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DIGITAL ANTIQUITY

tDAR The Digital Archaeological Record
A SERVICE OF DIGITAL ANTIQUITY

Digital Antiquity eNewsletter #15 - July 2019
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Dr. Katherine Dungan joins Digital Antiquity Team as a Post-Doc

Digital Antiquity is pleased to announce that [Dr. Katherine Dungan](#) has joined the staff as a one year post-doctoral research scholar. With funding from the ASU Center for Archaeology and Society, Katherine will be working with large databases and



associated data tables from a series of projects around Theodore Roosevelt Lake in central Arizona. The goal is to make the data re-usable by future researchers. In her past research, she has worked on multiple field- and collections-based archaeological projects in the U.S. Southwest, addressing a broad range of topics including ceramic production, religious architecture, borderlands, and spatial analysis. Katherine holds

an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Arizona. Before coming to ASU, she worked for several years as a researcher and educator for the Tucson-based non-profit Archaeology Southwest.

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SAA and SHA 2019 Conference Abstracts are available in tDAR



**SOCIETY *for*
HISTORICAL
ARCHAEOLOGY**

The Center for Digital Antiquity is proud to host the annual conference abstracts from both the [2019 Society for Historical Archaeology](#) meeting in St Charles, Missouri and the [2019 Society for American Archaeology](#) meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

These easy-to-find, on-line collections help to ensure that important new developments in archaeology are available for other researchers to find and cite. Conference presenters can access their abstract's record in tDAR, edit the metadata, and upload a PDF copy of the paper, presentation, or poster, for FREE. To get started, visit the [SHA upload page](#) or the [SAA upload page](#) for access and step-by-step instructions.



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

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"Disappearing Data" article in American Archaeology magazine

Spring, 2019 issue



Recently, ASU archaeology Professor Keith Kintigh and [Digital Antiquity](#) Founding Director Frank McManamon were interviewed by Alexandra Witze, a writer for the [Archaeological Conservancy's](#) "American Archaeology" magazine. The Archaeological Conservancy is a non-profit organization whose mission is to identify, acquire, and preserve significant archaeological sites in the U.S. That mission dovetails nicely with our mission at Digital Antiquity: to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the digital data associated with archaeological research. In the article, Frank and Keith recount the urgent need to upload digital archaeological data to repositories like tDAR.

Most archaeologists aren't curating their digital data at public repositories like tDAR. Kintigh stressed that proper curation is more important than ever because now much of this information is, so to speak, "born digital" and exists in no other form. Without it, future generations of scientists won't be able to reanalyze and synthesize the information and make fresh discoveries of their own. "It's a tragedy that we're not adequately capitalizing on the potential uses of the data," he said.

This follows on the heels of a forthright article by Keith last fall in "[The Conversation,](#)" where he argued strongly that "agencies must ensure that the full digital record of their archaeological investigations is deposited in a recognized digital repository." tDAR has worked effectively with a number of agencies (Dept. of Defense, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation, among others) to make archaeological information discoverable, accessible and preserved permanently for future use.

Check out [the "Disappearing Data" article on the Archaeological Conservancy website.](#)

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The American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) Promotes Easier and Broader Sharing of Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

Data

Earlier this year the Board of the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) endorsed and posted on the [ACRA website](#) two important documents promoting the sharing of data (e.g., reports and other documents, images, data sets, and other kinds of digital files) among archaeologists and other cultural resource specialists in CRM, academic and museum positions, public agencies, and other organizations. One is a three-page policy document focused on promoting greater synergy between academic professionals and the CRM



Illustration credit: Ainsley Seago

industry. The document, which stresses the benefits of and need for greater communication and collaboration, presents [recommendations of an ACRA task force](#), led by Duane Peter, that worked on the issue. The second document, ["Digital Data Curation and Access: Why You and Your Organization should be Actively Involved"](#), summarizing the reasons for and benefits of greater sharing of data.

Additional publications concerning digital archaeology and data curation, including reports, case studies, and other helpful materials, can be found on the [Digital Antiquity Publications page](#).

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Legislative Update: 2019 Open Government Data Act has implications for Archaeology

The United States has long recognized the value of the Nation's cultural heritage and has sought both to protect it and to make it available for the benefit of the American people. That recognition has been formalized in several laws, notably the 1906 Antiquities Act, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; 1966), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA; 1979) and their supporting regulations. In January, that commitment was strengthened when Congress passed, and the President signed, the "Open, Public, Electronic, and



Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act.” The OPEN Government Data Act was included in the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act ([Public](#)

[Law 115-435](#)). The law requires federal agencies to publish their information online, using machine-readable data formats. Digital Antiquity is committed to taking all actions necessary to meet the standards set, and comply with the guidance provided, for the new OPEN Government Data Act. The newly opened [Ambassador Barbara Barrett & Justice Sandra Day O’Connor Washington Center](#) (pictured above) will serve as an ASU home base for Digital Antiquity Board of Directors members who travel to Washington to engage with Agency officials as the OPEN Data law is implemented. We look forward to working with Agencies and concerned organizations to ensure that the Nation’s cultural heritage is findable, accessible, searchable, and preserved for future generations.

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2019 Air Force Cultural Resources Workshop at Kirtland Air Force Base

During the first week of June, our Senior Digital Data Curator, Rachel Fernandez, was out on the road again to present at the 2019 Air Force Cultural Resource Workshop, held at the Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sponsored by the [Air Force Civil Engineer Center](#) (AFCEC), the three-day workshop included natural and cultural resource managers from Air Force installations spread across the states to discuss issues and developments in cultural resource management within the Air Force.



One of the ongoing projects discussed at

the meetings was the Center for Digital Antiquity and AFCEC's collaboration to preserve [Air Force cultural resources](#) within tDAR. At present, there are over 500 active resources within tDAR from over 17 different installations, with another 2500 resources in different stages of completion. At this meeting, Rachel was able to provide training on the tDAR system and answer questions concerning organizing and managing digital resources.

We hope to continue being involved in these workshops and work closely with AFCEC to provide digital curation and preservation services for the US Air Force.

To learn more about the US Air Force CRM Program and the challenges of digital data curation, read our [Reports in Digital Archaeology Number 4, The US Air Force CRM Program Meets the Challenges of Digital Data Curation: A Case Study Using tDAR](#) on our [Publications](#) page.

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