

**DIGITAL  
ANTIQUITY**

dedicated to access, preservation, and use of archaeological information

**tDAR**

## Spring Updates

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been very busy at Digital Antiquity since our last eNews. Foremost, there is still space to sign up for our workshops at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meetings in San Francisco, but time is running out! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get hands on instruction with expert digital curators and data managers!

Over the past couple months, Digital Antiquity has had several significant developments. First, we entered into an understanding with the Archaeological Institute of America to promote and support proper curation of archaeological digital data ensuring appropriate access and long-term preservation for future uses. Munsell, the thirteenth version of the tDAR software with many exciting and useful new features, was released in January. And a very successful Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Project with the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory was completed. Looking forward, we want to encourage you to partner with us to apply for a Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), ePub, or 2016 DoD Legacy Grant!

- [Join us at the 2015 Society for American Archaeology Meetings in San Francisco!](#)
- [New Memorandum of Understanding between the Center for Digital Antiquity and the Archaeological Institute of America](#)
- [Project Demonstrates the Effective Use of tDAR for DoD Archaeological Data Access and Preservation](#)
- [tDAR Software Update \(Munsell\)](#)
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### **Join us at the 2015 Society for American Archaeology Meetings in San Francisco!**

The Center for Digital Antiquity is hosting two workshops the afternoon of Wednesday, April 15 at the 2015 Society for American Archaeology meetings. There is still time for you to sign-up to participate, but you need to do so immediately!

## **Best Practices for the Curation of Digital Archaeological Data and Information Workshop**

Digital Antiquity staff will lead a workshop on the background of data management, along with tools and strategies to develop project and research workflows to ensure good management of digital data. The workshop will focus on case studies and examples in [tDAR](#). Participants will learn how to access and use resources in the repository and how to curate and manage CRM reports, data sets, photographs, GIS files, and other archaeologically relevant digital resources. Participants will need to bring their own laptop computer with wireless capabilities and a file (such as a report, dissertation, dataset, etc.) to upload to tDAR as part of the workshop. Each participant will receive an upload voucher for three free files (up to 30 MB) and a copy of [Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice](#) (Oxbow Books, 2013).

## **Faunal Data Entry and Integration in tDAR Workshop**

In addition, [Katherine A. Spielmann](#) ([Arizona State University](#)) and Tiffany Clark (Arizona State University) will be leading a workshop to train participants in the uploading, mapping, and integrated analysis of faunal datasets in tDAR. During the workshop the instructors will introduce tDAR and explain tDAR's sophisticated data integration tool. They will then work with each participant to upload one faunal dataset and its associated coding key, and on mapping their coding key to the general ontologies for a broad range of faunal variables that are available in tDAR. Towards the end of the workshop they will demonstrate the integration of multiple datasets using the tDAR data integration tool.

Sign up for either of the workshops when registering for the meeting. If you have already signed up, you can edit your registration through the SAA [registration page](#) to add this and other workshops and events.

## **Digital Antiquity Booth at SAA**

Whether you attend a workshop or not, we encourage you to stop by our booth in the exhibit hall. Digital Antiquity staff will be on hand all week to answer your questions and give you a personalized tour of tDAR. You can even sign up in advance for a 15 minute meeting with one of us to ensure you don't have to wait! Click [here](#) to access the calendar and select your time. See you in San Francisco!



## **New Memorandum of Understanding between the Center for Digital Antiquity and the Archaeological Institute of America**

In December the President of the Archaeological Institute of America, Andrew Moore, and the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Center for Digital Antiquity, Sander van der Leeuw, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote and support proper curation of archaeological digital data ensuring appropriate access and long-term preservation for future uses. The understanding recognizes that both organizations are committed to the digital preservation of archaeological information; that ensuring good curation of digital archaeological data is part of the primary mission of both organizations; that archaeologists are generating more digital information than ever before and need to budget and plan for its proper curation; that the AIA supports the use of tDAR as a repository for digital archaeological data; and that the organizations will work together on activities to promote good digital curation practices.

## **Project Demonstrates the Effective Use of tDAR for DoD Archaeological Data Access and Preservation**

The Center for Digital Antiquity and the Maryland Archaeological Conservation

Laboratory (MAC Lab) announce the successful conclusion of their joint project to test whether the features and functionality of tDAR are appropriate and sufficient to manage DoD digital data in a manner that is secure, cost-effective, and of benefit to the military mission. The project, funded by a grant from the Department of Defense Legacy program, demonstrated that tDAR is capable of meeting these requirements and is suitable for use by bases and facilities throughout the DoD. The tDAR software and features are flexible enough to handle files from many different installations. The full project report as well as a one-page summary are available [to read or download in tDAR](#).

The digital archaeological materials associated with the archaeological collections from Department of Defense bases and facilities that are curated at the [MAC Lab](#) and the [Fort Lee Regional Archaeological Curation Facility](#) (RACF) also now are available on tDAR, with the exception of files marked as “confidential” by cultural resource staff responsible for managing the resources at the bases and facilities. The two tDAR collections contain archaeological data from 23 Army and Navy bases and facilities in the Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC area that has been collected over the past three-plus decades.

The project, entitled, “Evaluating a Cooperative Approach to the Management of Digital Archaeological Records (ECAMDAR),” was led by Sara Rivers Cofield, Federal Collections Curator at the MAC Lab. Funding was provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Program, which provides financial assistance to the DoD efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage.

Digital Antiquity would like to thank Rivers Cofield and the project participants from the different installations for their time and commitment to the project, as well as the DoD Legacy Program for recognizing the importance in preserving and making accessible digital archaeological materials. FY2016 DoD Legacy Grant pre-proposals are due April 3 and Digital Antiquity would love to partner with others to preserve, manage, and make accessible DoD cultural resource material. Please get in touch with Leigh Anne Ellison at (480) 965-1593 or [laellison@digitalantiquity.org](mailto:laellison@digitalantiquity.org) to get started.

## **tDAR Software Update (Munsell)**

We’re proud to announce the latest release of tDAR (Munsell). This release was focused on modernizing and re-designing tDAR’s Data Integration tool to make it faster and easier to use, but also has a number of major feature updates across the application.

The completely re-designed data integration tool simplifies the user-interface, allows for the easier addition of datasets, saving and restoring integrations, selection of

columns, and filtering of results. We've also added a new "count" column type that represents count data in data sets; and improved the documentation of the integration in the excel output.

Other features include:

- Embargoed files now can be restricted for different periods of time — 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, and 5 years.
- The material keywords section now includes free-form material keywords as well as the existing controlled vocabulary.
- Contributors now have access to view and download statistics for the resources, billing accounts, and collections they own or have administrative rights to. These statistics show the number of views and downloads for resources over time.
- Dedicated web pages have been introduced for keywords for improved browsing.
- Updated "user profile" pages in tDAR.

If you haven't seen the new tDAR in action we hope you'll visit and try it out!

The screenshot displays the tDAR integration configuration interface. At the top, there is a form with the following fields and buttons:

- Integration Name:** test integration (with Save and Integrate buttons)
- Description:** (empty text area)
- Actions:** Add Datasets..., Add Integration Column, Add Display Column, Add Count Column

Below the form, there are two main sections:

- Datasets & Ontologies:**
  - Selected Datasets:** Albert Porter Pueblo Faunal Dataset :: Albert-Carp Fauna Database :: Carp\_faunaperiodcor (with a Remove selected dataset button)
  - Shared Ontologies:**
    - Fauna Proximal-Distal/Portion
    - Fauna Side
    - Fauna Fusion
    - Fauna Origin of Fragmentation
    - Fauna Element
    - Fauna Taxon Ontology - Southwest US
- Configure Columns:**
  - Selected Ontology: Fauna Taxon Ontology - Southwest US
  - Table with columns: Node Value, Select values that appear in (Any column, Every column), Datasets (Taxon, Species)

The table in the 'Configure Columns' section is as follows:

Node Value	Select values that appear in	Datasets		
	Any column	Every column	Taxon	Species
<input type="checkbox"/> Mammalia				
<input type="checkbox"/> Artiodactyla				✓
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antilocapridae				
<input type="checkbox"/> Antilocapra americana			✓	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Bovidae				
<input type="checkbox"/> Bovinae				
<input type="checkbox"/> Bison/Bos				✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Bison bison			✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bos taurus				✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Caprinae				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovis/Capra				

Once an integration column has been created, users can then "filter" results by selecting values from the ontology. tDAR displays a check-mark where each data set has actual values.

## Grant Opportunities for Digital Preservation

The Center for Digital Antiquity wants to alert our user community to a number of new funding opportunities that may be appropriate to support the digitizing, preservation of, and increased access to your archaeological information.

- [Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship through Increasing Access to Unique Materials](#) is a national competition administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) for digitizing collections of rare and unique content in cultural memory institutions. Deadline April 30, 2015.
- [The Humanities Open Book Program](#) is designed to make outstanding out-of-print humanities books available to a wide audience. By taking advantage of low-cost “ebook” technology, the program will allow teachers, students, scholars, and the public to read humanities books that have long been out of print. Awards will be given to digitize these books and make them available as Creative Commons-licensed “ebooks” that can be read by the public at no charge on computers, mobile devices, and ebook readers. Deadline June 10, 2015.
- The [Legacy Resource Management Program](#) provides financial assistance to the Department of Defense (DoD) efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage while supporting military readiness. A Legacy project may involve regional ecosystem management initiatives, habitat preservation efforts, archaeological investigations, invasive species control, Native American consultations, and/or monitoring and predicting migratory patterns of birds and animals. Three principles guide the Legacy program: stewardship, leadership, and partnership. Stewardship initiatives assist DoD in safeguarding its irreplaceable resources for future generations. By embracing a leadership role as part of the program, the Department serves as a model for respectful use of natural and cultural resources. Through partnerships, the program strives to access the knowledge and talents of individuals outside of DoD. This year’s areas of emphasis and more information can be found [here](#). Deadline for pre-proposal is April 3, 2015.

We would be delighted to partner with you as you apply for any of these, or other grants. Please get in touch with Leigh Anne Ellison (480) 965-1593 or [laellison@digitalantiquity.org](mailto:laellison@digitalantiquity.org) to discuss ways in which we can collaborate to fund the preservation of your archaeological legacy.

As a reminder, SAA student members are eligible to upload 3 files to tDAR for long term digital preservation annually. They will need to email Ahryel at [membership@saa.org](mailto:membership@saa.org) to request a voucher. Additionally, [AAA-AD](#) members are eligible to apply for awards of up to \$1000 to archive their archaeological information in tDAR. The deadline is September 1, and more information can be found [here](#).

## Looking Forward

In May Digital Antiquity staff will travel to Flagstaff, Arizona for the [Arizona Historic Preservation Conference](#) and the free Tribal Consultation Workshop offered in advance of the meeting. We look forward to visiting with any of our readers who will be in attendance, and encourage you to set up a meeting with us while we are in the area to learn more about tDAR and how it can help you to organize, preserve, and share the digital archaeological information you manage.

We travel all over the country throughout the course of the year and may be in your area soon! If you would like to meet with an expert digital curation staff member please get in touch with Leigh Anne Ellison (480-965-1593 or [laellison@digitalantiquity.org](mailto:laellison@digitalantiquity.org)) to schedule a virtual or in-person meeting.



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