DIGITAL ANTIQUITY
a new world of Archaeological Preservation, Innovation, and Research

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tDAR

Building, Improving, and Maintaining the Digital Archaeological Record

Contents

Background

Contact

Since the first issue of *eNews*, Digital Antiquity has been busy with several developments in digital data curation and management. These include a workshop with several representatives of federal agencies and state historic preservation offices in Washington, DC, applications to the tDAR grants program, updates to tDAR capabilities, preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, contributions to the Guides to Good Practice, and updates to the tDAR and Digital Antiquity websites. Summaries of these items are presented here, as listed in the Contents menu, but we also recommend that you visit the tDAR and Digital Antiquity websites to explore content and learn more about digital data issues.

Digital Antiquity is pleased to announce recent endorsements of tDAR by the Arizona Archaeological Council (AAC) Board of Directors and by National Academy of Sciences (NAS) members. Linda Cordell, distinguished Southwest archaeologist and NAS member, called tDAR "...the most important contribution to archaeology since radiocarbon dating" while Patty Jo Watson, recipient of the SAA Lifetime Achievement Award and NAS member noted that "the potential of tDAR is truly dazzling!" We are gratified by these accolades.

We value and encourage your suggestions as we work to improve *Digital Antiquity eNews* and other services. As always, we hope that you will contribute your data to tDAR; if you have not used tDAR before, take a moment to **browse** or **register** now. Please refer to the Contact Information menu for comments, questions and suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you--be sure to come by Booth 126 in the Exhibition Hall at this year's Annual Meeting of the SAA in Sacramento!

Would you like to improve this newsletter? Don't forget to send your suggestions to **comments@tdar.org**. Is someone missing? Feel free to forward this newsletter and the link to **sign up**.

DC Workshop on Digital Information Management

On February 22-23, 2011, Digital Antiquity and the SRI Foundation sponsored a workshop in Washington, DC on archaeological information management. Federal agency and SHPO representatives participated along with representatives of national CRM firms. Participants reviewed the current status of archaeological information management, in

particular how digital data and documents can be accessed and how they are preserved for future use. Attendees agreed on the importance of preservation and curation repositories for digital archaeological data. They discussed the challenges of access, preservation, and management of digital data and records. Participants considered how Digital Antiquity and tDAR could be useful to help their organizations meet data access and preservation needs. Participants also drafted an action plan to improve the current state of digital archaeological data preservation and management. Digital Antiquity will work directly with various organizations on implementation of the work plan.

Status of tDAR Grants Program

The Digital Antiquity tDAR Grants Program has received a wide range of grant proposals for digital archaeological data preservation and curation projects. Proposals have been submitted by CRM firms, public agencies, and academic and research organizations. The evaluation of received proposals is underway and initial awards will be announced in mid-April. Proposals are still being accepted and will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. To enter a proposal, please review the **guidelines** for preparation and submission on the Digital Antiquity web page.

tDAR Software Updates

Since its initial development, tDAR has undergone steady **improvements** to its **infrastructure**, data and **image entry** and management capabilities, ingest of major digital data sets, and **user workflows**. There are additional planned enhancements to tDAR functionality to be unveiled this spring and later in the year. More details on the updates are available in the News section of the Digital Antiquity website.

Read more about how to use the updated version of tDAR **here**.

Digital Antiquity and tDAR at SAA

Digital Antiquity staff will be **present** at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Sacramento, chairing or participating in various sessions, including three forums on the uses and management of digital data. Information and examples of tDAR uses will be available at the Center for Digital Antiquity Booth (**126**) in the Exhibition Hall. The forums address digital data management, using tDAR for archaeological research and data management, and mortuary practices in the American Southwest. If you are attending the SAA, we hope you'll come by and visit! Check the **SAA Final Program** for details and scheduling information.

Digital Antiquity and ADS Partner on Guides to Good Practice

Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in the UK and Digital Antiquity in the US are collaborating to revise and improve the current **Guides to Good Practice**, which contain recommended measures for the preservation

and curation of digital data. Although only certain sections of the six Guides are currently publicly available, ADS and Digital Antiquity invite revision and comments by archaeologists and other data professionals.

The new Guides are expected to be released later in 2011.

Website Updates

As Digital Antiquity and tDAR change, their respective websites are being updated to reflect new information, services and capabilities. For example, the "Features" section of the tDAR website now includes more extensive explanation of data upload features as well as what makes tDAR easy to use for research as well as long-term management and curation of data. Visit the **tDAR** and **Digital Antiquity** websites today!

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