

Catch Up with what's new with Digital Antiquity and tDAR

DIGITAL ANTIQUITY

dedicated to access, preservation, and use of archaeological information

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Building, Improving, and
Maintaining the Digital
Archaeological Record

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest installment of the Digital Antiquity e-newsletter. We have several new developments to share with you:

1. We want to remind you that review of grant proposals for the [2012 Digital Antiquity Grants Program will begin on May 15th, 2012.](#)
2. We seek participation in the [archaeology "grand challenge" survey.](#)
3. We encourage you to check out our new "[teaching using tDAR resources](#)" section of the tDAR website.
4. We report on our successful workshops and forums at the [77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, in Memphis, Tennessee.](#)

2012 Digital Antiquity Grants Announcement

Awards of up to \$7,000 are available for cultural resource management (CRM) firms, public agencies, individual researchers, universities, colleges and other organizations to support the direct cost of contribution of digital archaeological content (e.g. documents, data sets, images, etc.) to tDAR, Digital Antiquity's international digital repository.

Proposals that demonstrate geographical or thematic coherence, a breadth of audience interest, integration of resource management and scientific research across archaeological projects, and those that contribute different types of digital files related to the same archaeological investigations will be considered favorably.

Review of proposals will begin 15 May 2012 and continue until funds are committed. Decisions regarding grants are expected to be made beginning in mid-June 2012. Funds for grants are expected to be available by 1 August 2012. Questions regarding the proposals should be addressed to Grants2012@digitalantiquity.org, or in a voice mail to Grants Manager, Digital Antiquity at 480-965-1369. Please visit <http://www.digitalantiquity.org/news/2012/04/announcing-the-2012-digital-antiquity-grants-program/> for more information and to apply.

Join the Archaeology Grand Challenge

Professional archaeologists and graduate students are invited to contribute to the Archaeology Grand Challenge survey. This NSF-funded research project aims to understand the types of computational infrastructure (e.g. improved data acquisition tools for the field and lab, digitization of existing data, improved ability to discover, access, and

integrate digital data, tools to facilitate modeling and training to exploit this infrastructure) required to address the most important archaeological research questions of the next decade and beyond. Currently, the project seeks professional perspectives to identify important problems of broad scientific and social interest. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/ArchaeologyGrandChallenge> for more information and to participate in the survey.

Teaching with tDAR

Need inspiration in the classroom? We encourage you to check out our newly updated webpage on Teaching with tDAR, which outlines a number of ways in which digital resources accessible in tDAR can be used in the classroom. As an instructor, you can use tDAR to see sample project assignments and lesson plans, or to find documents to extend course readings. We highlight projects from the Phoenix Area Basin, Belize, and Colonial Chesapeake whose depth and breadth of resources may prove useful in the development of regional survey courses. Both instructors and students can make use of the raw data in tDAR to design or complete assignments and research projects, as well as locate images and maps for PowerPoint presentations. For more ideas visit <http://www.tdar.org/teaching>.

SAA Annual Meeting

Digital Antiquity representatives attended the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in Memphis, Tennessee from April 18th-22nd, where they met with visitors at their booth in the Convention Exhibit Hall, organized workshops on data sharing and hosted two forums on using tDAR and digital data archival methods.

At the booth, Digital Antiquity staff were on hand to demonstrate how to use tDAR and to discuss how tDAR is useful in the management and preservation of digital records. Of course, you can locate information on using tDAR on our website anytime at <http://www.tdar.org>.

Our workshops, held on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, entitled “**Using tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record) to Improve Your Professional Productivity**” were successful and well attended. Participants brought their own data to upload and the facilitators discussed issues of data management, access, sharing, maintaining confidentiality, citation and fair use, public engagement and digital preservation.

We hosted the Forum, “**Digital Data Standards and ‘Best Practices’ Needed for Access to and Preservation of Archaeological Information**” with a variety of participants including NSF and NEH program officers, representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, the Archaeology Data Service in the UK, an attorney with Cultural Heritage Partners, and Arizona State University. The group had a lively discussion covering the legal and organizational requirements for archiving of

digital data and the necessity for standards.

We brought together researchers from a variety of backgrounds who have used tDAR for a second Forum, **“Using the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) for Management, Research and Education.”** They discussed how tDAR is used for academic research, through Digital Antiquity grants and for their doctoral dissertation research.

During 2012, Digital Antiquity staff members will attend a number of conferences and workshops. We encourage others to contact us during these meetings with comments or questions about our organization and tDAR. We are also available via our website, by email and by phone. We look forward to seeing you at the 2013 SAA Annual Meeting in Honolulu!

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