

Keeping Data Alive, New Grants and Content

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

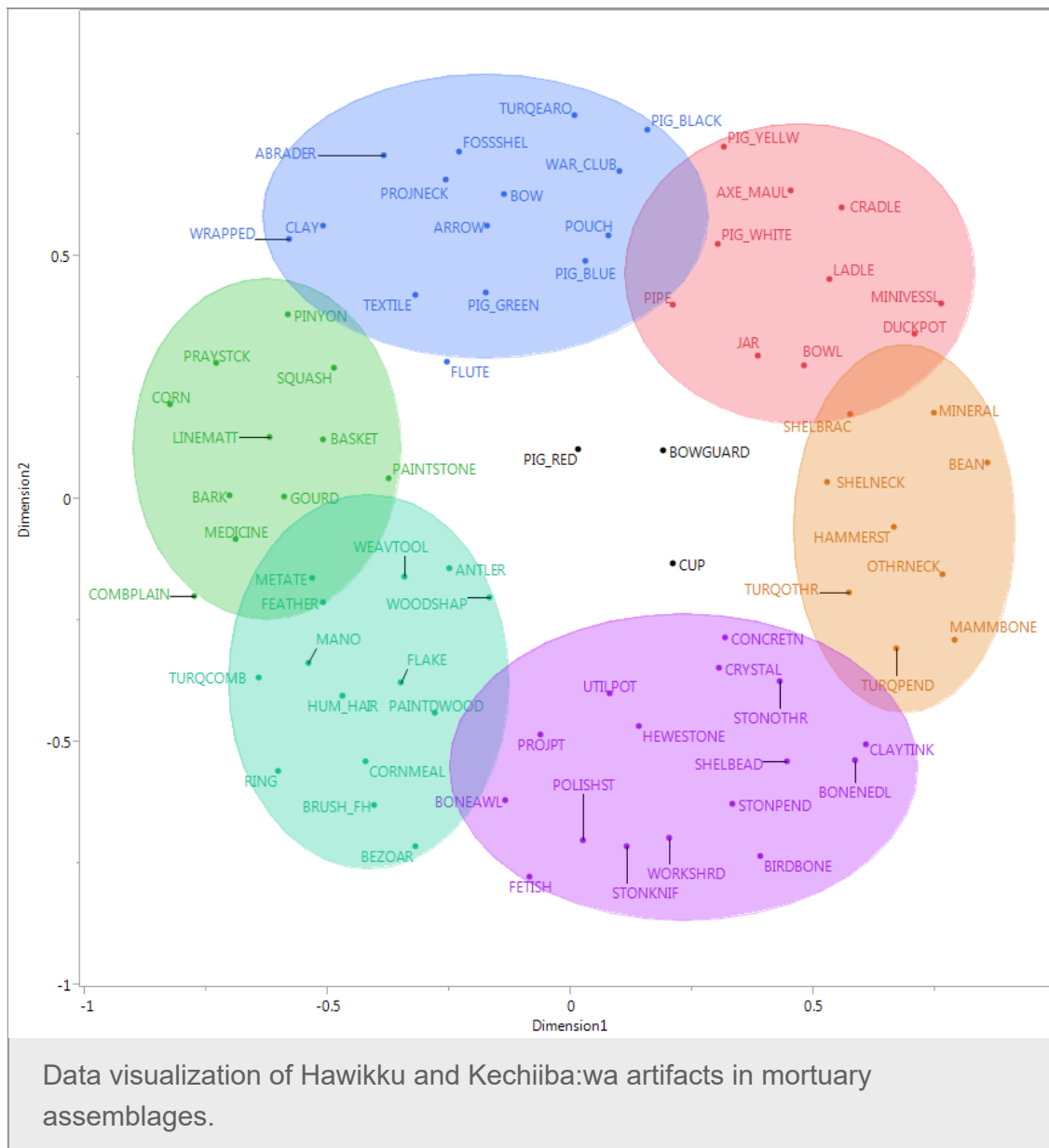
After a very busy and productive summer, The Center for Digital Antiquity is back with our latest news. First up, we have a compelling read regarding dissertations in the digital age. Followed by an exciting announcement of new archaeology archives that have been put in tDAR. Since our last newsletter, we have also welcomed a new member on the Digital Antiquity Board of Directors and attended and made presentations at several conferences. Lastly, we've released two tDAR updates! It's a rewarding time here at the Center for Digital Antiquity!

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Dissertations in the Digital Age – Keeping Dissertation Data Alive

Dissertation data should remain alive in the digital age. Scott decided to present his [dissertation data](#) solely through [tDAR](#) (no appendices necessary) and was able to make the primary data available immediately. He continues to manage and enhance the primary data and all the associated metadata, and is currently documenting the large amounts of metadata that describe the database. Scott hopes that the curation of his dissertation data with tDAR ensures that these data are widely available in easily accessible, active formats, as he desires for the data to be used.

The dissertation's primary vehicle for data presentation was and typically still is the dreaded appendix. In the digital age, there are new and emerging ways to disseminate dissertation data. Through the use of digital data repositories, authors can preserve their primary data in perpetuity and make them widely available. Most importantly, though, they can use digital repository tools to ensure that the data are usable, right away. With new digital technologies and venues, we have an opportunity to move beyond the simple publishing of data.



Conferences

20th Annual Meeting of the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA)

Digital Antiquity was represented at the annual meeting of ACRA held at St. Pete's Beach in Florida from September 18th to 20th. The Digital Antiquity-tDAR table had a regular stream of conference attendees interested in learning about tDAR and doing searches of the repository database. Frank McManamon made a presentation in the conference session on "Best Practices." He provided an outline and summary of the necessary standards and procedures for the curation of digital files.

McManamon noted in particular how digital curation differs from the curation of artifacts, paper records, and other physical remains that archaeologists curate.

Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting

Digital Antiquity found great success in attending the 79th Annual Meeting of the [Society of American Archaeology](#) in Austin, TX this year. Frank McManamon, Leigh

Anne Ellison and Jodi Flores represented Digital Antiquity and tDAR. Leigh Anne, Marketing and Sales Coordinator, organized a rewarding session where she presented on “Using tDAR for Management and Research.” The forum was well attended with a lively question and answer session provided by the audience and a diverse panel of tDAR contributors. In addition, she gave a three minute presentation at the Digital Data Interest Group “Lightening Talks” on using tDAR for data integration. These short presentations were a fun way to engage with the digital community and share more about tDAR’s features and learn about other digital projects.

Frank McManamon, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Antiquity, met with key people at the SAA meeting. He also assisted at the tDAR panel session and the booth. As always, it was nice to visit with current tDAR users and have the opportunity to introduce tDAR’s features to new and interested contributors and users. We look forward to seeing you at the next SAA annual meeting in San Francisco next year!

Arizona Historic Preservation Conference

Leigh Anne Ellison, Marketing and Sales Coordinator, and M. Scott Thompson, Postdoctoral Research Associate, both attended the [AZHPC](#) this year, which was held in June at the Esplendor Resort at Rio Rico. Jon Czaplicki , [Bureau of Reclamation PXAQ](#), was awarded the Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission (GAAC) award in Public Archaeology! Jon continues to devote his concerted effort to preserve his digital legacy and we are proud of tDAR’s contributions to this important endeavor. Jon’s digital projects are available on the [tDAR website](#).

Scott partnered with Christopher Garraty, Principal Investigator/Research Director of [Logan Simpson Design Inc.](#), to organize a compelling session titled “Archaeology and Economic Revitalization.” This was an [Arizona Archaeology Council](#) supported panel discussion that considered how archaeology can contribute to the economic well-being of communities. The session organizers and panelists, who were professional archaeologists working and living in Arizona, helped to engage the audience in conversations about the big business that is cultural tourism and its relationship to cultural resource protection and research. The discussion tackled topics including developing archaeological sites for the public, issues of interpretation, the politics of managing cultural resource parks and tourism, and tribal involvement in cultural tourism.

Overall, the AZHPC was very successful with great opportunities to talk with local archeologists, promote tDAR and to celebrate Jon’s efforts in digital preservation.

Shaw AFB and Avon Park AFR Archaeology Archives now in tDAR

In partnership with the [United States Air Force](#) (USAF), the [Shaw Air Force Base](#) (Shaw AFB in South Carolina) and [Avon Park Air Force Range](#) (Avon Park AFR in Florida) archaeology archives were added to tDAR this spring. Both the [Shaw Air Force Base Archaeology Archive](#) and the [Avon Park Air Force Range Archaeology Archive](#) contain documents, images, and other data from archaeological and other cultural resource research conducted at both bases. The Shaw tDAR collection contains 81 records, including 51 documents, mainly reports of archaeological studies; it has been viewed 600 times since becoming public in tDAR. The Avon Park tDAR collection contains 43 records, 32 of them documents; this collection has been viewed 806 times since becoming open to the public in the spring. The creation of these digital archives is part of a pilot program to investigate the feasibility of the USAF using tDAR as a long-term repository for archaeological information important for the management and protection of important archaeological resources on USAF bases.

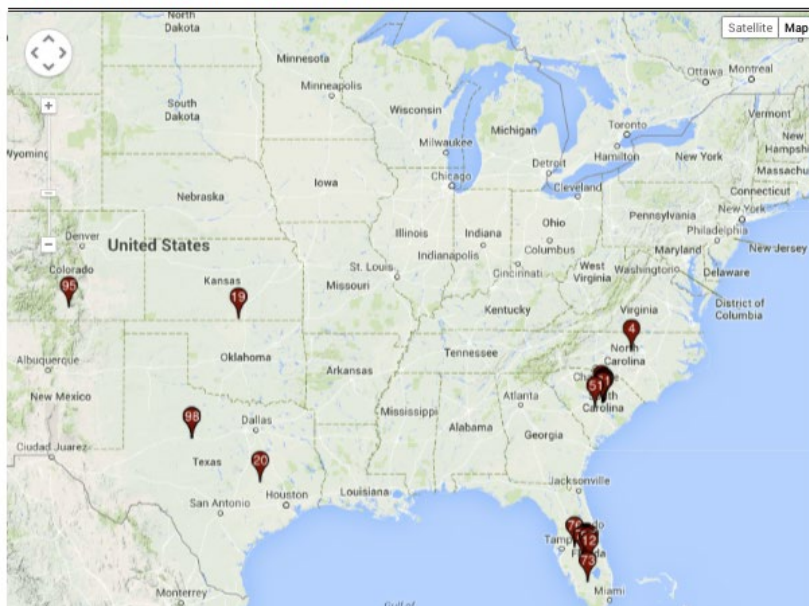
The USAF digital archives project demonstrates how staff at the [Center for Digital Antiquity](#) can work under contract or cooperative agreement with public agencies to provide digital curation services directly to agencies. Some of these services include: organization of materials, drafting of metadata, examining files for potentially confidential information, and uploading files to tDAR. We look forward to working with the USAF on more digital archives for facilities and with other agencies on similar projects.

US Air Force Archaeology Archive

This is a collection of documents, data, and images generated from and/or related to archaeological resource and investigations on or nearby US Air Force facilities. The collection was created by the Center for Digital Antiquity in cooperation with US Air Force CRM personnel under a contract with the USAF.

1-100 (149 Records)

Documents (113) Projects (19) Images (15) Datasets (2)



Child Collections

- A Collection of Multi-base or General Interest Resources for the US Air Force
- Avon Park Air Force Range Archaeology Archive - Documents, Images, and other Data
- Dyess Air Force Base Archaeology Archive - Documents and Images
- Shaw Air Force Base Archaeology Archive - Documents, Images, and other Data

The US Air Force Collection in tDAR <http://core.tdar.org/collection/16304> .

New Grant News

The staff at the Center for Digital Antiquity is delighted with a round of new grants that involve the use of tDAR for both data archiving and analysis.

- The Arizona Department of Parks proposal by Sophie Kelly, “The Impact of Climate Change on Archeological Resources: Harnessing Citizen Science through the Arizona Site Stewardship Network,” is being funded by the NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The proposed work includes contributing to tDAR digitized copies of site steward reports describing their site monitoring projects and results.
- The NSF Archaeology Program has funded [“Adaptation and Cultural Practice During the North American Eastern Archaic: Creating and Integrating Digital Faunal Databases in tDAR.”](#) by Sarah W. Neusius (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) and Bonnie W. Styles (Illinois State Museum), which will contribute additional archaeological faunal data sets to tDAR, as well as use the data integration tool available for data sets in tDAR to advance our understanding of ancient food ways.
- The NSF program for Building Capacity and Community for Data-Intensive Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (BCC) has funded [“Collaborative Research: Designing SKOPE: Synthesized Knowledge of Past Environments.”](#) as proposed by Keith W. Kintigh and Ann P. Kinzig (Arizona State University), Tim Kohler (Washington State University), and Bertram Ludäscher (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign). The project will design a robust cybertool that, for a given location and temporal interval, integrates contemporary, historical, and paleoenvironmental data from federated data repositories, including tDAR, to produce a well-documented synthesis of key environmental parameters relevant to humans.
- Also funded by the NSF BCC program is the proposal [“Building Cyberinfrastructure for Transdisciplinary Research and Visualization of the Long-Term Human Ecodynamics of the North Atlantic.”](#) by Colleen Strawhacker (National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado, Boulder) and several other Co-PIs. An objective of this project is to develop a framework for linkages among different data repositories, including tDAR, that hold information important to understanding past and present human adaptation in the North Atlantic environment.

We congratulate our colleagues whose proposals have been funded and look forward to working with them in various ways on their projects.

New Board Member

The Center for Digital Antiquity is delighted to welcome Cynthia Pillote as the newest

member of the [Digital Antiquity Board of Directors](#). Ms. Pillote is an attorney specializing in intellectual property at [Snell and Wilmer](#), a law firm based in the Phoenix area with offices throughout the western United States.

Ms. Pillote's expertise is in working with clients to develop, implement and manage business strategies for procuring, maintaining and enforcing intellectual property rights. She holds a B. S. in Chemical Engineering and a M. S. in Materials Science Engineering from Arizona State University. She also is a graduate of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at ASU. Cynthia's knowledge, skills and abilities will greatly benefit Digital Antiquity. We look forward to her input and guidance as tDAR and Digital Antiquity continue to grow!

tDAR Updates

Over the past few months, Digital Antiquity released the 'Knap' and 'Lithic' versions of tDAR. Both releases focused generally on improvements in performance, security, data storage, and user-experience. Some notable features include:

- Improved application security
- Better display on mobile devices
- Improved site code searching
- Ability to add ORCID Identifiers to your user account
- Ability to request access to a resource, or notify a contributor of a correction
- Improved results for auto-completes
- Display of new and popular items on the [explore page](#)
- Redesigned user-registration, purchase, and download process

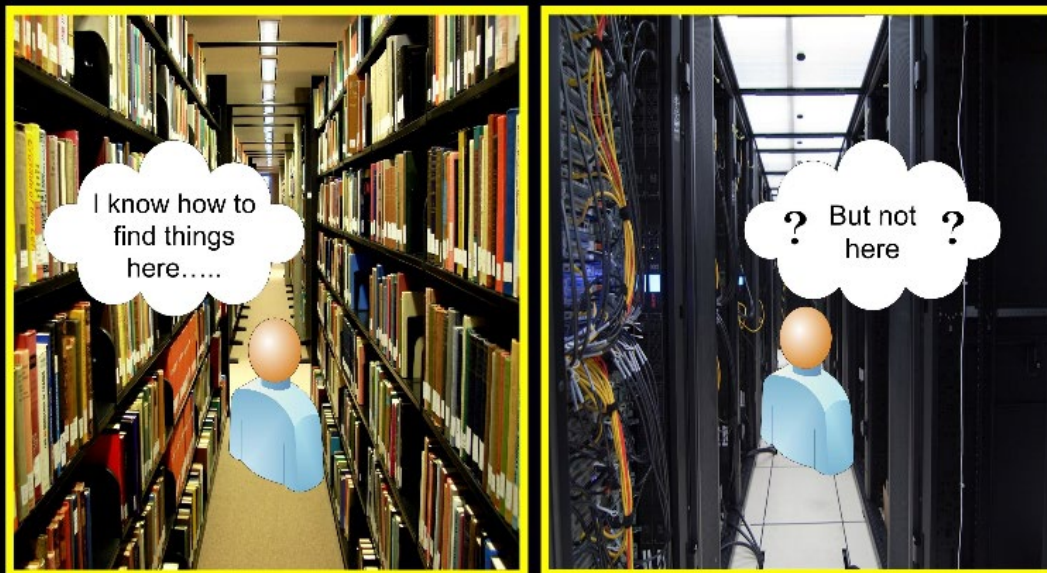
We endeavor to make tDAR as valuable and usable to our community as possible. Do you have an idea of how to improve tDAR? Please share it with us!

Vote for our Knight News Challenge Project!

[Digital Antiquity](#) and ASU Libraries just submitted a project proposal to The Knight Foundation [Knight News Challenge](#) and we need your help to get our project funded.

The Challenge poses the question, "How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?" Our project, Digging Up Data – Teaching and Learning with Digital Repositories like the Digital Archaeological Record, is designed to help teachers and students learn to find and use the information stored online in digital repositories.

Digging Up Data: Teaching with tDAR, the Digital Archaeological Record



The goal of Digging Up Data is to give teachers and students an incentive to use digital repositories and become familiar with the wealth of information they contain. More and more information is produced and distributed digitally, instead of as paper books, journals, magazines or newspapers. The good news: Libraries understand how to collect, archive and make digital information accessible – in digital repositories. But, if you ask someone “where should I look for information on X” they will likely respond “read a book” or “search Google” but not “search in a digital repository.” The Digging Up Data team want to help teachers and students leverage digital repositories to find the “hidden” information, the new special collections, that libraries and domain repositories are now building and maintaining. Our project employs a contest format to incentivize teachers to design assignments that help students engage with and make use of the amazing digital materials in repositories such as tDAR.

To find out more about our project please check out our proposal at the Knight News Challenge Website (direct link to tDAR’s entry [here](#)). Submissions are evaluated by a team of outside reviewers, but the projects are visible to the public who are able to show support (via “applause”) and provide feedback. Any comments or suggestions for improvement would be very welcome in the comments section at the end of the proposal, as would your “applause”. Thanks!

tDAR’s Entry to the Knight News Challenge:

<https://newschallenge.org/challenge/libraries/submissions/digging-up-data-teaching-and-learning-with-digital-repositories-like-the-digital-archaeology-record-tdar-http-tdar-org#>



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