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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tDAR The Digital Archaeological Record
A SERVICE OF DIGITAL ANTIQUITY

Building, Improving, and Maintaining the Digital Archaeological Record

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest installment of the Digital Antiquity e-newsletter. Here's a look at what's new:

- Upload your archaeological information to tDAR NOW -- Upload fees are waived for individuals until the end of 2012.
- Digital Antiquity is excited to announce the Summer 2012 release of tDAR software "Harris Matrix".
- The 1960's Archives of Archaeology Series has a new home in tDAR.
- The University Press of Colorado has added to the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR).
- Technology Director Adam Brin and Executive Director Francis P. McManamon contribute to the Society of Historical Archaeology's May 2012 Tech Week Blog.
- Francis McManamon, Executive Director of Digital Antiquity, gave one of the plenary addresses at the High-Tech Heritage Conference.
- Joshua Watts, Digital Antiquity Curator and ASU Ph.D. candidate was awarded the Fred Plog Memorial Fellowship during a ceremony at the SAA Annual meeting this spring.

Upload Your Archaeological Information to tDAR NOW! Upload Fees for Individuals Waived through December 2012

Readers should note that NOW is a very good time to upload their archaeological documents, data sets, images, and other data files to tDAR. Until the end of 2012 upload fees are waived for individuals who contribute archaeological information to the repository. In order to try out tDAR go to www.tdar.org. Register as a tDAR user, a simple procedure that requires that you create a password for log ins and that you agree not to misuse any of the information you obtain from records and documents/data in tDAR. Once you are registered, you can create a tDAR record and upload files of various sorts as part of filling in a user-friendly tDAR record form. Any problems or comments, please contact us at comments@tdar.org.

Digital Antiquity Releases "Harris Matrix" version of tDAR

Regular updates to the tDAR software comprise an integral part of Digital Antiquity's commitment to digital archaeological data preservation. The "Harris Matrix" release of tDAR (Summer 2012) includes major updates to core components of tDAR. These include:

1. A completely redesigned search and advanced search system with boolean searching by field.
2. New ways to "browse" and "explore" tDAR's content by collection, keyword, or decade.
3. Citations are now included for all resources.
4. A reordered document entry form to ease record creation and editing.
5. Numerous improvements in data integration

For a complete list of the enhancements in "Harris Matrix" please see the release notes online or try it yourself!

1960's Archives of Archaeology Series Finds a New Home in tDAR

In 1960, at its annual meeting, the Society for American Archaeology authorized the establishment of a new publication series making use of Microcards as the medium of publication. This move toward a condensed, durable, and accessible medium of publishing archaeological data and reports was viewed as a new approach to preservation technology in 1960. The University of Wisconsin was chosen to publish the series and a total of 29 archaeological reports on Microcards were published between 1960 and 1967 as the Archives of Archaeology series. Joseph Tiffany, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Executive Director of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center, details the process undertaken to digitize the 29 volumes in his article "Digitizing The Archives of Archaeology Series," published in the May 2012 edition of the SAA Archaeological Record. Today, the Archives of Archaeology series has been integrated into tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record) in keeping with the original publication's goals for preservation and access.

These archaeological reports, with analysis and descriptions of archaeological investigations and resources from Central America to Alaska to Japan, are reproduced digitally and in their full form in tDAR. Now these once relatively obscure reports are available for access at any time via the Internet. The entire list can be viewed as a tDAR collection at http://core.tdar.org/collection/13648.

University Press of Colorado Adds Content to the Digital Archaeological Record

Working with digital curators at the Center for Digital Antiquity, the University Press of Colorado has added to the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) information about 27 of its books on archaeological topics. The subject matter of the books includes a wide range of topics and locations, including the Maya area, Amazonia, Colorado, and the American Southwest. Registered tDAR users may download the books' tables of contents and introductions from the tDAR record. You can browse all of the publications here.

Digital Antiquity Contributes to the Society of Historical Archaeology's May 2012 Tech Week Blog

Digital Antiquity Technology Director Adam Brin and Executive Director Francis P. McManamon were co-contributors to the Society of Historical Archaeology's May 2012 Tech Week Blog. The blog, hosted by the SHA Technology Committee, examined the use and application of digital data in historical archaeology. Brin and McManamon, along with representatives from "Stories Past" and the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS), commented on the future of online databases and data sharing, the role played by their organizations in the larger field of archaeological data sharing and online databases, and the major hurdles that stand in the way of wide-scale acceptance and use of online databases in the archaeological community.

In their commentary, Brin and McManamon reviewed the challenges and opportunities with archaeological data access, use, and preservation, sharing their concerns and solutions for sustainability of digital repositories. They support and encourage the notion that the archaeological community, together with technologists, can build tools that digitally preserve important archaeological data and make it accessible for analysis and re-use in ways that could only be dreamed of in the past. The blog, "Sustainable Archaeological Databases – a view from Digital Antiquity" posted on May 29th, 2012.

Francis McManamon gave a Plenary Presentation at the "High-Tech Heritage" Conference

Francis McManamon, Executive Director of Digital Antiquity gave a plenary at the High-Tech Heritage Conference in Amherst, MA, May 2-4, 2012. Frank discussed the challenges of archiving, preserving, and using archaeological data in the 21st century. Using examples from the 19th, 20th, and peering into the 21st, Frank outlined the transformative nature of digital data on archaeology's past, present, and future, and identified some case studies and cautionary tales along the way. Participants learned more about the role and responsibilities of Digital Repositories and why tools like tDAR and organizations like Digital Antiquity are critical to the future of archaeology. A PDF of his PowerPoint presentation can be accessed here.

Digital Antiquity Curator Josh Watts receives Plog Memorial Fellowship

Josh Watts, Digital Curator with Digital Antiquity and Ph.D. student at Arizona State University, was honored during the Society for American Archaeology's annual meeting in April 2012, as the recipient of the Fred Plog Memorial Fellowship. The award is presented to support the research of a graduate student who is writing a dissertation on the North American Southwest or northern Mexico or on a topic, such as culture change or regional interactions, on which the late Fred Plog did research.

Watts' research is interdisciplinary, and incorporates aspects of archaeology, economic anthropology, economics, and computer-based modeling/simulation. His dissertation will be an important contribution to Hohokam archaeology and is sure to provide new insight into the organization and economic relationships of human communities.

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