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

DIGITAL ANTIQUITY
dedicated to access, preservation, and use of archaeological information

tDAR The Digital Archaeological Record
A SERVICE OF DIGITAL ANTIQUITY

Building, Improving, and Maintaining the Digital Archaeological Record

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We've been busy at the Center for Digital Antiquity since our last eNewsletter! At the start of the year we unveiled our new website—if you haven't been by lately, please visit tdar.org and see our new look! We have included many software improvements in this update, which you can also read about all of on our blog. In this eNewsletter we summarize some of these exciting updates.

Of course, tDAR's content continues to grow every day! In this issue we report on some of our larger projects and collections, including: Mimbres Pottery Images Digital Database, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dyess Air Force Base, and the BLM Permian Basin Final Reports.

We have traveled the country attending meetings and conferences to speak to professional, government, academic, and avocational archaeologists about improving digital preservation and access using tDAR. In this issue we report on our trips to the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists Workshop, the spring meeting of the Council of Texas Archeologists, and the Society for American Archaeology Annual meeting.

New Website & New Version of tDAR (in situ):

If you haven't been to the tDAR website or to tDAR lately, take a look. We've teamed up with Fervor Creative based in Tempe to update everything making it simpler to navigate and use. The website now has dedicated sections for different types of tDAR users with materials that may be of interest to them including: case studies, lesson plans, and guidance documents. Be sure to check it out.

Along with the website, tDAR has received a face-lift and some major updates as well. We spent time analyzing the use of tDAR for data entry and discovery and tried to simplify the entire process. The edit screens now have better help text and a navigation bar that remains static on the top of the page at all times. Search results, collections, and project pages were enhanced to include a "Light Table" or "Grid" view and a "Map" view. A number of security enhancements were also made though out the site. For a complete list of enhancements see our blog.

Mimbres Pottery Images Digital Database:

A long-standing project with the Mimbres Foundation to archive the Mimbres ceramic database within tDAR was launched in tDAR in March. This incomparable database with associated photographs created by Harvard's Steven LeBlanc and ASU's Michelle Hegemon is an amazing example of a comparative collection for use by researchers and others interested in this striking pottery. The extensive database contains data from over 70 separate collections and over 9,000 color and black and white images. View the collection in tDAR, and read more here.

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology:

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology published its back-catalog of supplemental materials in tDAR in January. This wide-ranging collection of supplemental material from the museum's archaeological publications adds additional documents, images, and data sets for site reports and books covering archaeology across the globe including Mesoamerica, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. View the collection in tDAR, and read more here.

Digital Archive of Archaeological Documents Related to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas:

Reports and digital data have been added to tDAR in partnership with the US Air Force for Dyess Air Force base and the surrounding area. This work further highlights how federal agencies can use tDAR to archive and provide access to materials. Be on the lookout for other collections that will be made available through this collaboration between Digital Antiquity and the US Air Force over the summer! View the collection in tDAR, and read more here.

BLM Permian Basin Final Reports:

The Bureau of Land Management, Carlsbad Field Office in New Mexico has recently uploaded five reports to tDAR that cover recent archaeological studies of the Permian Basin (Southeastern New Mexico). Each record includes a publically accessable file (with confidential site location information redacted) and a user-restricted confidential version that contains an unredacted copy of the file. The BLM Carlsbad Field Office Archaeologists manage access to the confidential files. This is a great example of how an agency, firm, or individual researcher can use tDAR to provide access while protecting confidential archaeological information. View the Permian Basin Final Reports here.

Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting:

At the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting in Seattle, Digital Antiquity's Executive Director Frank McManamon (with co-authors Mary Whelan and Adam Brin) made a presentation on the benefits of and ease with which the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) can serve as a repository for the digital products of archaeological studies. This paper was given as part of the "Managing Archaeological Data in the Digital Age: Best Practices and Realities" and readers interested in the topic can view all the slide presentations with audio by clicking here.

Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists Workshop:

Leigh Anne Ellison visited Anchorage, Alaska to speak about digital preservation at the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists. The group meets annually in advance of the Alaska Anthropological Association meetings for workshops. This year's theme was digital data management, and Leigh Anne was able to introduce the group to tDAR, highlighting the many ways archaeological data can be managed using the archive. Additionally, she demonstrated how data sets archived in tDAR can be integrated using tDAR's advanced tools for seamless synthetic research. Many workshop participants brought with them files to upload and were able to upload those to tDAR. The morning was rounded out by a discussion led by Michael Etnier (Department of Anthropology, Western Washington University) about the Neotoma Paleoecology Internet Database and Community for Tracking Archaeofauna Assemblages from Alaska. Thanks ACZ for the opportunity to discuss tDAR for data management!

Council of Texas Archeologists, Spring Meeting:

Frank McManamon and Leigh Anne Ellison were joined by Digital Antiquity Professional Advisory Panel Member Jim Bruseth at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Texas Archeologists, held at Camp Mabry, in Ausin, Texas to speak to the Texas archaeological community about digital preservation and archiving with tDAR. In addition to our formal presentation, we demonstrated of tDAR's functionality, and answered questions informally with meeting participants at our booth.

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting:

Digital Antiquity was in Honolulu for the 78th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Leigh Anne Ellison, Frank McManamon, Keith Kintigh, and Anna Novotny all took turns talking to SAA members from our booth in the exhibit hall. It was great to catch up with current tDAR users and have the opportunity to demonstrate tDAR's great features to new users. We look forward to seeing you in Austin next year!

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