and license notices are included under `tools/vendor/` and `LICENSES/`.

Download the complete offline reproduction bundle and extract it before running commands. Activate the publisher Python environment with `source ../67.00_export-tourguide/.venv/bin/activate`, or install the bundle's pinned `requirements.txt` into your own environment. Java and librsvg are system tools. Preparing and building use no network after these dependencies are installed.

One shared rendering configuration sets UTF-8, scale 1 and no shadows. The driver fixes Java output encoding to UTF-8 as well as the input encoding, so native SVG bullets remain intact under a C locale. The driver selects native SVG or PNG from the target extension. SVG embeds the local, unmodified **Source Code Pro 2.042** font through ditaa's `--svg-font-url` option as a data URI. PNG is rendered by Java's native text renderer. Both outputs are real ditaa exports; small typography differences between them are expected. Librsvg converts the SVG to vector PDF using that exact embedded font. The helper removes PDF build-date metadata without altering the artwork.

```
make full
make check
tools/ditaa --version
tools/ditaa --scale 1 examples/DTA-01-001.txt figures/DTA-01-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1 examples/DTA-01-001.txt figures/DTA-01-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-001.svg figures/DTA-01-001.pdf
```

Driver or native argument	Meaning in this tour
`--scale 1`	Preserve the common character-cell scale.
`--round-corners`	Round every corner for this example.
`--transparent`	Omit the background for compositing.
`--no-antialias`	Show native pixel edges in PNG.
`--no-separation`	Retain a common border between touching cells.
`--fixed-slope`	Use a fixed slant on input/output shapes.
`--debug`	Overlay the source-cell grid for diagnosis.
`--shadows`	Driver switch that omits the usual native `--no-shadows`.
`--overwrite` / `--encoding UTF-8`	Native defaults supplied by the driver.
`--svg-font-url data:…`	Native SVG embeds the local font; no external request.

The complete HTML embeds its displayed figures. Keep the companion folders for individual downloads. Ditaa has no formatter or separate validation command; every example is checked by an actual successful SVG and PNG render and visual inspection. Do not repair a rendered shape by editing its SVG: repair the ASCII source.

Feature coverage

The first three chapters establish the drawing vocabulary. Chapters 4, 5 and 8 apply it to processes with explicit decisions, completion rules and recovery paths.

Feature	Chapter	Examples
Closed boxes, direction, labels, multiline text and notes	01 · First diagrams	6
Documents, storage, input/output, ellipses, manual work, choices and trapezoids	02 · Shape vocabulary	8
Left/two-way arrows, bends, junctions, dashed edges and point markers	03 · Connections	6
Exclusive outcomes, correction, merges and bounded retries	04 · Decisions and rework	4
AND joins, optional branches, owners and receipt/completion	05 · Parallel work and handoffs	4
Named/RGB fills, bullets, local round corners and shared borders	06 · Appearance	4
Native SVG/PNG, scale, transparency, fixed slopes and shadows	07 · Render and export	4
Audit, verified release, reverse-order compensation and recovery	08 · Complete processes	4
Total	8 chapters	40

Choosing a diagram

Use ditaa when the text drawing itself is a useful document: a small workflow in a README, an operations note or a review discussion. Keep each question local and name every decision outcome. Ditaa preserves the character grid; moving a box means moving its source characters and reconnecting its edges.

Reader’s question	Choose	Start here
What happens next?	A short directed chain	Connect the next action
What happens to an invalid record?	A decision with both outcomes	Label both decision outcomes
Can corrected work bypass review?	A return to the original check	Review a corrected record again
Do both checks have to finish?	A named AND synchronization step	Wait for both independent checks
Does queued mean completed?	Distinct receipt and completion signals	Separate receipt from completion
What is undone after a failure?	A reverse-order compensation path	Compensate a failed publication

For larger automatically arranged diagrams, compare D2 process maps and Graphviz layouts. For ordered messages between participants, use Mermaid sequences. The Org-mode tour shows how plain text and executable examples can share a document. These are reading links; no build fetches their contents.

Do not rely on ditaa to enforce process semantics. A diamond is a shape, an AND join is a stated convention, and a color is not a business rule. Test the actual procedure separately. Avoid isolated less-than or equality signs inside labels: the parser may interpret them as drawing syntax. Write “Under three?” or “Count each send” when words communicate the condition more reliably. Keep source files in a monospaced editor with spaces and inspect both the rendered figure and its source grid.

References

All prose, ASCII inputs and field-archive procedures in this tour are original. Syntax was checked against the installed JAR's `--help`, native renders and the exact v0.11.0 source. The upstream banner shortens 0.11.0 to 0.11; the bundled JAR checksum identifies the release used here.

- Official ditaa 0.11.0 release.
- Pinned upstream syntax and command reference.
- Pinned parser, diagram and SVG renderer source.
- Exact Source Code Pro font release commit.

Original tour content is dedicated under CC0 1.0. The tour arrangement and publishing framework are CC BY 4.0 by Lukas C. Bossert. See license notes, CC0, CC BY and ditaa's LGPL for their respective terms. The unchanged JAR and its dependencies retain their upstream notices; the source archive and extracted notices are included. The embedded font retains its SIL Open Font License.

01 · First diagrams

Start with one bounded activity. Add one connection or labeling idea at a time; the spaces in the source are part of its layout.

DTA-01-001

Bound an inspection

A closed rectangle creates one activity with a clear boundary. Use an imperative label to describe the work performed at this point.

ASCII source

```
+-------------+
| Inspect     |
+-------------+
```

Parameter	Meaning in this example
`+ - |`	Close the four sides of one activity.
`Inspect`	Name the action performed inside the boundary.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-001.txt figures/DTA-01-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-001.txt figures/DTA-01-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-001.svg figures/DTA-01-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Replace Inspect with Register; preserve the box width.

Actual output



DTA-01-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

Compare with D2 · Name a sample.

DTA-01-002

Connect the next action

A right arrow orders two activities. Use it when a record reaches storage only after inspection has finished.

Compare with DTA-01-001 · Bound an inspection.

ASCII source

```
+-------------+     +-------------+
| Inspect     |---->| Store       |
+-------------+     +-------------+
```

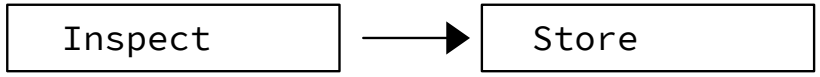
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`-->`	Point from the completed inspection to storage.
Spaces	Keep a visible gap between the activities.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-002.txt figures/DTA-01-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-002.txt figures/DTA-01-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-002.svg figures/DTA-01-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Replace Store with Archive; keep the arrow attached.

Actual output



DTA-01-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-01-003

Stack a short process

A vertical connector gives the same ordering in a narrower drawing. Use it for a page column or a process that will gain side branches.

Compare with DTA-01-002 · Connect the next action.

ASCII source

```
+-------------+
| Receive     |
+-------------+
       |
       v
+-------------+
| Inspect     |
+-------------+
```

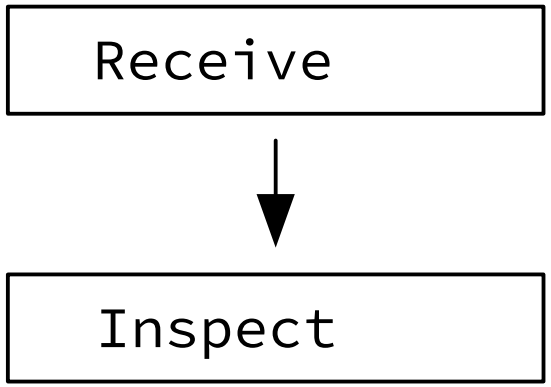
Parameter	Meaning in this example
|	Continue a vertical connection.
v	Put the arrowhead at the target activity.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-003.txt figures/DTA-01-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-003.txt figures/DTA-01-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-003.svg figures/DTA-01-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a third Store box below Inspect.

Actual output



DTA-01-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-01-004

Name the handoff

An edge label explains what passes between activities. Use a short noun when the boxes already provide the action verbs.

Compare with DTA-01-003 · Stack a short process.

ASCII source

```
                record
+-------------+           +-------------+
| Inspect     |---------->| Store       |
+-------------+           +-------------+
```

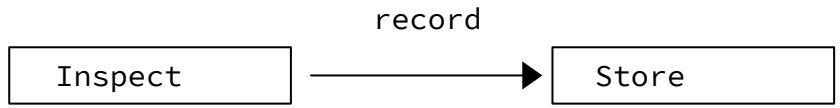
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`record`	Describe the item passed to storage.
`Label above arrow`	Leave the connector itself continuous.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-004.txt figures/DTA-01-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-004.txt figures/DTA-01-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-004.svg figures/DTA-01-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Change record to checked record; widen the gap if needed.

Actual output



DTA-01-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-01-005

Write a two-line activity

A label can span several source rows without escaping a newline. Use this for a specific action that would make a single-line box too wide.

Compare with DTA-01-004 · Name the handoff.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+
| Inspect sample |
| and its record |
+----------------+
```

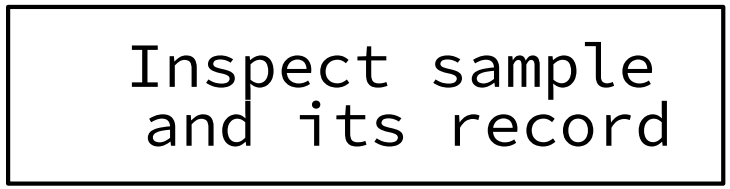
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Two text rows`	Keep both parts of one activity inside the same box.
`Extra interior row`	Make room for the second label line.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-005.txt figures/DTA-01-005.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-005.txt figures/DTA-01-005.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-005.svg figures/DTA-01-005.pdf
```

Try changing: Replace the second line with and photo; keep the right border aligned.

Actual output



DTA-01-005 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-01-006

Reserve room for a note

Text outside a closed shape stays outside the process. Use it to state an assumption without inventing another activity.

Compare with DTA-01-005 · Write a two-line activity.

ASCII source

```
Only accepted records continue.

+-------------+     +-------------+
| Inspect     |---->| Archive     |
+-------------+     +-------------+
```

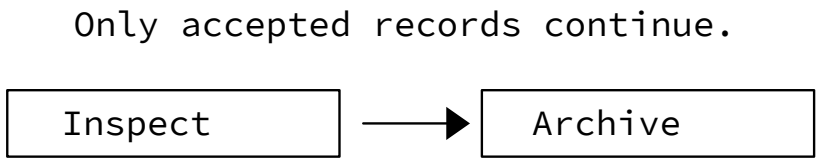
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Blank row`	Separate the assumption from the diagram.
`Unboxed text`	Show explanatory prose without an activity boundary.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-006.txt figures/DTA-01-006.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-01-006.txt figures/DTA-01-006.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-01-006.svg figures/DTA-01-006.pdf
```

Try changing: Change the assumption to name the required photo.

Actual output



DTA-01-006 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

02 · Shape vocabulary

Choose a shape by the role of the item, and write that role in words. Tags change a closed source box into a specialized figure; they do not add process behavior.

DTA-02-001

Mark an intake document

The document tag gives the intake form a wavy lower edge. Use it for information that accompanies a sample rather than for the act of inspecting it.

Compare with DTA-01-001 · Bound an inspection.

ASCII source

```
+--------------------+
|        {d}         |
|                    |
|    Intake form     |
|                    |
|                    |
+--------------------+
```

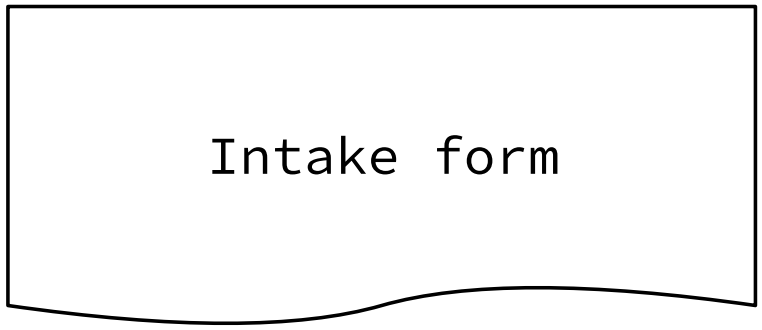
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`{d}`	Render the closed box as a document.
`Intake form`	Name the artifact instead of an action.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-001.txt figures/DTA-02-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-001.txt figures/DTA-02-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-001.svg figures/DTA-02-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Rename Intake form to Review report.

Actual output



DTA-02-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-002

Identify persistent storage

The storage tag turns a box into a cylinder. Use it when accepted records persist beyond the current activity.

Compare with DTA-02-001 · Mark an intake document.

ASCII source

```
+--------------------+
|        {s}         |
|                    |
|   Archive store    |
|                    |
|                    |
+--------------------+
```

Parameter	Meaning in this example
`{s}`	Draw a storage cylinder.
`Archive store`	Distinguish a persistent collection from a processing step.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-002.txt figures/DTA-02-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-002.txt figures/DTA-02-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-002.svg figures/DTA-02-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Rename Archive store to Photo store.

Actual output



DTA-02-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-003

Show an input or output

The input/output tag slants the sides of a box. Use it for the record crossing the intake boundary.

Compare with DTA-02-002 · Identify persistent storage.

ASCII source

```
+--------------------+
|        {io}        |
|                    |
|    Sample input    |
|                    |
|                    |
+--------------------+
```

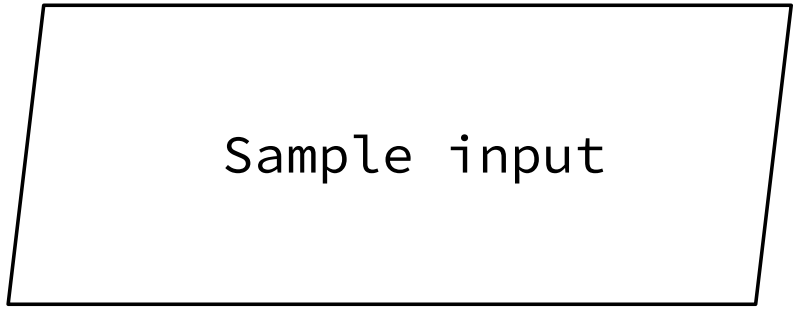
Parameter	Meaning in this example
{io}	Draw an input/output parallelogram.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-003.txt figures/DTA-02-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-003.txt figures/DTA-02-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-003.svg figures/DTA-02-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Change Sample input to Catalog output.

Actual output



DTA-02-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-004

Identify a process endpoint

An ellipse supplies a visibly different start or finish. Use an explicit state label so the reader knows what has become true.

Compare with DTA-02-003 · Show an input or output.

ASCII source

```
+--------------------+
|        {o}         |
|                    |
|   Batch received   |
|                    |
|                    |
+--------------------+
```

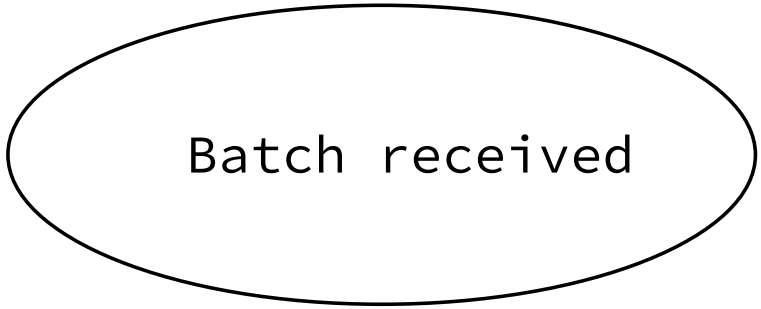
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`{o}`	Convert the source box to an ellipse.
`Batch received`	Describe the state at the boundary of the process.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-004.txt figures/DTA-02-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-004.txt figures/DTA-02-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-004.svg figures/DTA-02-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Change Batch received to Intake complete.

Actual output



DTA-02-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-005

Identify manual work

The manual-operation tag distinguishes a person-handled step. Use it when the curator must compare the specimen with its record.

Compare with DTA-02-004 · Identify a process endpoint.

ASCII source

```
+--------------------+
|        {mo}        |
|                    |
|  Inspect by hand   |
|                    |
|                    |
+--------------------+
```

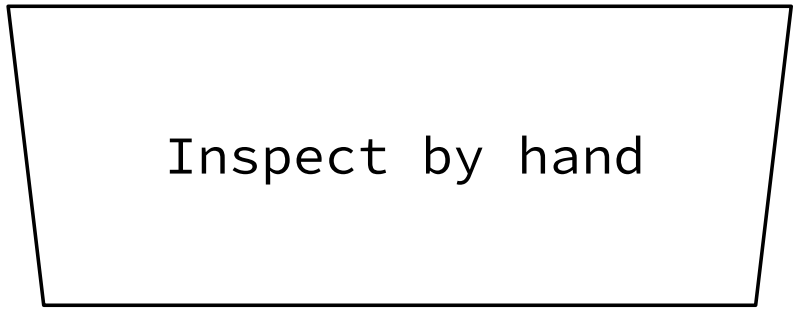
Parameter	Meaning in this example
{mo}	Use the manual-operation shape.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-005.txt figures/DTA-02-005.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-005.txt figures/DTA-02-005.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-005.svg figures/DTA-02-005.pdf
```

Try changing: Replace Inspect by hand with Sign custody form.

Actual output



DTA-02-005 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-006

Ask one decision question

The choice tag gives a decision its diamond outline. Use one short question and leave enough interior height for its sloping sides.

Compare with DTA-02-005 · Identify manual work.

ASCII source

```
+------------------------+
|          {c}           |
|                        |
|                        |
|         Valid?         |
|                        |
|                        |
|                        |
|                        |
+------------------------+
```

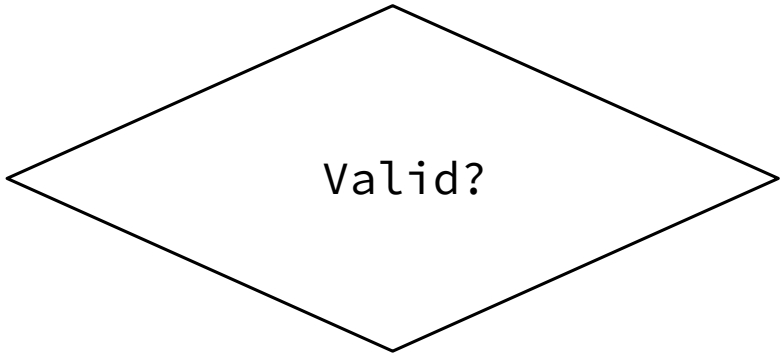
Parameter	Meaning in this example
{c}	Draw the decision diamond.
Valid?	Ask one question; later examples label both exits.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-006.txt figures/DTA-02-006.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-006.txt figures/DTA-02-006.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-006.svg figures/DTA-02-006.pdf
```

Try changing: Change Valid? to Photo present?; increase width if needed.

Actual output



DTA-02-006 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-007

Distinguish a preparation stage

The trapezoid tag changes the activity outline without changing its connections. Use it consistently for the archive preparation stage, and explain this local convention.

Compare with DTA-02-006 · Ask one decision question.

ASCII source

```
+--------------------+
|        {tr}        |
|                    |
|   Prepare batch    |
|                    |
|                    |
+--------------------+
```

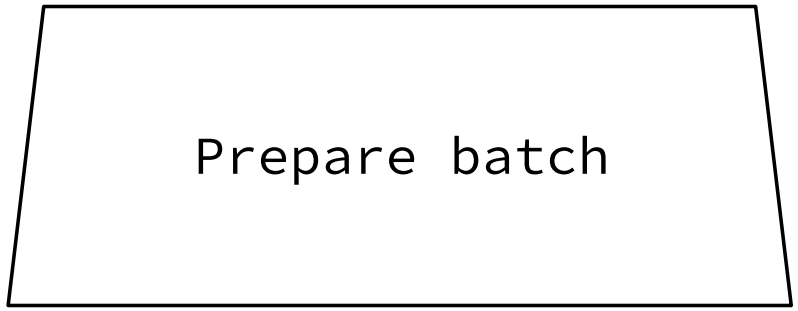
Parameter	Meaning in this example
{tr}	Draw a trapezoid for this tour’s preparation convention.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-007.txt figures/DTA-02-007.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-007.txt figures/DTA-02-007.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-007.svg figures/DTA-02-007.pdf
```

Try changing: Rename Prepare batch to Prepare release.

Actual output



DTA-02-007 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-02-008

Separate an artifact from its action

A diagram can contain an activity and the document it creates. Use a dashed record connection so this local convention differs from a solid control-flow arrow.

Compare with DTA-02-007 · Distinguish a preparation stage.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+     +----------------+
|                |     | {d}            |
| Review sample  |=--->| Review report  |
|                |     |                |
+----------------+     +----------------+
```

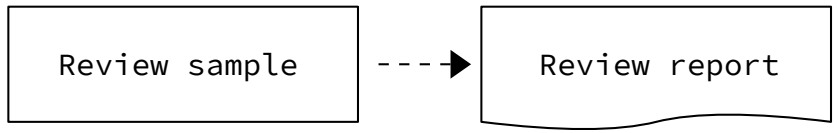
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Plain rectangle`	Represent work performed by the reviewer.
`{d}`	Represent the report produced by that work.
`=--->`	Carry a record rather than sequence two activities.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-008.txt figures/DTA-02-008.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-02-008.txt figures/DTA-02-008.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-02-008.svg figures/DTA-02-008.pdf
```

Try changing: Rename Review report to Rejection note.

Actual output



DTA-02-008 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

03 · Connections and routing

Connect shapes deliberately. Arrow direction, bends, junctions and line style carry different information; explain each convention before combining them.

DTA-03-001

Return a record to its owner

A left-pointing arrow reverses the handoff without swapping the source boxes. Use it when the curator returns a record to the field team.

Compare with DTA-02-001 · Mark an intake document.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+           +----------------+
| Field team     |<----------| Curator        |
+----------------+           +----------------+
                 return record
```

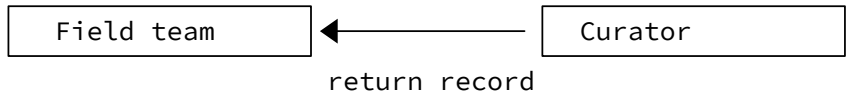
Parameter	Meaning in this example
<---	Return the record from curator to field team.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-001.txt figures/DTA-03-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-001.txt figures/DTA-03-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-03-001.svg figures/DTA-03-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Change the label to request photo.

Actual output



DTA-03-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-03-002

Show a two-way exchange

Arrowheads at both ends describe a reciprocal relationship. Use this compact view when the existence of the exchange matters more than the timing of its messages.

Compare with DTA-03-001 · Return a record to its owner.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+           +----------------+
| Field team     |<--------->| Curator        |
+----------------+           +----------------+
                 questions
```

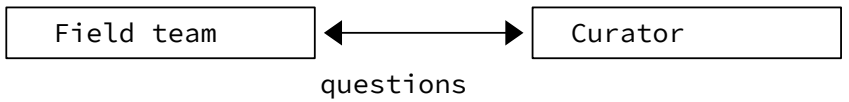
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`<--->`	Show communication in both directions.
`questions`	Name the exchange without implying a message sequence.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-002.txt figures/DTA-03-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-002.txt figures/DTA-03-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-03-002.svg figures/DTA-03-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Replace questions with custody queries; widen the gap.

Actual output



DTA-03-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-03-003

Route around a corner

A plus sign joins perpendicular line segments. Use bends to bring the next activity under a crowded part of the drawing.

Compare with DTA-03-002 · Show a two-way exchange.

ASCII source

```
+--------------+
| Register     |
+--------------+
       |
       +------------+
                    |
                    v
             +--------------+
             | Inspect      |
             +--------------+
```

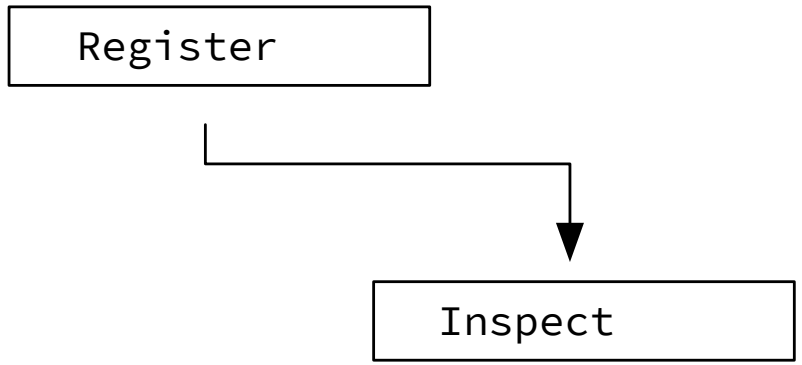
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`+ at a bend`	Join horizontal and vertical connector segments.
`v`	Keep the target direction visible after the bend.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-003.txt figures/DTA-03-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-003.txt figures/DTA-03-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-03-003.svg figures/DTA-03-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Move Inspect three columns right and extend the horizontal segment.

Actual output



DTA-03-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-03-004

Split work at a junction

A shared junction sends the registered batch into two checks. In this process both branches start; the drawing does not imply that either one waits for the other.

Compare with DTA-03-003 · Route around a corner.

ASCII source

```
                +----------------+
           +--->| Check record   |
           |    +----------------+
+----------+   |
| Register |---+
+----------+   |
           |    +----------------+
           +--->| Check photo    |
                +----------------+
```

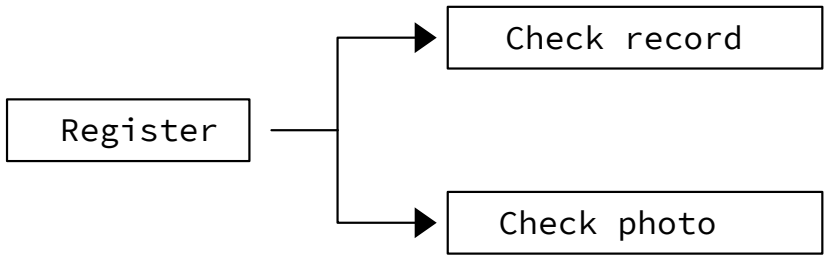
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`+ at the split`	Connect the incoming line to both outgoing branches.
`Two arrows`	Start both checks in this local process convention.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-004.txt figures/DTA-03-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-004.txt figures/DTA-03-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-03-004.svg figures/DTA-03-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a third Check label branch below the photo check.

Actual output



DTA-03-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-03-005

Carry a report on a dashed edge

A colon makes a vertical connection dashed. Use this line style for an output artifact while reserving solid arrows for activity order.

Compare with DTA-03-004 · Split work at a junction.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+
| Review sample  |
+----------------+
        :
        |
        v
+----------------+
| {d}            |
| Review report  |
|                |
+----------------+
```

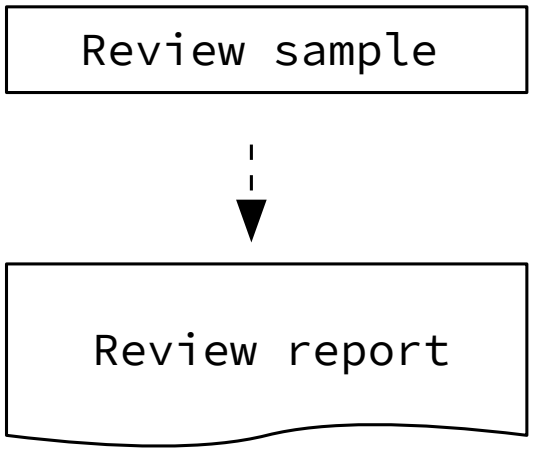
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`:`	Make the whole vertical edge dashed.
`{d}`	Identify the artifact produced by the review.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-005.txt figures/DTA-03-005.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-005.txt figures/DTA-03-005.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-03-005.svg figures/DTA-03-005.pdf
```

Try changing: Replace the colon with a vertical bar and compare the line style.

Actual output



DTA-03-005 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-03-006

Mark a checkpoint on an edge

A point marker identifies the location where custody is recorded. Use its nearby label to explain the marker; this experimental ditaa feature adds no scheduling behavior.

Compare with DTA-03-005 · Carry a report on a dashed edge.

ASCII source

```
               custody logged
+------------+                 +------------+
| Receive    |--------*-------->| Inspect    |
+------------+                 +------------+
```

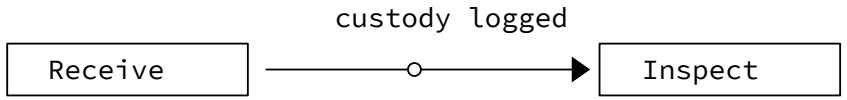
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`* on a line`	Place an experimental point marker within the connector.
`custody logged`	State the event represented at the marked handoff.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-006.txt figures/DTA-03-006.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-03-006.txt figures/DTA-03-006.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-03-006.svg figures/DTA-03-006.pdf
```

Try changing: Move the marker three columns toward Inspect.

Actual output



DTA-03-006 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

04 · Decisions and rework

Ask one question per decision and label every exit. An exclusive merge accepts one selected path; a return edge sends corrected work through the same check again.

DTA-04-001

Label both decision outcomes

The review has two explicit outcomes: archive a valid record or return an invalid one. Use yes and no so the reader never has to infer which path applies.

Compare with DTA-03-001 · Return a record to its owner.

ASCII source

```
                    +--------------------+
                    |       {c}          |
                    |                    |
+------------+      |                    |              +----------------+
|            |      |                    |   yes        |                |
|   Review   |------>|      Valid?        |------------->|    Archive     |
|            |      |                    |              |                |
+------------+      |                    |              +----------------+
                    |                    |
                    |                    |
                    +--------------------+
                              |
                              |
                              | no
                              |
                              |
                              v
                    +--------------------+
                    |                    |
                    |   Return record    |
                    |                    |
                    +--------------------+
```

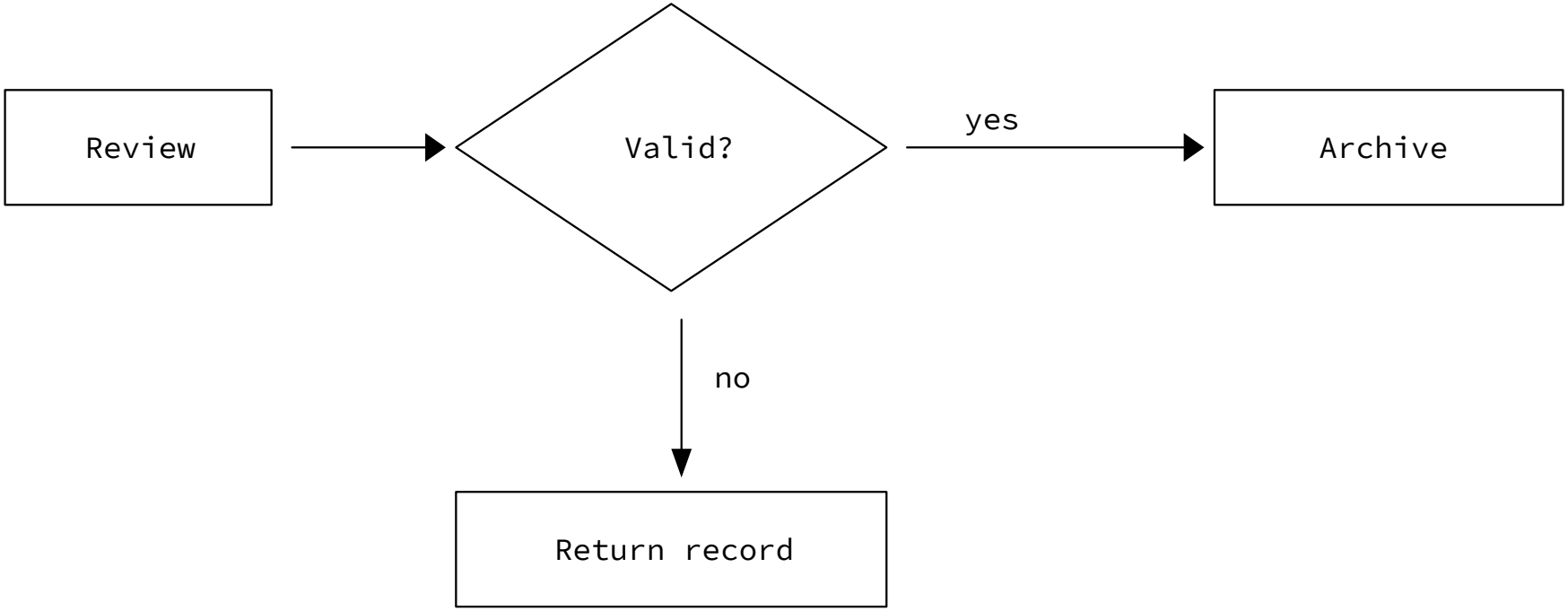
Parameter	Meaning in this example
{c}	Ask whether this record is valid.
yes / no	Name the two exclusive decision outcomes.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-001.txt figures/DTA-04-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-001.txt figures/DTA-04-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-04-001.svg figures/DTA-04-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Change Valid? to Complete? and update the explanation.

Actual output



DTA-04-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

Compare with D2 · Name both decision outcomes.

DTA-04-002

Review a corrected record again

A correction loop returns the record to the same review action. Use it when editing a record must not bypass its acceptance check.

Compare with DTA-04-001 · Label both decision outcomes.

ASCII source

```
                    +--------------------+
                    |       {c}          |
                    |                    |
+------------+      |                    |              +----------------+
|            |      |                    |   yes        |                |
|   Review   |------>|      Valid?       |-------------->|    Archive     |
|            |      |                    |              |                |
+------------+      |                    |              +----------------+
      ^             |                    |
      |             |                    |
      |             +--------------------+
      |                        |
      |                        |
      |                        | no
      |                        |
      |                        |
      |                        v
      |             +--------------------+
      |             |                    |
      +-------------|   Correct record   |
                    |                    |
                    +--------------------+
Corrections are reviewed again.
```

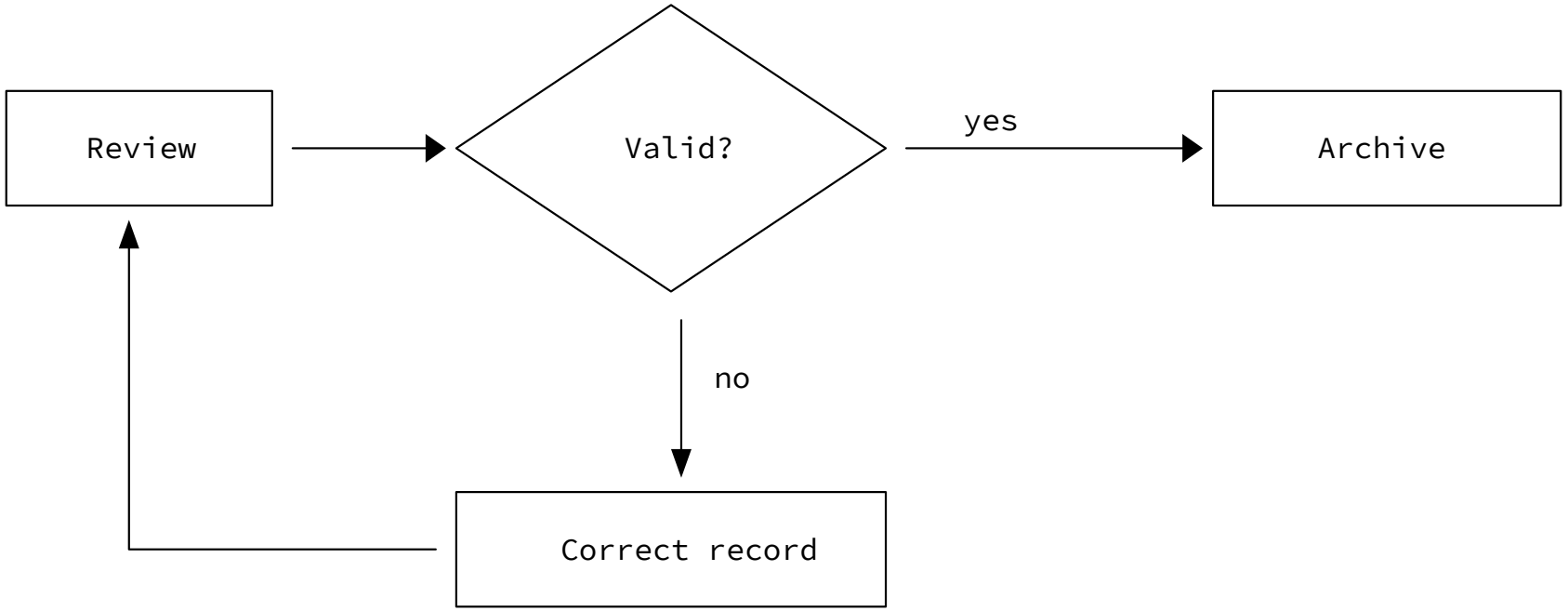
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Return edge`	Route corrections to Review before another decision.
`Archive`	Keep the accepted path separate from correction.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-002.txt figures/DTA-04-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-002.txt figures/DTA-04-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-04-002.svg figures/DTA-04-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a note naming the field that must be corrected.

Actual output



DTA-04-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

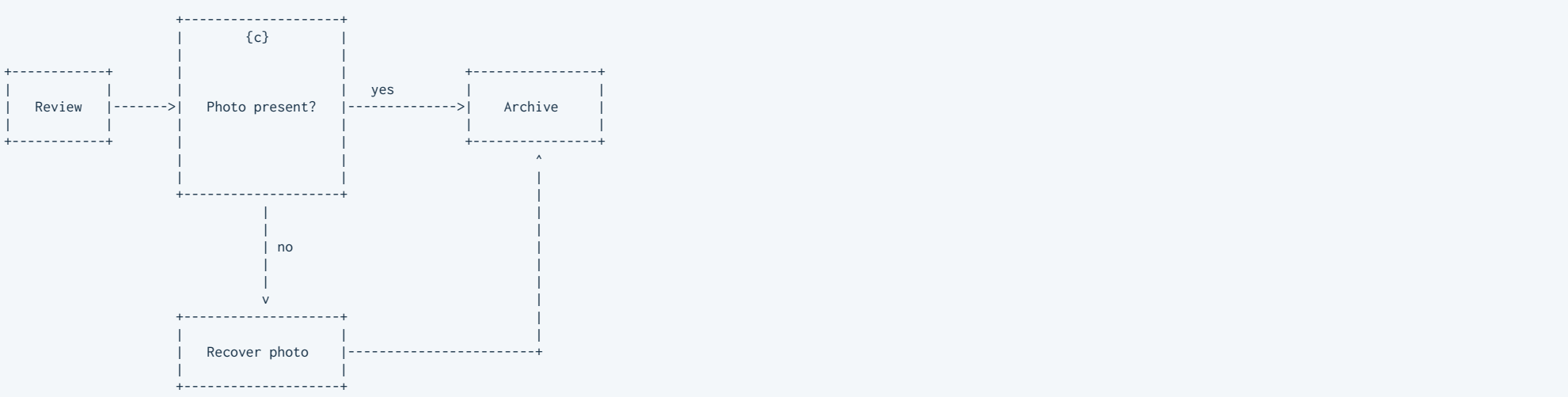
DTA-04-003

Merge mutually exclusive paths

A missing photo is recovered before the record reaches the shared archive action. Use one downstream action because only one of the decision paths is taken.

Compare with DTA-04-002 · Review a corrected record again.

ASCII source



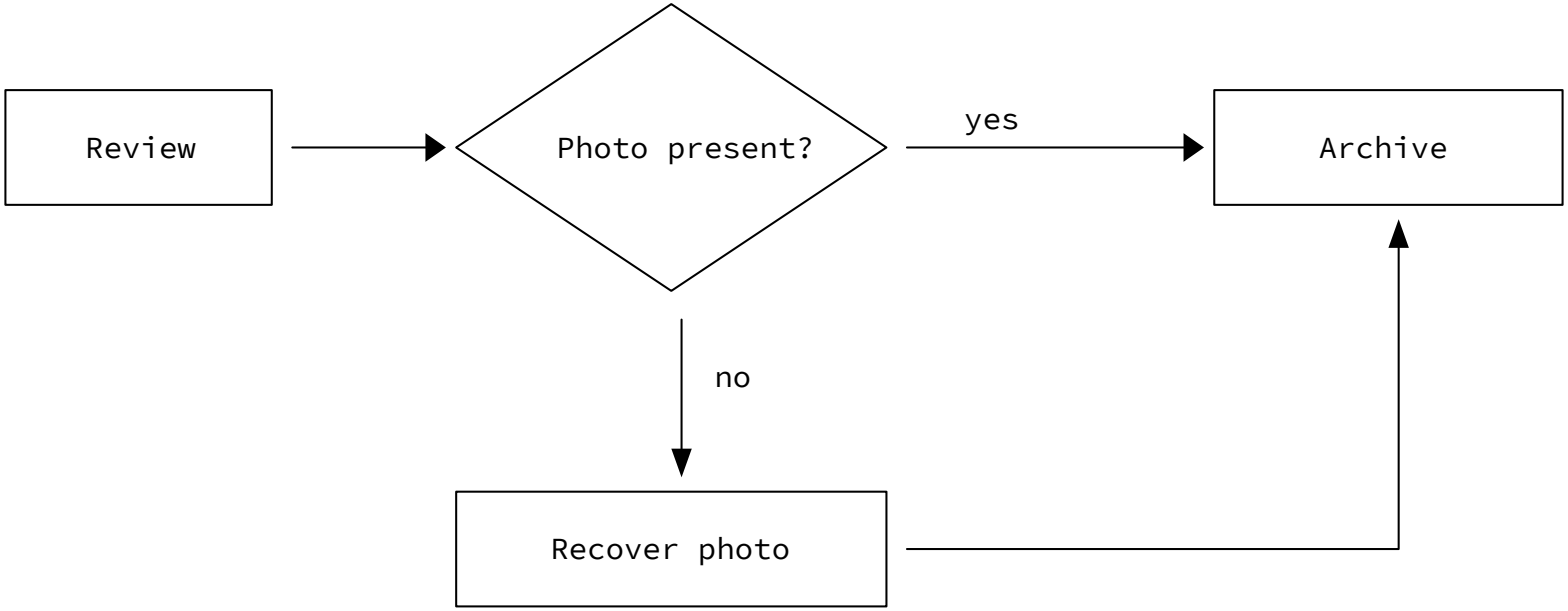
Parameter	Meaning in this example
Two incoming paths	Reach Archive through either the existing-photo path or recovery.
Exclusive choice	Do not wait for both paths; one was selected.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-003.txt figures/DTA-04-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-003.txt figures/DTA-04-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-04-003.svg figures/DTA-04-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Rename Recover photo to Request photo and state who supplies it.

Actual output




```
Only one decision branch is taken.
```

DTA-04-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-04-004

Bound a retry loop

A counter limits the send attempts to three, counting the initial send. Use a separate escalation exit when another retry is no longer permitted.

Compare with DTA-04-003 · Merge mutually exclusive paths.

ASCII source

```
                          +--------------------+
                          |       {c}          |
                          |                    |
+-----------------+       |                    |             +----------------+
|                 |       |                    |    yes      |     {o}        |
|  Count and send |------->|       ACK?         |------------>|   Delivered    |
|                 |       |                    |             |                |
+-----------------+       |                    |             +----------------+
        ^                 |                    |
        |                 |                    |
        |                 +--------------------+
        |                           |
        |                           |
        |                           | no
        |                           |
        |                           |
        |                           |
        |                           v
        |                 +--------------------+
        |                 |       {c}          |
        |                 |                    |
        |                 |                    |             +----------------+
        |                 |                    |    no       |                |
        +-----------------|     Under 3?       |------------>|    Escalate    |
                          |                    |             |                |
yes: retry                |                    |             +----------------+
                          |                    |
                          |                    |
                          +--------------------+
Initial count zero. Count each send. At most three sends.
```

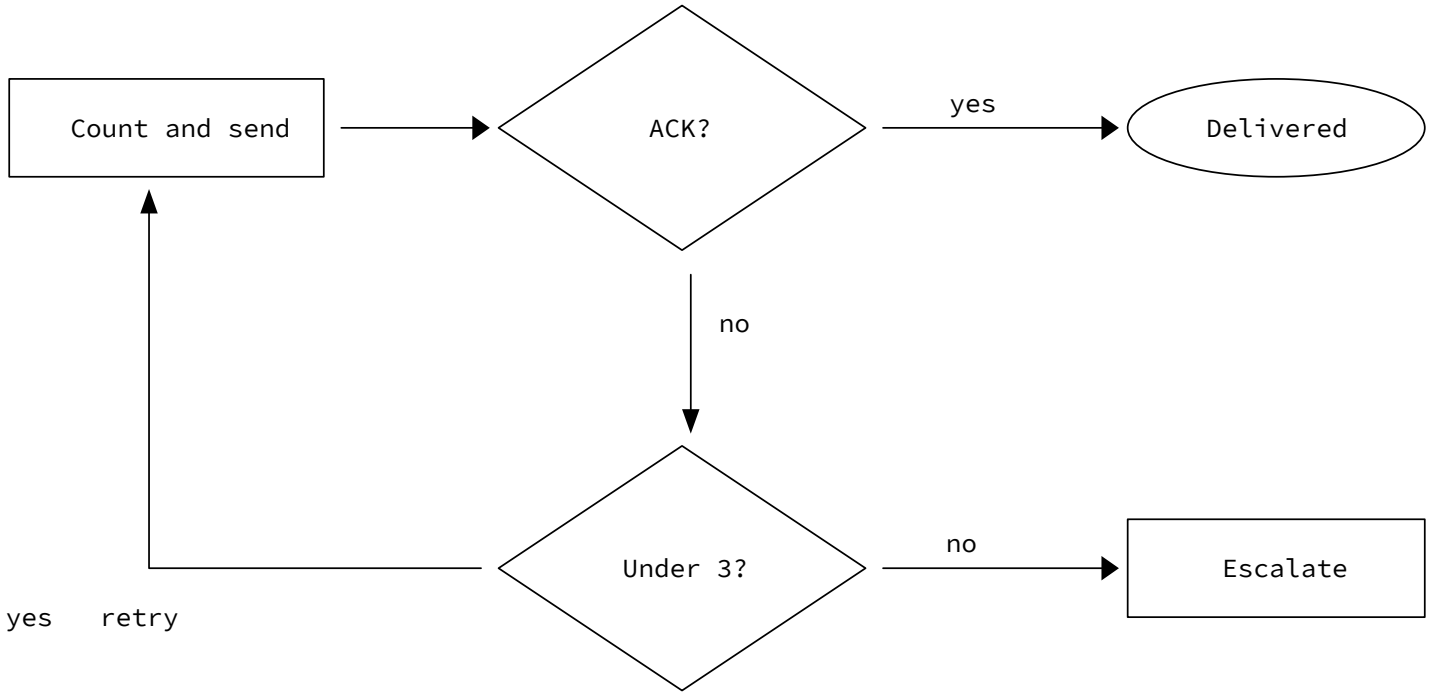
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Initial count zero`	Initialize the attempt count before the first send.
`Count and send`	Count every send, including the first.
`Under 3?`	Permit another send only while fewer than three have occurred.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-004.txt figures/DTA-04-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-04-004.txt figures/DTA-04-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-04-004.svg figures/DTA-04-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Change the limit to five in both the question and note.

Actual output



DTA-04-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

05 · Parallel work and handoffs

Separate work that starts together from work that must wait. State who owns each handoff and whether a signal means received, finished or accepted.

DTA-05-001

Wait for both independent checks

Two checks start from the same registered batch and meet at one explicit synchronization step. Use this AND convention when neither result alone is enough to continue.

Compare with DTA-04-001 · Label both decision outcomes.

ASCII source



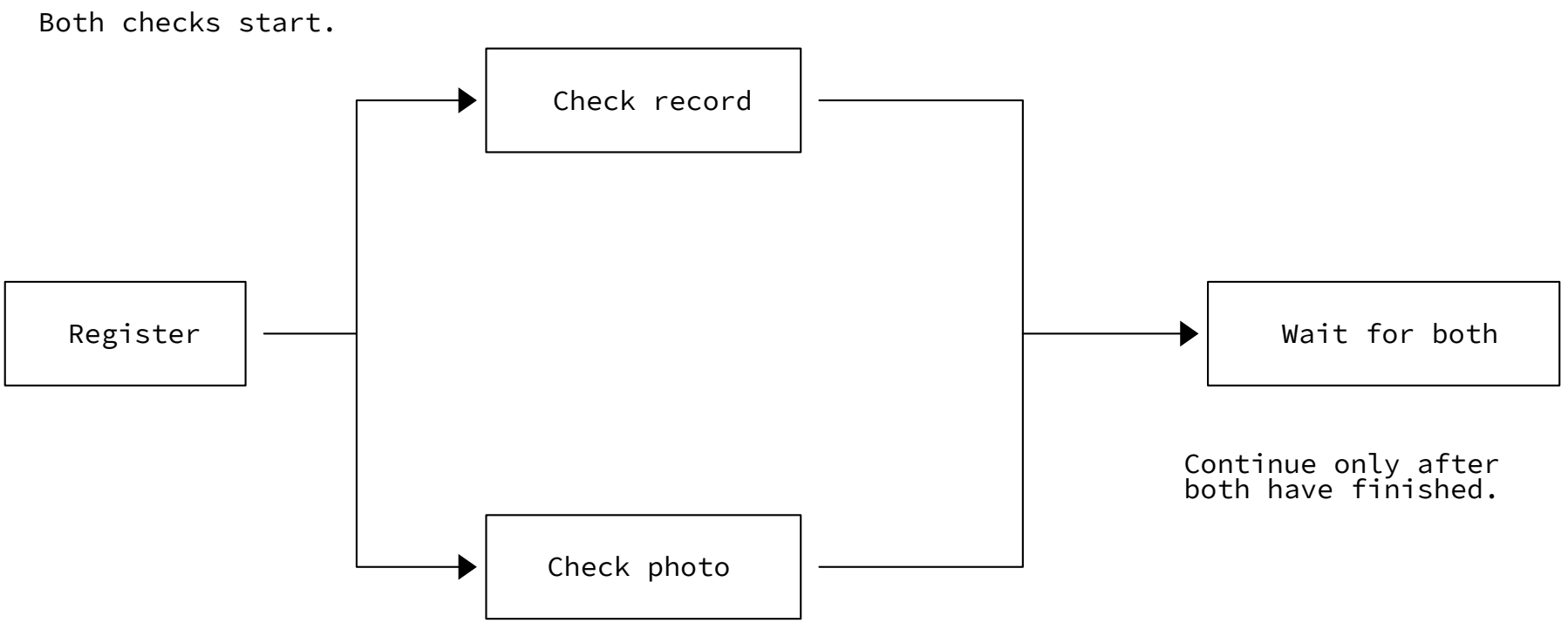
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Shared split`	Start both checks for this batch.
`Wait for both`	Require completion of both branches, not success of either check.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-001.txt figures/DTA-05-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-001.txt figures/DTA-05-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-05-001.svg figures/DTA-05-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Change Check photo to Check location; retain the same synchronization rule.

Actual output



DTA-05-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

Compare with D2 · Wait for both checks.

DTA-05-002

Finish an optional branch explicitly

An optional laboratory branch either runs the test or records that it was skipped. Use an explicit skip completion so the final AND join cannot wait forever for work that was never started.

Compare with DTA-05-001 · Wait for both independent checks.

ASCII source

```
+--------------+      +------------------+      +------------------+
| Register     |----->| Check record     |----->| Wait for both    |
+--------------+      +------------------+      +------------------+
       |                                                ^
       v                                                |
+--------------+      +------------------+              |
| {c}          |      |                  |              |
|              | yes  | Run lab test     |--------------+
|  Lab needed? |----->|                  |              |
|              |      +------------------+              |
|              |                                        |
+--------------+      +------------------+              |
       |         no   | Record skip      |--------------+
       +------------->|                  |
                      +------------------+

The lab branch finishes through Run lab test OR Record skip.
The join waits for that branch AND Check record.
```

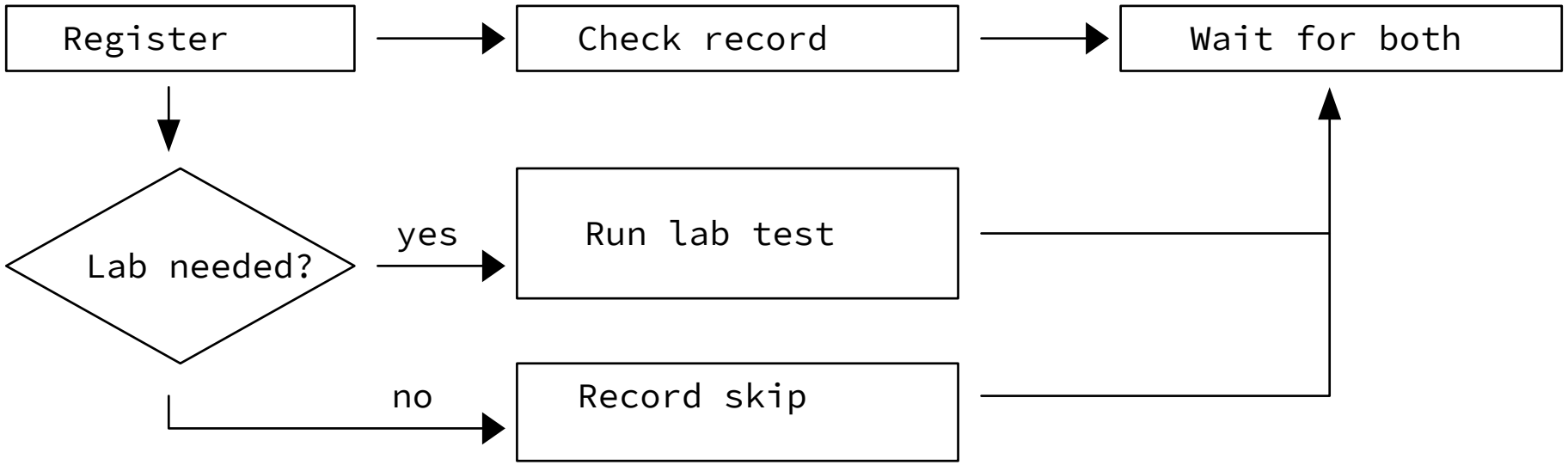
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Lab needed?`	Select exactly one path in the laboratory branch.
`Record skip`	Finish the optional branch when a test is unnecessary.
`Wait for both`	Wait for the record check and the selected laboratory outcome.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-002.txt figures/DTA-05-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-002.txt figures/DTA-05-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-05-002.svg figures/DTA-05-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Rename Record skip to Record waiver and describe who can grant it.

Actual output




```
The lab branch finishes through Run lab test OR Record skip.
The join waits for that branch AND Check record.
```

DTA-05-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-05-003

Assign a handoff to its owners

Owner captions identify responsibility on each side of the transfer. Use a named handoff when a diagram will support an operating procedure or an escalation discussion.

Compare with DTA-05-002 · Finish an optional branch explicitly.

ASCII source

```
Field team                        Curator

+----------------+    tagged sample    +----------------+
| Label sample   |-------------------->| Review record  |
+----------------+                     +----------------+
```

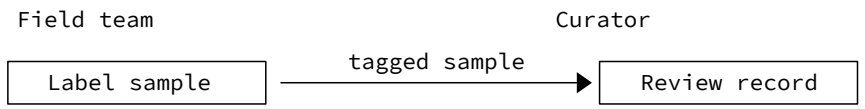
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Owner captions`	Assign the activities to field team and curator.
`tagged sample`	State what crosses the responsibility boundary.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-003.txt figures/DTA-05-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-003.txt figures/DTA-05-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-05-003.svg figures/DTA-05-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a Courier caption and an activity between the owners.

Actual output



DTA-05-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-05-004

Separate receipt from completion

A receipt is sent when the queue accepts the work; completion is sent after it has been processed. Use distinct signal labels to avoid promising that a queued job has already finished.

Compare with DTA-05-003 · Assign a handoff to its owners.

ASCII source

```
+---------------+      +---------------+      +---------------+
| Accept in     |----->| Inspect and   |----->| Send completed|
| queue         |      | store         |      | notice        |
+---------------+      +---------------+      +---------------+
        :
        v
+---------------+
| {d}           |
| Queue receipt |
|               |
+---------------+

Receipt means accepted into queue.
Completion means stored successfully.
```

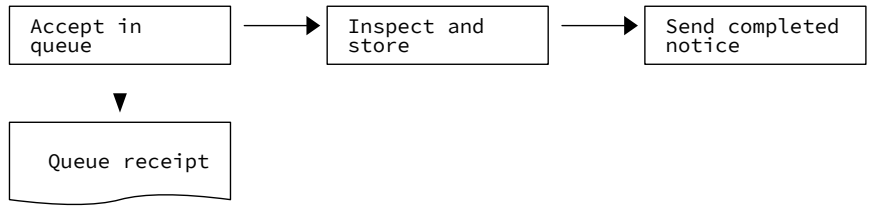
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Dashed output`	Issue the queue receipt before processing finishes.
`Solid sequence`	Order acceptance, processing and the completion notice.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-004.txt figures/DTA-05-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-05-004.txt figures/DTA-05-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-05-004.svg figures/DTA-05-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Change the completion condition to Published and update its notice label.

Actual output



DTA-05-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

06 · Appearance and readable text

Keep geometry and wording legible before adding decoration. Pair colors with written states, and use text structure or corner treatment only when it helps the reader.

DTA-06-001

Pair status colors with words

Fill colors group three review states, while their labels keep the meaning readable in grayscale. Use named colors or a three-digit RGB code inside a closed shape.

Compare with DTA-05-001 · Wait for both independent checks.

ASCII source

```
+---------------+   +---------------+   +---------------+
| cGRE          |   | cYEL          |   | c9DF          |
| Accepted      |   | Needs review  |   | Information   |
|               |   |               |   |               |
+---------------+   +---------------+   +---------------+
```

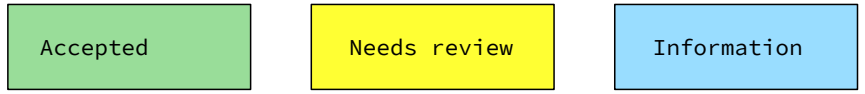
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`cGRE / cYEL`	Use built-in green and yellow fill names.
`c9DF`	Use red=9, green=D and blue=F in a three-digit RGB fill.
`Written states`	Retain the meaning without relying on color.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-06-001.txt figures/DTA-06-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-06-001.txt figures/DTA-06-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-06-001.svg figures/DTA-06-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Change c9DF to cDDF and keep Information visible.

Actual output



DTA-06-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-06-002

List the acceptance evidence

A spaced lowercase o becomes a bullet inside a text list. Use a checklist artifact to summarize what the curator must inspect before accepting a record.

Compare with DTA-06-001 · Pair status colors with words.

ASCII source

```
+-----------------------+
| Intake evidence       |
|                       |
| o Sample identifier   |
| o Collection location |
| o Clear photograph    |
|                       |
+-----------------------+
```

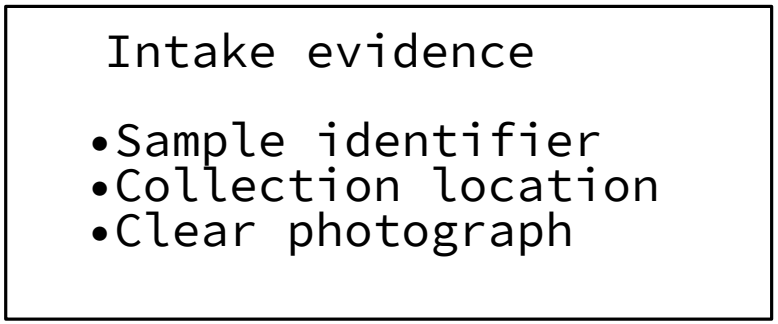
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`o text`	Surround o with spaces to render a bullet.
`Blank interior rows`	Separate the heading from the checklist.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-06-002.txt figures/DTA-06-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-06-002.txt figures/DTA-06-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-06-002.svg figures/DTA-06-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a fourth bullet for Collection date; extend both side borders.

Actual output



DTA-06-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-06-003

Round selected corners in the source

Slash and backslash corners round this one box. Use local corner syntax when another box in the same file should retain square corners.

Compare with DTA-06-002 · List the acceptance evidence.

ASCII source

```
/----------------\     +----------------+
| Prepare batch  |---->| Review record  |
\----------------/     +----------------+
```

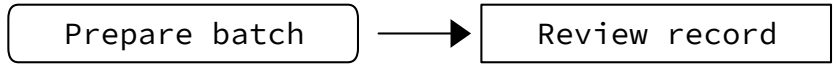
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`/` and backslash	Replace corner plus signs to round selected source corners.
`Square review box`	Keep its plus corners unchanged.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-06-003.txt figures/DTA-06-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-06-003.txt figures/DTA-06-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-06-003.svg figures/DTA-06-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Round only the two upper corners of Prepare batch.

Actual output



DTA-06-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-06-004

Keep a responsibility matrix compact

Touching cells can share a border rather than being separated into offset shapes. Use the native no-separation option for a compact matrix of owners and duties.

Compare with DTA-06-003 · Round selected corners in the source.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+----------------+
| Field team     | Curator        |
+----------------+----------------+
| Label sample   | Check record   |
+----------------+----------------+
| Send record    | Archive record |
+----------------+----------------+
```

Parameter	Meaning in this example
`--no-separation`	Keep common cell boundaries together.
`Shared + and -`	Build a compact owner/duty matrix from touching boxes.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --no-separation examples/DTA-06-004.txt figures/DTA-06-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --no-separation examples/DTA-06-004.txt figures/DTA-06-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-06-004.svg figures/DTA-06-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Remove --no-separation from the render command and compare the cell borders.

Actual output

Field team	Curator
Label sample	Check record
Send record	Archive record

DTA-06-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

07 · Render and export

The filename selects SVG or PNG in the pinned driver; every example also has an SVG-derived vector PDF. Change one export setting while retaining complete, editable ASCII input.

DTA-07-001

Enlarge an export without redrawing

Scale two doubles the rendered character-cell dimensions while leaving the source untouched. Use it when a native PNG needs more pixels for a high-density screen.

Compare with DTA-01-002 · Connect the next action.

ASCII source

```
+-------------+     +-------------+
| Inspect     |---->| Store       |
+-------------+     +-------------+
```

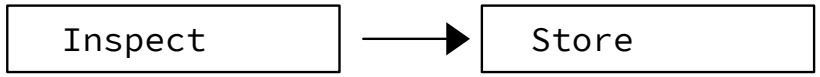
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`--scale 2`	Render at twice the common cell scale.
`Unchanged source`	Keep exactly the same layout as DTA-01-002.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 2.0 examples/DTA-07-001.txt figures/DTA-07-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 2.0 examples/DTA-07-001.txt figures/DTA-07-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-07-001.svg figures/DTA-07-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Change --scale 2 to --scale 1 and compare the downloaded PNG dimensions.

Actual output



DTA-07-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-07-002

Export a transparent background

Transparency lets the diagram sit on a page background without a white canvas. Use the native PNG alpha channel or embedded SVG on a light surface with enough contrast for black strokes.

Compare with DTA-01-002 · Connect the next action.

ASCII source

```
+-------------+     +-------------+
| Inspect     |---->| Store       |
+-------------+     +-------------+
```

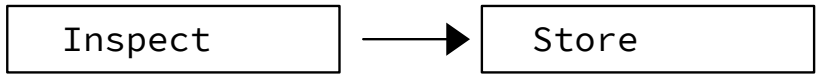
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`--transparent`	Omit the opaque canvas in both native exports.
`PNG alpha`	Retain transparent pixels outside the shapes.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --transparent examples/DTA-07-002.txt figures/DTA-07-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --transparent examples/DTA-07-002.txt figures/DTA-07-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-07-002.svg figures/DTA-07-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Render once without --transparent and compare the PNG alpha channels.

Actual output



DTA-07-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-07-003

Fix the slant of an input shape

The fixed-slope option changes how the sides of the input/output shape are constructed. Use it when a wide, short export box should keep a consistent slant.

Compare with DTA-02-003 · Show an input or output.

ASCII source

```
+----------------------------+
|           {io}             |
|       Catalog export       |
|                            |
+----------------------------+
```

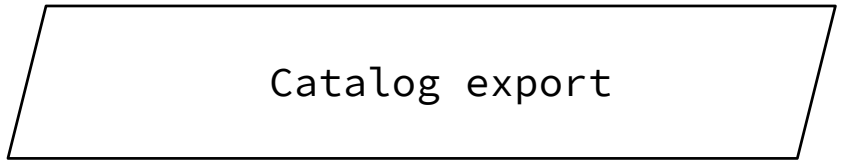
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`--fixed-slope`	Use the pinned renderer's fixed-slope geometry.
`{io}`	Keep the specialized input/output shape.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --fixed-slope examples/DTA-07-003.txt figures/DTA-07-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --fixed-slope examples/DTA-07-003.txt figures/DTA-07-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-07-003.svg figures/DTA-07-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Remove --fixed-slope and compare the left and right slants.

Actual output



DTA-07-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-07-004

Add a shadow for a presentation

The tour normally disables shadows; this example deliberately enables the native effect. Use it sparingly on a presentation diagram, with enough surrounding space to retain the full shadow.

Compare with DTA-01-002 · Connect the next action.

ASCII source

```
+-------------+     +-------------+
| Inspect     |---->| Store       |
+-------------+     +-------------+
```

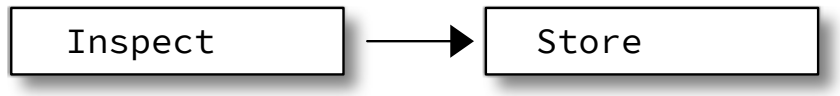
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`--shadows`	Driver option that leaves native shadows enabled.
`Shared default`	All other examples keep the configured no-shadow baseline.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --shadows examples/DTA-07-004.txt figures/DTA-07-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 --shadows examples/DTA-07-004.txt figures/DTA-07-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-07-004.svg figures/DTA-07-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Remove --shadows to return to the common flat appearance.

Actual output



DTA-07-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

08 · Complete operational processes

Combine earlier notation into four complete archive procedures. State the success condition, record flow and recovery action before discussing how the drawing is arranged.

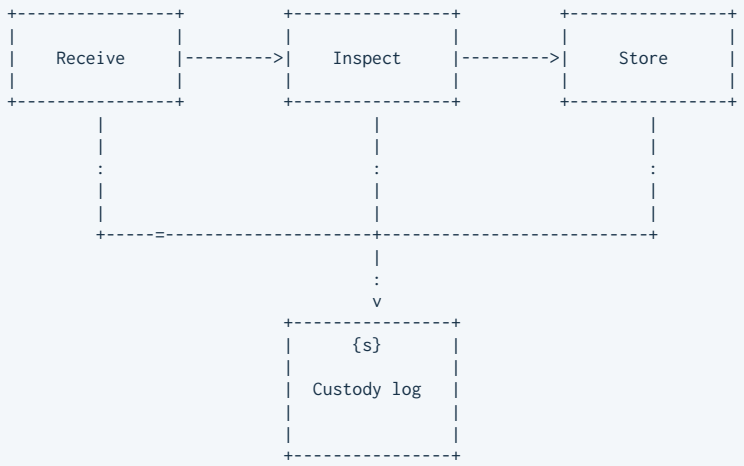
DTA-08-001

Audit an intake from receipt to storage

Receipt, inspection and storage each write an independent custody event. Use a shared dashed record path to the log while the solid activity arrows retain the order of work.

Compare with DTA-07-001 · Enlarge an export without redrawing.

ASCII source



Each activity writes an independent custody event.

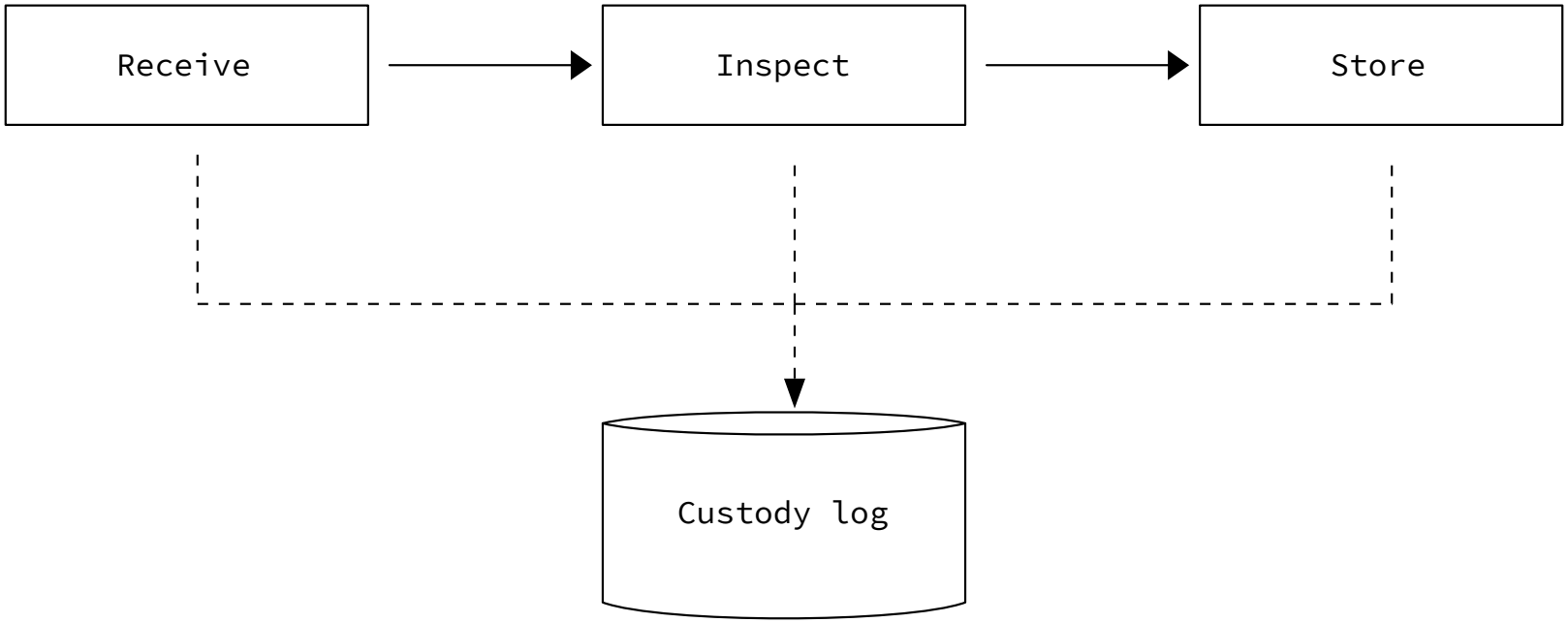
Parameter	Meaning in this example
Solid sequence	Order Receive, Inspect and Store.
Dashed paths	Write independent custody events; the shared path is not an AND join.
{s}	Persist the events in a custody log.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-001.txt figures/DTA-08-001.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-001.txt figures/DTA-08-001.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-08-001.svg figures/DTA-08-001.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a Tag sample activity between Receive and Inspect, including its log write.

Actual output



Each activity writes an independent custody event.

DTA-08-001 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-08-002

Release only a verified catalog

The current catalog changes only after candidate verification succeeds. Use a separate discard path so a failed candidate leaves the previous release available.

Compare with DTA-08-001 · Audit an intake from receipt to storage.

ASCII source

```
                          +--------------------+
                          |       {c}          |
                          |                    |
+-----------------+       |                    |             +--------------------+
|                 |       |                    |    yes      |                    |
|  Build draft    |------>|     Verified?      |------------>|   Switch pointer   |
|                 |       |                    |             |                    |
+-----------------+       |                    |             +--------------------+
                          |                    |                       |
                          |                    |                       |
                          +--------------------+                       v
                                    |                        +--------------------+
                                    |                        |       {o}          |
                                    | no                     |  Current catalog   |
                                    |                        |                    |
                                    |                        +--------------------+
                                    |
                                    v
                          +--------------------+             +--------------------+
                          |                    |             |                    |
                          | Discard candidate  |------------>|   Keep previous    |
                          |                    |             |                    |
                          +--------------------+             +--------------------+


Switch the pointer only after verification.
```

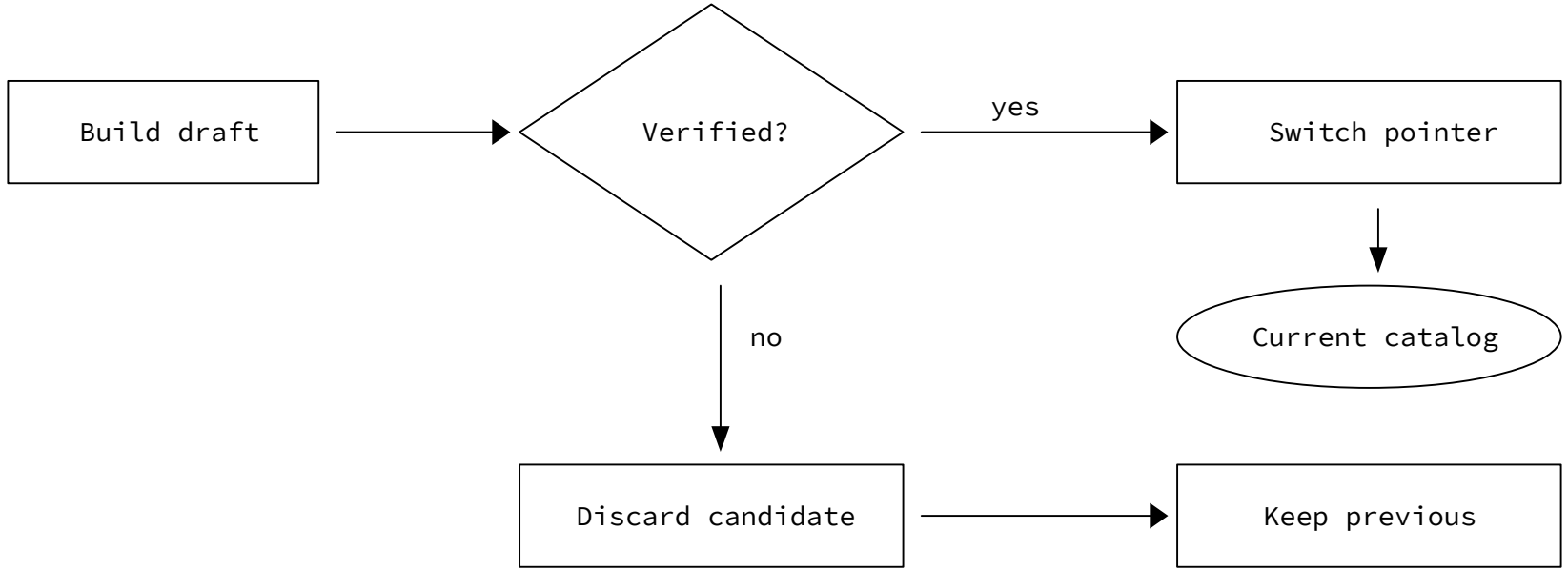
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Verified?`	Decide whether this candidate can become current.
`Switch pointer`	Make the checked catalog current in one release action.
`Keep previous`	Retain the existing release on verification failure.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-002.txt figures/DTA-08-002.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-002.txt figures/DTA-08-002.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-08-002.svg figures/DTA-08-002.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a note naming the verification checks.

Actual output




```
Switch the pointer only after verification.
```

DTA-08-002 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

DTA-08-003

Compensate a failed publication

A failed publication removes the staged data before releasing its reserved identifier. Use this reverse order when later cleanup depends on earlier resources still being available.

Compare with DTA-08-002 · Release only a verified catalog.

ASCII source

```
+----------------+          +------------------+           +------------------+
|                |          |                  |           |                  |
|   Reserve ID   |--------->|   Upload data    |---------->|   Publish data   |
|                |          |                  |           |                  |
+----------------+          +------------------+           +------------------+
                                                                    |
                                                                    v
                                                           +------------------+
                                                           |       {c}        |          +------------+
                                                           |                  |  yes     |    {o}     |
                                                           |    Published?    |--------->|  Released  |
                                                           |                  |          |            |
                                                           |                  |          +------------+
                                                           +------------------+
                                                                    |
                                                                    | no
                                                                    |
                                                                    v
+----------------+          +------------------+           +------------------+
|      {o}       |          |                  |           |                  |
|     Failed     |<---------|    Release ID    |<----------|  Remove upload   |
|                |          |                  |           |                  |
+----------------+          +------------------+           +------------------+



Undo completed work in reverse order.
```

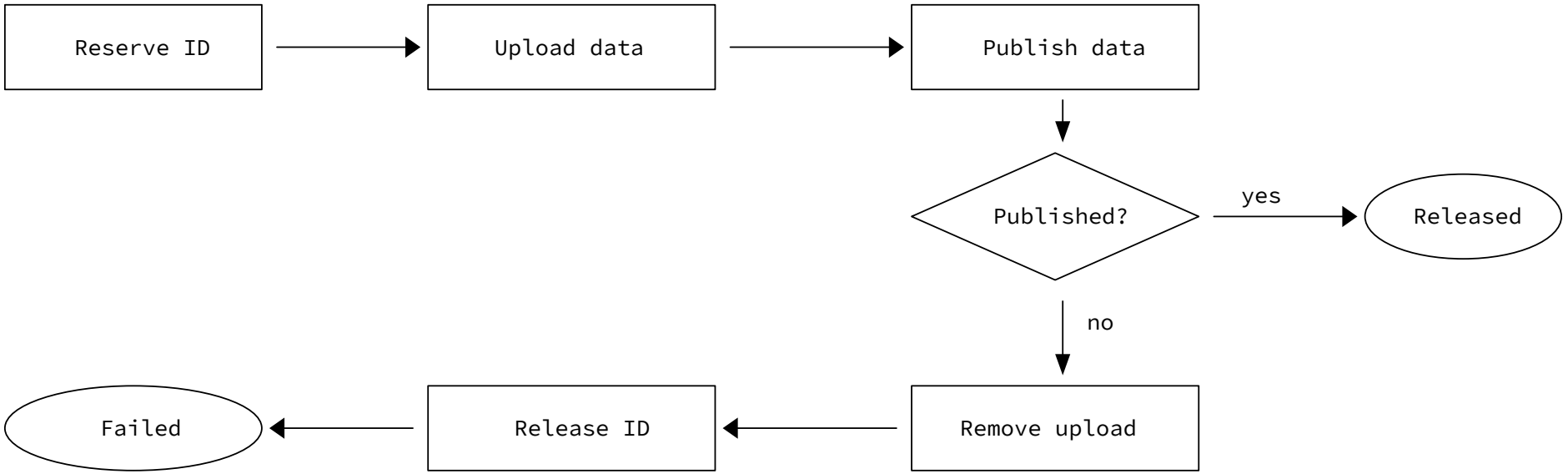
Parameter	Meaning in this example
`Publish data`	Attempt publication before testing its outcome.
`Remove upload`	Undo the completed upload first.
`Release ID`	Undo the earlier reservation after data cleanup.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-003.txt figures/DTA-08-003.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-003.txt figures/DTA-08-003.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-08-003.svg figures/DTA-08-003.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a separate operator outcome if removing staged data fails.

Actual output




```
Undo completed work in reverse order.
```

DTA-08-003 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

Compare with D2 · Undo completed work in reverse order.

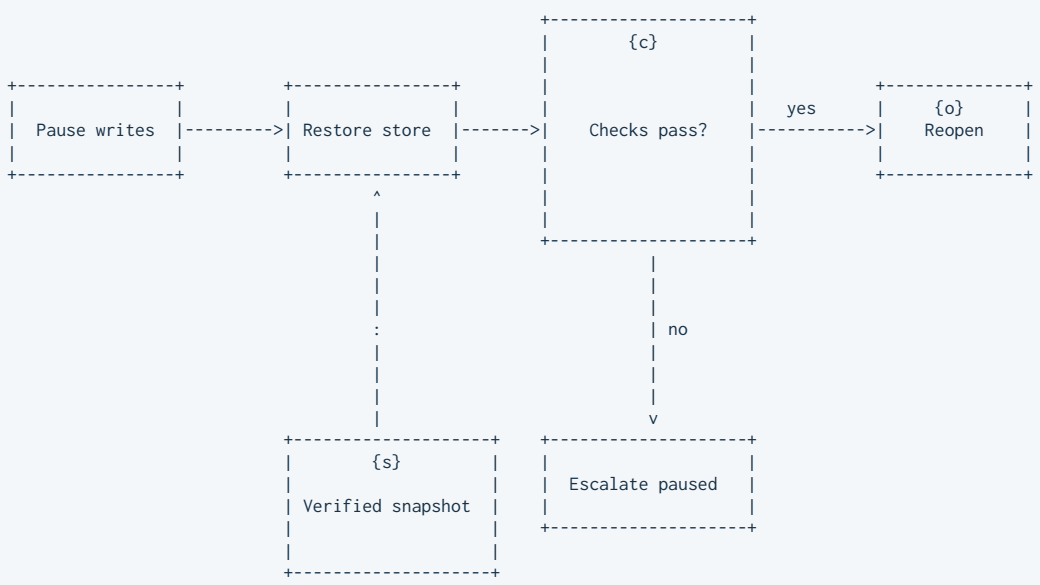
DTA-08-004

Reopen only after verified recovery

Recovery pauses writes, restores a verified snapshot and checks the result before reopening. Use the failure path to keep the service paused while an operator investigates.

Compare with DTA-08-003 · Compensate a failed publication.

ASCII source



Keep writes paused until all recovery checks pass.

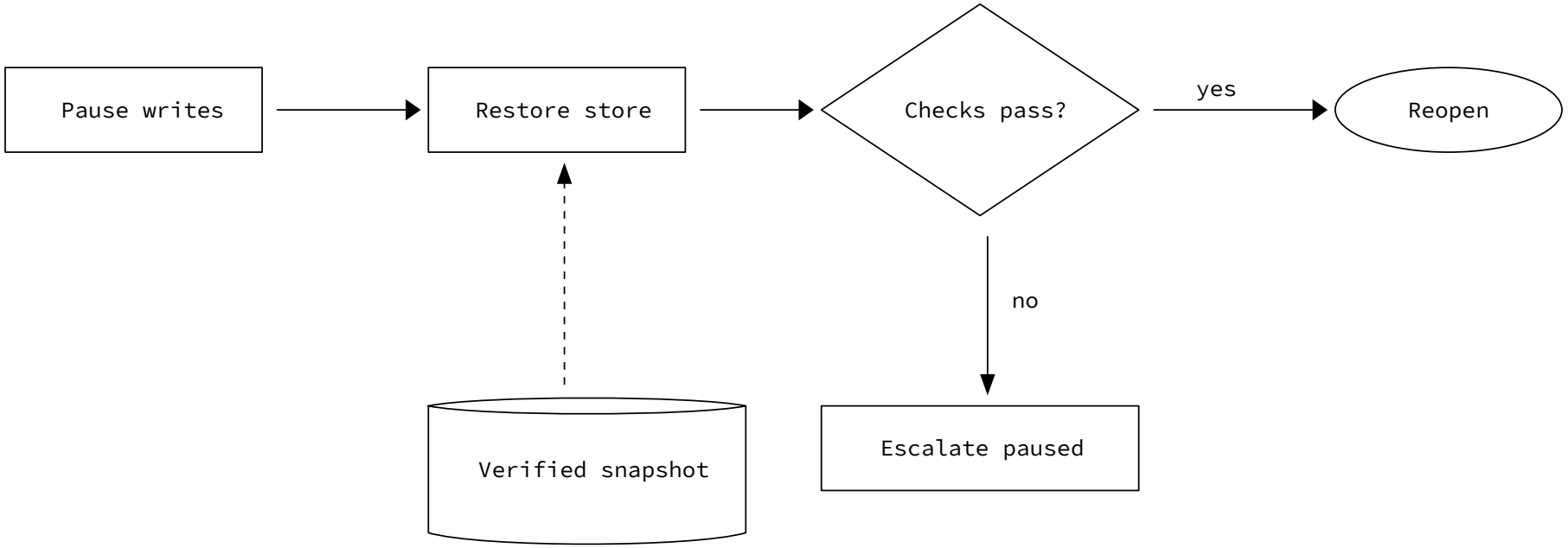
Parameter	Meaning in this example
Pause writes	Prevent new changes during restoration.
Verified snapshot	Supply recovery data on a dashed edge.
Checks pass?	Reopen only after the recovery checks succeed.

Render this diagram

```
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-004.txt figures/DTA-08-004.svg
tools/ditaa --scale 1.0 examples/DTA-08-004.txt figures/DTA-08-004.png
python3 tools/svg-pdf.py figures/DTA-08-004.svg figures/DTA-08-004.pdf
```

Try changing: Add a named checksum check to the recovery note.

Actual output




```
Keep writes paused until all recovery checks pass.
```

DTA-08-004 · Rendered by ditaa

ditaa · exit 0

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