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

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

Digital Antiquity e-News, Number 10	December 19, 2013

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. We have several new developments to share with you:

Latest tDAR Software Updates: Jar

Regular updates to the tDAR software comprise an integral part of Digital Antiquity's commitment to digital archaeological data preservation. The *Jar* release of tDAR (Summer 2013) includes over 250 bug fixes and feature enhancements! Perhaps the most apparent feature update is the new resource type for Geospatial Data (GIS). We are now able to preserve and provide long-term access to Shapefiles, Personal Geodatabases, and georectified images including GeoTIFFS and GeoJPGs. Our first GIS content comes from Chris Carr at the University of Cincinnati, and is sponsored by The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. They have uploaded georectified maps of Tikal as part of the Tikal Report 11: Map of the Ruins of Tikal, El Petén, Guatemala and Georeferenced Versions of the Maps Therein Collection.

Some of the other new, great features include a completely redesigned file-replace process, the ability to download all the files on a record at once, the ability to add a description to uploaded files, an updated image display gallery, improved data set view, updated ontology pages, and a number of new features related to the technical functionality. For a complete report on what is new please read the release update notes, and then visit tdar.org and see them for yourselves! As always, we love to hear your feedback on the new release, so if there is something you love, additional new features you'd like to see, or if you encounter something just not working right please email us at comments@digitalantiquity.org and let us know!

Digital Antiquity and Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation Continue Cooperation

The cooperative program to provide for digital curation of archaeological reports and other data from investigations made as part of the Central Arizona Project as well as for ongoing investigations has been extended for another year. Most reports done for the Salt-Gila

Aqueduct, Lower Verde Valley, Theodore Roosevelt Dam, and Tucson Aqueduct projects now are available in tDAR. Current work involves creating links between the Phoenix Area Office's site inventory database for archaeological sites and documents and other data in tDAR related to these sites. The Lake Pleasant project is being used as a pilot data set for this part of the program. Digital Antiquity curators also are working with three CRM firms (Archaeological Consulting Services, Logan Simpson Design, and Northland Research) working under an "on call" contract with the Phoenix Area office to ensure that new archaeological data from present-day projects is deposited in tDAR as part of each project.

User Documentation:
Our user documentation for tDAR is in the process of being updated and expanded to reflect the new changes in our latest release. In addition to step-by-step instructions for all parts of tDAR, the user documentation will eventually include a number of video tutorials, especially for some of tDAR's more advanced features.   We encourage you to visit our Help & Tutorials page to address questions you may have about using tDAR, and maybe learn some new tricks!

Policies & Procedures:
As tDAR grows and expands Digital Antiquity is improving not just the software, but also the policies and procedures of that guide tDAR use. This summer the Digital Antiquity Board of Directors approved a slightly revised accession policy, as well as an expanded contributor's agreement policy, updated terms of use, and created a new privacy policy. All of these are now available on the policies and procedures section of the tDAR website. When logging in for the first time since the update you'll be asked to agree to the new policies before being taken to your dashboard.

Guides in Print:
The Center for Digital Antiquity and the Archaeology Data Service are proud to announce the print publication of *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice*. This new volume is the final piece in three years of work to update the *Guides to Good Practice* to cover a wider range of archaeological data and to refresh the content with up-to-date information. Based on the web version of the *Guides to Good Practice*, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology* provides an overview of the challenges to digital archiving and practical guidance for more common materials. The print version is intended to be used in concert with the online site which will be maintained with up-to-date information and provide more depth of content.
Copies can be purchased directly from the publisher, Oxbow, and are also available through Amazon.

Meetings and Conferences:
Digital Antiquity has attended several local conferences this summer and fall. In May we set up a table at the Arizona Historical Preservation Conference, held this year in Mesa, Arizona, where we had the opportunity to speak to a large number of agency and contract archaeologists about their current management strategies for digital archaeological

records. We received a lot of positive feedback, and were pleased share information about tDAR with the local archaeological community. We also organized a forum on the Theodore Roosevelt Dam Project with Jon Czaplicki of the Phoenix Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, and discussed how digitally managing and sharing the resources of this project has changed the landscape of archaeological research from the perspectives of contractors, Bureau of Reclamation staffers, researchers, and others.

Executive Director Frank McManamon participated in a meeting of domain digital repositories funded by the Sloan Foundation and hosted by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan campus on June 24th and 25th. The participants, including representatives from a variety of domain repositories, in addition to archaeology the subject matter of the repositories included ecology, proteins, astronomy, anthropology, political science, economics, and other subjects. The group worked together to develop a series of common principles, models for sustainable funding plans, and mechanisms to continue to share expertise on a variety of topics including intellectual property rights, data citation, metadata standards, provenance, digital preservation, community engagement, and sustainability. Some of the commentary and recommendations that discussed during the meeting have been summarized in a paper endorsed by all of the attendees, plus leaders of other domain repositories.

In early August we packed up our camping gear and headed up to Flagstaff, Arizona, for the 86th Pecos Conference, held annually in the southwestern United States or northwestern Mexico. Participants camp, and two tents house presentations and exhibits. We were able to share information about tDAR with a wide range of archaeologists, and connected with a number of Forest, National Park Service, tribal, private Cultural Resource Management firms, and avocational archaeologists who attended to discuss recent research and issues related to the field. Despite the low-tech (and laid back) conference atmosphere, our tDAR booth was well attended by archaeologists seeking solutions to managing, accessing, and preserving their ever-growing digital data.

At the beginning of October, Frank McManamon attended the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) annual conference in Washington, DC on behalf of the Center for Digital Antiquity. Digital Antiquity is an associate member of ACRA and was one of the vendors at the conference. Despite the federal government shutdown, the conference was informative, well-organized, and useful. There were discussions about coordinating actions to meet the demands for effective cultural resource management (CRM) involvement in energy development undertakings, dealing with copyright and intellectual property issues, and a variety of other matters. Check out Frank's thoughts about the conference and the legacy of CRM firms on our blog.

Reminder for SAA Student Members: Use Your 2013 tDAR Vouchers Now!
Thanks to a new collaborative program that gives student members the opportunity to curate digital materials through Digital Antiquity, students can upload three files of up to 30 megabytes (MB) per year to tDAR, free of charge—a $150 value.
If you haven't done so already, email membership@saa.org to claim your voucher. You

will receive a digital coupon allowing you to upload three files (up to 30MB) to tDAR free of charge until January 31st 2014! Once you have your voucher visit http://www.tdar.org/why-tdar/contribute/ to add your files to the repository and ensure their long-term preservation. 2014 coupons will be available for new and renewing student members beginning in January.

Many students have already taken advantage of this excellent opportunity. Recently, Angela Huster used her voucher to upload to tDAR the data she used for an analysis she recently published in SAA's new digital journal, *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. Don't delay, load you favorite report, paper, thesis, data set or images into tDAR today! Start you own digital archive where you can share your data and research results and ensure their long-term availability.

Meet Our Newest Members:

Jodi Reeves-Flores, Digital Curator and CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow:
The Center for Digital Antiquity and Arizona State University Libraries are thrilled to introduce our newest staff member, Jodi Reeves-Flores! Jodi was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship sponsored in part by the Council for Library and Information Resources (CLIR), the Center for Digital Antiquity, and Arizona State University Digital Libraries to work as a Data Curator for the next two years. Jodi received her PhD from University of Exeter this summer, where she studied experimental archaeology. Her dissertation, entitled "Experimental Archaeology: An Ethnography of Its Perceived Value and Impact in Archaeological Research," relied upon a number of digital archiving methods, and she has a strong interest in digital data management. In addition to working to upload archaeological records to tDAR, Jodi will be responsible for expanding the use of digital repositories here on campus, improving teaching and outreach related to tDAR, and embarking on scholarly research related to data management and the development of institutional and disciplinary repositories.

Brittany Fish, Administrative Assistant
Brittany comes to the Center for Digital Antiquity with a BS in public relations and several years of experience as an executive administrative assistant. Previously, Brittany worked as an Administrative Assistant III at Utah Valley University and an Executive Assistant at the University of Utah Hospital. She has also worked as a public relations specialist for SeaWorld and the American Red Cross.

Goodbye Kirsten Clary
Way back in August, we said goodbye to our excellent Administrative Assistant, Kirsten Clary, who took a job with Maricopa Community College as the Administrative Assistant to the College President. We are thrilled for her to embark on the new opportunity, but will miss her friendly personality, strong work ethic, meticulous attention to detail, and phenomenal vegan cupcakes! Any business or correspondence you had with Kirsten can now be directed to Brittany Fish (Brittany.fish@asu.edu).

We wish you a happy holiday season and a fantastic new year!

follow on Twitter | friend on Facebook | forward to a friend

unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences

follow on Twitter | friend on Facebook | forward to a friend