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DIGITAL ANTIQUITY

a new world of Archaeological Preservation, Innovation, and Research

Digital Antiquity eNews, Number 1

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tDAR

***Building, Improving, and
Maintaining the Digital
Archaeological Record***

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the *Digital Antiquity eNews*, an electronic newsletter produced and distributed by Digital Antiquity. Digital Antiquity is collaborative non-profit organization founded to promote and improve the access to and the long-term preservation of archaeological documents and data. Digital Antiquity supports all aspects of archaeology: resource management, research, education, and public outreach by providing new and innovative ways of finding, using, and preserving archaeological information.

Digital Antiquity has three goals:

1. to enhance the management, public interpretation, and appropriate uses of archaeological collections, data, and sites;
2. to establish, promote, and facilitate ways researchers can more effectively create and communicate knowledge of the long-term and historic human past; and,
3. to provide for the long-term preservation of irreplaceable records of archaeological investigations.

As a key tool in reaching these goals, Digital Antiquity has developed and maintains the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR), a unique digital repository for archaeological data sets, documents and other kinds of digital files.

International in scope, tDAR expands the capacity of archaeological research and resource management. As a repository, tDAR preserves and provides access to archaeological information and research results.

The tDAR repository enables researchers and resource managers to communicate widely the results of their archaeological investigations and to provide access to the data and documents resulting from their studies.

tDAR allows access to archaeological documents and data sets that typically are unattainable, or at best difficult to obtain, with the long-term impact of providing broad access to information about our shared human past.

The repository provides for the protection of confidential data as well as

the intellectual property of its contributors. tDAR allows for retaining confidentiality when certain data are involved (e.g., specific site location information, the release of which would endanger site preservation). A related feature is the ability for contributors to limit access to ongoing research until they are ready to release it fully.

Unique data integration tools within tDAR also provide a medium for the synthesis and interpretation of complex data sets. These features enhance the capacity for reuse of archaeological information and for comparative research, as well as collaborative research focusing on dynamic questions.

We hope you will join us by contributing your data and suggestions. We have developed tDAR with the perspective that it will be improved over time as users provide feedback about changes that would be helpful. We seek to develop partnerships with other organizations that wish to use tDAR as a repository for the documents, data sets, and other files for which they are responsible.

This is the first issue of what we envision as a periodic electronic communication with colleagues and tDAR users. We encourage you to send the newsletter on to others who you think would find the content interesting and useful. Following this introductory letter, we have included several short summaries of issues and activities related to the mission of Digital Antiquity. You can learn more about these by following the links in each summary text.

If you have not used tDAR before, please take a moment to [browse](#) or [register](#) now. Please refer to the contact information at the left for comments, questions and suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

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Digital Antiquity Announces tDAR Grants Program

Digital Antiquity is requesting proposals for a grants program to support the archiving of digital archaeological data and documents in tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record), a new international digital repository. Reports and data shared through tDAR are made accessible to the public on the web and their long-term preservation is ensured. CRM firms, public agencies, individuals, universities, colleges, and other organizations are invited to submit brief proposals explaining

the value of the information to be contributed. A wide array of projects will be considered, such as individual projects, regional archives, and thematic research. Grants will be awarded in two categories: up to \$2,000, and up to \$10,000. We anticipate making approximately 40 awards. Rapid review of proposals will begin on 25 February 2011 and continue until funds are committed.

Specific criteria and instructions will be available by late December on our website.

Building the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR)

During the summer of 2010, staff at Digital Antiquity added over two hundred new digital documents to the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) repository. These documents, plus others contributed by registered users, has increased the number of documents available in tDAR to over 630.

Included in the repository are archaeological overviews, survey reports, detailed excavation and artifact analysis reports, as well as historical documents and studies related to archaeological resources. The documents cover research on both ancient and historic period archaeological resources and are international in geographic scope. Readers are encouraged to explore the tDAR repository using the [Search](#) function to see the variety of documents and data sets available to tDAR users.

Among the new entries is a report series of over 100 documents, *Publications in Anthropology*, published by the National Park Service's Western Archeological and Conservation Center between 1975 and 2008. These reports range from 3 to 852 pages, with most reports ranging between 200 and 400 pages. The repository now contains many interesting and informative studies in this series, among them are:

- Pat Parker's 1977 ground-breaking anthropological study of the material culture and spatial organization of the 19th century [Key's Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park](#)
- The 1986 report, [The Archeology of Gila Cliff Dwellings](#), by Keith M. Anderson, Gloria J. Fenner, Don P. Morris, George A. Teague, Charmion McKusick, Karen R. Adams, and Lisa W. Huckell. Their detailed report is the first systematic description of these sites which were proclaimed as a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907, making them among the oldest legally protected archaeological resources in the United States.
- The innovative 2001 historical archaeological investigation and documentation of portions of the Manzanar Japanese-American Internment Camp by Jeff F. Burton, Jeremy D. Haines, Mary M. Farrell, and Kari Coughlin, [I Rei To: Archeological Investigations at the Manzanar Relocation Center Cemetery, Manzanar National Historic Site, California](#).

These reports are only a few among the hundreds of documents about

American archaeology that users can find in the tDAR repository.

Response to the National Science Foundation, Social and Behavioral Sciences Call for White Papers

In August the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBE) issued a request for white papers recommending future research directions for the SBE program. Keith Kintigh, Francis P. McManamon and Katherine Spielmann responded to this call with a paper, [Synthesis and Cyberinfrastructure for SBE Research](#).

Their essay argues for the investment in social science data digital infrastructure by the NSF. The authors cite important improvements in synthetic natural science research as the result of massive NSF investment in its data-sharing infrastructure and synthesis tools. They note that social sciences have not yet made a similar investment. They argue the NSF SBE program needs to support the creation of this kind of infrastructure. However, they note that social sciences cannot simply adopt extant natural and physical science infrastructures. Due to the nature of the data, research is needed on appropriate forms of metadata, data integration and synthesis for the variety of types of social, behavioral and economic science data sets, documents, and other digital files.

New Article about Digital Antiquity & the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR)

A new article, [Digital Antiquity and the Digital Archaeological Record \(tDAR\): Broadening Access and Ensuring Long-Term Preservation for Digital Archaeological Data](#), by Francis P McManamon, Keith W. Kintigh, and Adam Brin has been published by The Center for the Study of Architecture (CSA).

Data Integration Research using tDAR Presented at the 2010 International Council for Archaeozoology Meeting (ICAZ 2010)

Kate Spielmann and Keith Kintigh described groundbreaking comparative research using Southwestern data sets and the data integration tool kit in tDAR. In their analysis, Spielmann and Kintigh leveraged the innovative data integration tools built into tDAR's architecture. You can view the PowerPoint slides from the ICAZ presentation and read an updated written version of their presentation.

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