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

Digital Antiquity eNews, Number 4	**November 3, 2011**

tDAR

Building, Improving, and Maintaining the Digital Archaeological Record

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Welcome to the latest issue of Digital Antiquity eNews. We have several recent news items to share with you this month, from our organization and from the broader world of digital archaeology. First, an update on tDAR content: recently, we enhanced records about archaeological reports from the National Archeological Database (NADB) and added them to tDAR. We hope this will make the information about past archaeological investigations more easily accessible to tDAR users. Next we discuss the tDAR Net Lessons, online training sessions that we held live during the month of July. We also detail the release of recorded tutorials based on the Net Lessons that will help support both basic and more advanced users of tDAR. In a related story, we unveil the new Digital Antiquity publication series, *Reports in Digital Archaeology*. Lastly, we are happy to report that the Council on Library and Information Resources has recently released an evaluation of the state of digital classics; Digital Antiquity and tDAR were featured along with our colleagues at ADS and Open Context.

NADB Records Enhanced and Entered into tDAR

The National Archeological Database, or NADB, contains over 350,000 citations of archaeological "grey literature" such as field reports, CRM publications, and other documents that are typically difficult to discover and access. We are pleased to announce that Digital Antiquity has improved the ability of users to find these references and access information about them. We have enhanced the information in the NADB records and added 350,000 plus new records to tDAR. With their metadata carefully examined for conformance to tDAR standards, these citation records are now fully searchable. We expect that this addition to tDAR will be important to those in CRM and other contract archaeological work, who will be able to more easily identify past investigations and locate the related documents. This will help to eliminate repetitive or unnecessary work, while also establishing a background to current work using the existing record.

Since the original NADB records did not include any links to copies of the documents described by the records, only citation information about the reports is available in the new tDAR records derived from NADB. However, unlike NADB, tDAR can be updated easily and it is possible to upload digital versions of reports and other records cited in NADB. If users find references to reports or other items for which they have a

digital copy, we encourage them to **contact** Digital Antiquity. We will work with them to upload the report to the appropriate tDAR record. Additionally, errors that users find in the former NADB information can be corrected--please contact us about necessary corrections or additional information that should be added so that the NADB records in tDAR will be as accurate and detailed as possible. We hope that this new and extensive information will serve as a powerful addition to tDAR, enhancing its potential for generating useful background, comparative, and integrative studies by all types of archaeologists--CRM, academic, museum, and avocational scholars.

Net Lessons and tDAR Tutorial Series

In July, Digital Antiquity data curators held three live, streaming workshops with a limited testing group of beginning tDAR users. The purpose of the training was to introduce tDAR and demonstrate its basic uses. Topics covered included a basic description of tDAR functionality and a showcase of examples of how it is best used. These workshops, originally called the "Net Lessons," were targeted toward an audience of archaeologists who were initially unfamiliar with tDAR.

The sessions were successful and well-attended. Based on the positive reaction to these training sessions, Digital Antiquity data curators filmed and narrated a series of seminars called the tDAR Tutorial Series. All of the material from the Net Lessons is available in the tDAR Tutorial Series. In addition, the Tutorial Series enables viewers to follow along at their own pace, repeat sections, and visit the examples shown on screen. The first three modules of the tDAR Tutorial Series will soon be available on the tDAR website under "How to use tDAR."

Reports in Digital Archaeology: a Digital Antiquity Publication Series

This month, Digital Antiquity announces *Reports in Digital Archaeology*, a series devoted to issues related to the management and preservation of digital archaeological information. These reports range from research and practice in the digital archiving of materials to policy and other challenges facing the preservation of digital archaeological resources. The *Reports* series is free of charge and available on the **Digital Antiquity** website.

The first monograph of the *Reports* series has been published. "Building tDAR: Review, Redaction, and Ingest of Two Reports Series" (J. Watts, June 2011) focuses on the process of preparing existing digital archaeological reports for and ingesting them to tDAR, discussing especially the problems presented by a series of reports spanning thirty years of archaeological work and publication. The second in our series, "Policies, Preservation, and Access to Digital Resources: The Digital Antiquity 2010 National Repositories Survey" (J. Watts, November 2011), will soon be published and available on the Digital Antiquity website. This report is a description and analysis of the present state of digital archaeological preservation and access at repositories that curate archaeological collections. Many of the challenges associated with the management of legacy digital resources are discussed.

If you are interested in submitting a report or manuscript for consideration as part of our series, *Reports in Digital Archaeology*,
please **contact** Digital Antiquity.

CLIR Report Focuses on the Contributions of Digital Antiquity and Colleagues

The Center for Library Information Research's (CLIR) most recent report, *"Rome Wasn't Digitized in a Day": Building a Cyberinfrastructure for Digital Classics*, compiled by Alison Babeu, summarizes the current state of research in digital classics. Although the document is quite varied in its approach and does not exclusively focus on digital repositories, Digital Antiquity's tDAR is highlighted as a promising way for classicists to provide access to their own data as well as search other work for comparative data sets and background research. The report also identifies ADS in the UK, and Open Context at UC Berkeley, as offering access to, use of and dissemination for classics research. It notes that all three of these organizations have made significant contributions to creating best practices in digital data curation, a key feature in ensuring the ongoing preservation of digital classics and other digital humanities and social sciences.

Our mailing address is:
Center for Digital Antiquity
PO Box 872402
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287-2402