

1. BIAB Survey

A summary of the findings of the 10 question survey is presented in the following section. The full results of the survey are in Appendix 1.

The survey comprised 10 questions and asked if the respondent had heard of BIAB, and if they had used BIAB. If they had used it they were asked some further questions about how and when they used it as well as what they most valued about it. Both users and non-users were asked what other bibliographic resources they used. They were also asked about their role within archaeology and the historic environment and which country they lived in.

The survey was available for approximately one month over the end of July and August 2015. The response rate was impressive considering that this is traditionally a quiet time in the archaeological community. There were over 600 responses to the survey. It was sent out to the following:

- BIAB home page
- OASIS blog
- OASIS-announce email list
- BRITARCH email list
- HER-forum email list
- FAME members email
- ClfA registered organisations email list, Twitter and Facebook
- Society of Museum Archaeologists members email
- Council for British Archaeology – Twitter, Facebook, CBA groups, LHEN
- Heritage Alliance – online newsletter
- E-journal Internet Archaeology – Twitter, Facebook
- ADS website, email, Twitter, Facebook, newsletter, University department contact list
- RESCUE Facebook
- Subject Committee for Archaeology (SCFA) email list
- University of York Department of Archaeology academic staff email list
- Scottish contacts via RCAHMS

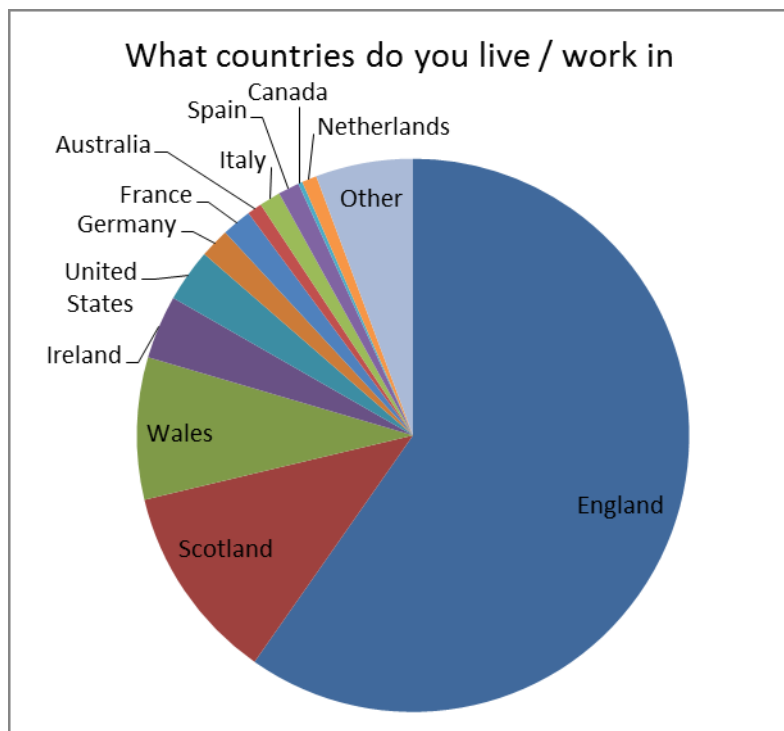
Survey Results - 627 Respondents

What are your roles in archaeology?

Survey respondents were asked to classify themselves giving their **main role** and any **other roles** they had within the historic environment. The size of the words is related to the number of people who selected that role:



FIGURE 1: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE ROLES OF THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS



The respondents were asked to choose from a number of countries on a list. The list was generated from the user statistics on BIAB website. It was interesting to see that the people who answered the survey came from more places than those who use the website.

Other locations:

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Belgium, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Ukraine, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, China, DPRK (North Korea), Japan, Jersey, Levant, Mexico, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey.

The variety of locations could reflect that some people entered their area of research/interest instead of the country they dwell in even though the question was: **What countries do you live / work in (rather than the country of your area of research)?**

FIGURE 2: COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Have you heard of BIAB (British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography)?

626 respondents

Yes - 85%

No - 15%

Have you used BIAB?

532 respondents

Yes - 80%

No - 20%

Answers from non-users in the red section below

Answers from respondents who had not heard of BIAB are in the grey section below

How often do you use BIAB?

409 respondents

Answer		
Almost never		10%
Sporadically		46%
Less than Once a Month		14%
Once a Month		11%
2-3 Times a Month		13%
Once a Week		4%
2-3 Times a Week		2%

The majority of users can be seen to use BIAB intermittently although visits are not frequent they do return.

Do you find what you are looking for?

407 respondents

Answer		
Never		0%
Rarely		4%
Sometimes		45%
Most of the Time		49%
Always		1%

Almost half the users of BIAB find what they are looking for most of the time. That 45% of users only find what they want sometimes might reflect the issues with the content or the search mechanism in BIAB

What do you find most useful about BIAB?

403 respondents








Answer		
Abstracts to accompany the bibliographic records		61%
Bibliographic details for journal articles		51%
References to more obscure local publications		47%
Ability to search by time period		38%
Ability to browse through different categories		37%
Full bibliographical lists for authors/researchers		36%
Ability to see lists of journals		32%
Ability to search by classification		25%
Ability to see lists of monographs		25%
Ability to see lists of organisations		11%
Ability to search by publisher details		6%
Other		5%

The main difference between BIAB and a library catalogue is the inclusion of abstracts and journal article records. The results reflect that users value these two aspects of the content of BIAB.

The other main attraction of BIAB is the inclusion of smaller or regional publications which is appreciated by almost half of respondents.

How does BIAB compare with other bibliographic resources?

393 respondents

Answer		
Much Better		5%
Better		19%
Somewhat Better		21%
About the Same		40%
Somewhat Worse		12%
Worse		3%
Much Worse		1%

The largest group of respondents thought that BIAB was about the same when compared to other bibliographic resources, of the remainder (60%) more thought it better (44%) than thought it worse (15%)

How would you improve BIAB? Do you have any further comments

There were over one hundred comments, the main points were:

About a fifth of respondents:

- Thought that BIAB is a great resource for archaeology and the historic environment
- Wanted links to online publications where available
- Thought that it should contain more up-to-date records
- Thought the data quality could be improved by the removal of duplicate authors etc.
- Thought that the search interface could be improved

One in ten respondents thought that BIAB coming to the ADS was a positive step.

Answers from people who do not use BIAB:

You said you don't use BIAB but you do know about it. Can you tell us why you don't use it?

There were 104 people who said they had heard of BIAB but had not used it, here is a selection of the reasons why not in order of frequency (most popular first):

- It is not relevant to the user's area of interest
- They would use if it were relevant
- They didn't know about it when it would have been relevant to use it or they had forgotten it
- Problems with website interface put them off
- Knowing the reference is no use without a library membership/journal subscription
- It is only worth using if there are links to the publications
- They use other resources such as HER or ADS

Answers from people who had not heard of BIAB:

Having read the text above would you now use BIAB to find references to archaeological publications?

84 respondents

Yes - 96%

4%

FIGURE 3: SURVEY RESULTS

What other bibliographic resources do you use?

This question was asked of both users and non-users of BIAB. Below is a comparison of the responses, percentages have been used for the comparison to show the relative popularity between the different groups, the non-user group is a fifth of the size of the user group.

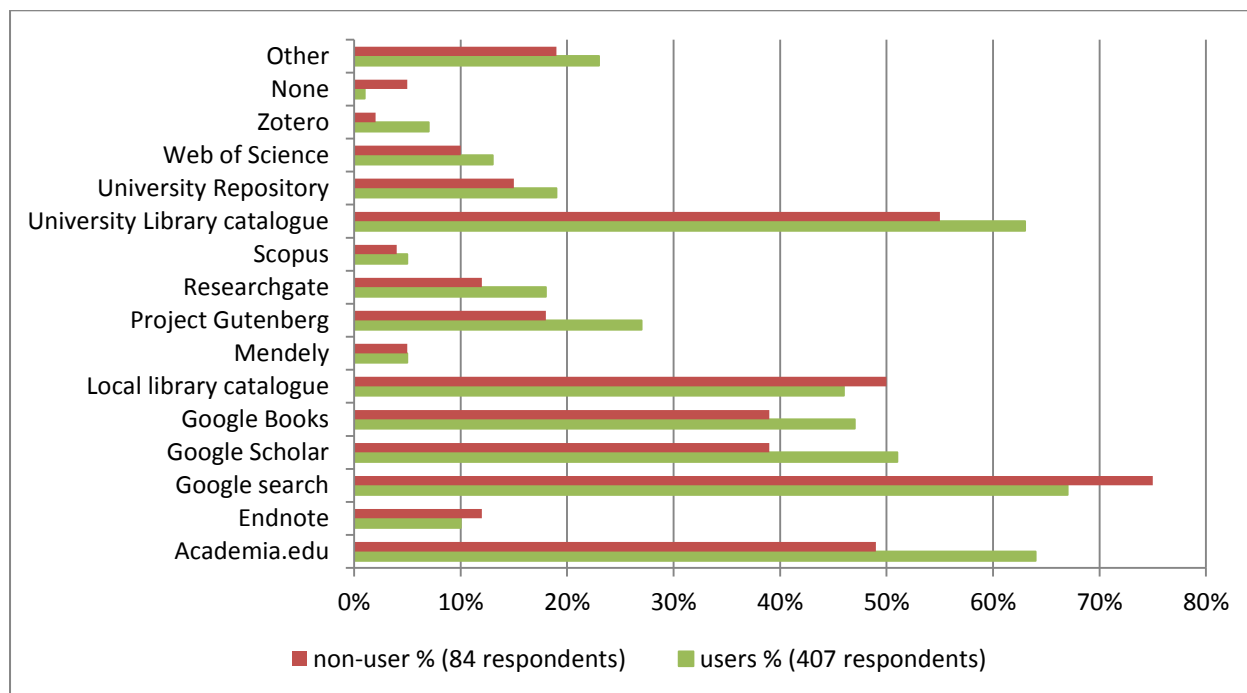


FIGURE 4: COMPARISON WHICH OTHER BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES ARE USED BY USERS AND NON-USERS

2. Appendix 1: Full survey results (Task 12)

2.1. What are your roles in archaeology?

Answer	Main role	Other role	Total Responses
Archaeology consultant	103	64	167
Contracting field archaeologist	88	24	112
University/college staff	83	22	105
Local government archaeologist	62	12	74
Independent archaeologist (unpaid)	55	66	121
University research post-grad	47	21	68
Member of a society	47	120	167
Other	41	21	62
National body employee	38	3	41
University student (taught course)	34	9	43
Museum archaeologist	23	13	36
Other museum professional	18	9	27
Librarian/archivist	11	9	20
Developer employee	5	3	8
School/FE teacher	3	7	10

Other responses:

HER Officer (outside local government)
Was a part time desk-top researcher until recession bit
Freelance archaeologist
Editor
Independent researcher
Editor
Editor
Publisher
Free lance specialist in mortaria of the Roman period
Heritage management
Amateur
retired ('other roles')
Retired academic
Private researcher (retired)
Historian
Finds specialist
independent researcher
Independent researcher/research assistant
interested amateur
self study learner
amatuer

Other responses:

personal interest
metal detectorist
ex student of archaeology
PhD student
magazine editor
international cultural heritage consultant
independent researcher
Hlstric Environment Record Officer (Local Government)
life long learning tutor
arch society unpaid
independent researcher
Research Archaeologist
HER Officer
ARCHITECT
Lover of archaeology and learning
Volunteer at Internet Archaeology and at Jorvik
consultant architectural historian
Environmental archaeologist
Just very interested in archaeology
Ex student of archaeology

Other responses:

Retired professor, write research books and undergrad texts

Retired university staff

Archaeology enthusiast

independent student

Museum Director

Museum Volunteer

independent archaeologist (paid)

Editor

retired Local Govt archaeologist

Geophysicist

archaeozoologist (sole trader)

Independent academic

independant researcher

Independent researcher

Retired archaeologist

Volunteer archivist and archaeologist

Heritage Manager

Finds specialist

Volunteer

Freelance archaeological specialist

Research unit director

Freelance specialist

Professional finds specialist

Archæoengineer

land manager

Independent Researcher

archaeology tour guide

Archaeological Finds Specialist

Freelance artefact specialist

retired

Other responses:

Independent archaeological specialist

Commercial Environmental Archaeologist

publisher

Trustee

retired

part time

chartered building surveyor

Find specialist

Retired

Director of applied archaeological company

Outreach, Education and Volunteer Officer

Retired academic, research active

volunteer in muniments

Adult Education Tutor

Friends Group

Interest only

Museum volunteer

Volunteer living history and ancient boat private research

Communications

Archaeology Publications

Doctoral Student

Volunteer

Freelance community archeologist

amateur

Welsh Government

Heritage Researcher

retired nat body employee

2.2. What countries do you live / work in (rather than the country of your area of research)?

Answer	Response	%
England	482	78%
Scotland	93	15%
Wales	67	11%
Ireland	30	5%
United States	25	4%
Germany	14	2%
France	14	2%
Australia	7	1%
Italy	10	2%
Spain	10	2%
Canada	2	0%
Netherlands	7	1%
Other	46	7%

Other responses:

Romania
Switzerland and anywhere where mortaria of the Roman period are found
Romania
Japan
Sweden
Interests extend to UK, Ireland and NW Europe
United Kingdom
Middle East and Far East
Switzerland
portugal
Sween, Denmark, Norway, Finland
Levant
Cyprus
I live in the United States, but am living in England during the school year.
Norway; Denmark; Sweden
India
Mexico
Sweden
Turkey
Mexico
Turkey
Sweden

Other responses:

Iran
Northern Ireland
Greece
Slovakia, Iceland
Norway
Belgium
Israel, China, DPRK (North Korea)
Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan
Gibraltar, Ukraine
Nepal
Tunisia
Jersey
Never
Greece
Sweden
Turkey
Turkey
Serbia
Russia
Oman
Greece
Turkey

2.3. Have you heard of BIAB (British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography)?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	535	85%
No	91	15%
Total	626	100%

2.4. Have you used BIAB?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	428	80%
No	104	20%
Total	532	100%

2.5. How often do you use BIAB? (users only)

Answer	Response	%
Almost never	40	10%
Sporadically	189	46%
Less than Once a Month	59	14%
Once a Month	44	11%
2-3 Times a Month	52	13%
Once a Week	15	4%
2-3 Times a Week	10	2%
Daily	0	0%
Total	409	100%

2.6. Do you find what you are looking for? (users only)

Answer	Response	%
Never	1	0%
Rarely	17	4%
Sometimes	185	45%
Most of the Time	198	49%
Always	6	1%
Total	407	100%

2.7. What do you find most useful about BIAB? (users only)

Answer	Response	%
Abstracts to accompany the bibliographic records	246	61%
Bibliographic details for journal articles	205	51%
References to more obscure local publications	188	47%
Ability to search by time period	153	38%
Ability to browse through different categories	151	37%
Full bibliographical lists for authors/researchers	146	36%
Ability to see lists of journals	127	32%
Ability to search by classification	100	25%
Ability to see lists of monographs	99	25%
Ability to see lists of organisations	44	11%
Ability to search by publisher details	23	6%
Other	19	5%

Other responses:

I don't find anything 'most useful' as I am not looking for the same thing each time.

Ability to search by site name

The fact that it's a unique archaeological resource :-) I used it a lot during my doctoral research.

I have only used it to post a job advertisement

possibly all of above but I just put in a search term and go

output lists of references

ability to search by location

ability to search by area (in UK)

Search by site/topic

Ability to search by artefact type and biological remains

Contact details for units for grey literature reports

ability to identify grey literature relating to a site/building

Ease of use - option of a simple keyword search is often very useful

ability to search through name of site

used long ago

I indicated that I have used it not that I found it useful.

Too long since I used it to remember!

gives me precision in terms of obscure publications - spelling, volume number etc - I really value that

Bibliographic details for books

2.8. How does BIAB compare with other bibliographic resources? (users only)

Answer	Response	%
Much Worse	2	1%
Worse	10	3%
Somewhat Worse	47	12%
About the Same	158	40%
Somewhat Better	81	21%
Better	76	19%
Much Better	19	5%
Total	393	100%

2.9. What other bibliographic resources do you use (BIAB users)?

Answer	Response	%
Academia.edu	260	64%
Endnote	41	10%
Google search	273	67%
Google Scholar	207	51%
Google Books	193	47%
Local library catalogue	189	46%
Mendely	20	5%
Project Gutenberg	110	27%
Researchgate	72	18%
Scopus	21	5%
University Library catalogue	255	63%
University Repository	77	19%
Web of Science	53	13%
Zotero	30	7%
None	3	1%
Other	94	23%

2.10. How would you improve BIAB? Do you have any further comments (users only)**Responses:**

Not an improvement, but the abstracts are really useful. Aside from that, links to online versions (obvs)

It would be good to be able to link to a url of an article or something similar, (though this may be possible already - haven't really tried) so researchers would be sure different data services are referring to the same article. Dirty data sometimes makes this unclear, and checking is needed.

The obvious answer would be to provide links to .pdfs - though I appreciate this depends upon copyright/ intellectual property and may require subscriptions. Perhaps this could be actualised for unpublished works or grey literature similarly to the ADS.

Better searching - my searches are usually to check bibliographic references and so improving the search facility on author, year and title would help.

Map based function for geographical searching.

Removal of duplicate entries

Link journal articles to online versions where these exist

Coverage - eg. I know that some pubs aren't listed and it can be a bit random

It is simply not comprehensive enough. It's coverage of serials/journals is ok but monographs, books etc is poor.

Some of the abstracts tend to be a tad idiosyncratic, and the search is too reliant on very limited key words.

Search seems patchy - doesn't pick up things I know should be there.

BIAB can not be improved. It is by far the best and easiest method for identifying source material for research purposes that I know of. I use it regularly and have always been extremely happy with it. I am very disappointed to learn that it will be incorporated in to the ADS which is a massively cumbersome, difficult to use, and poorly designed system. I almost never find what I am looking for on ADS and resort to other methods. I hope that none of the functionality of BIAB is lost following the move and that the obscure and convoluted search engines of ADS do not replace those currently used on BIAB.

I am relieved to hear that BIAB will continue, if in a slightly altered format. It is a useful resource that can find things other search engines cannot.

The

Link to ArchSearch and PastScape

Have a map search / coordinate based search system rather than place-names

More synopses please.

Its great as it is

Get it up to date for starters -- it is behind by at least five years. Also the data is very inconsistent depending on its source. A large chunk of the earlier records don't even give you the page numbers for an article. The search parameters are also unreliable -- I have learned through bitter experience NEVER to search for anyone except the first named author, because it just won't produce a result for anyone else out of a multiple author article. It is also fairly useless for searching for place names -- if you ask it to find (for example) "Salcombe" it will not produce the key article when it is entitled something like "Excavations in a long house in Buckinghamshire: work in Salcombe 1956--58". And the drop-down menu for the searches is TERMINALLY annoying as it defaults to the "Do you want to search?" page, not the search form itself. However, being able to export references to load into Endnote is extremely useful, although if you could actually export stuff in the Endnote format, rather than having to convert everything, that would be seriously helpful.

Include references to society newsletters and other ephemera that occasionally contain the only 'published' references to a specific site/find.

The ability to do Boolean searches would vastly improve BIAB. At present it tends to return too many or too few references, depending on the search parameters. The removal of duplicate entries would also be an improvement.

Updating it; it has lost much of its usefulness by being out of date

The current search interface is confusing and I don't understand the Dataset field (seems like its for internal use but no use to me)

keep up the good work

I think moving to ADS would be the most useful, just so it is a bit more prominent. I honestly forget about it most of the time, which is a poor reflection on myself, really.

Biab is a great tool, I use it whenever I am actually doing research alas not as often as I should be. To older scholar like me it is so amazing to have resources like this on line, such an improvement on ways of searching before last decade or so, that I cant imagine improvements

BIAB's biggest failing is that it is not comprehensive. It will only realise its full potential when it has EVERYTHING in its database.

Bring it up to date and improve the searching parameters. Otherwise, it is a valuable resource because there isn't anything really like it that is freely available -- I've used it for many projects, including the monograph I've been working on for about five years now.

Active link to publications which are available on line would be great.

Coverage would be more thorough, some obscure journals do not have all contents listed.

The display of the entries is often annoying as the listing at the top of the entry is not printed in full, which would be very useful.

Direct links to online sources where appropriate.

Make it easier for people who are not archaeologists to find things. It took me a while to figure out what the necessary keywords were to locate what I was interested in.

Correct the many errors [especially authors' names], expand it to include many more of the excluded items and update it more often. Its main problem to the user is that it appears lazy. So many errors and omissions that I forget to use it.

sort out multiple references to the same author under different combinations of his/ her name and initials

I find sometimes that the links are broken, particularly those to other organisations like EH

Links to data sources

Some of the datasets could do with being improved (e.g. Missing years or volume numbers). Integration with ADS grey literature catalogue. Lists of archaeology libraries in universities & elsewhere.

Keep up the good work

A good free resource - no further comments

It needs a better/more up to date means of searching

Subject index arranged chronologically

No further comments.

No

The search interface feels very clunky, nearly counter-intuitive.

I am pleased that BIAB will continue.

Possibly links to free journal articles and links to HER records for sites. I frequently use MapInfo and any possibly linkages to this would be great, if even just a url. link

BIAB is very comprehensive, but the indexing/metadata is often quite poor (eg. lots of double entries for articles and organisations, or references to journal articles not given volume numbers, dates, etc.). BIAB is a really excellent resource, but would greatly benefit from ongoing validation and corrections to the metadata, to make searching much easier (which I totally appreciate would be a massive job!).

can't think of any improvements

BIAB is extremely useful. It has a distinct offer which should not be confused with the other bibliographic resources you list

Not particularly.

Links to digital downloads if available ...

the ability to output lists of references seems to have dropped off the system. It would be wonderful to get that back.

n/a

The main problem is that it seems to be a few years behind, meaning that you don't always find everything that you need. Abstracts for older publications would be useful to enhance searching, but appreciate that would be a mammoth task!

Provide a direct link to articles for download where they are freely available on other sites. That's me being lazy I suppose but it really would be useful!

Updating

Nothing particular - I work mostly on European matters, but for Britain and Ireland BIAB is ideal.

Make it vaguely up to date - its lack of this is why I only infrequently use it.

Difficult to search for specialist contributions - indexing seems to be primarily reliant upon the names of principal authors. (To test this I have just searched on my own name; the records which come up are those where I am one of the main authors, but not those where I have contributed a specialist report.)

Inclusion of grey literature seems to be patchy, but I appreciate that these categories may be harder to capture.

BIAB is a fantastic resource. I encourage my undergraduate students to use it when researching their essays, as well as using ADS. I think that the merge with ADS will be a very good thing to secure the future of BIAB and combine very similar resources.

If the intention is to move to ADS this will be positive as it will hopefully reduce the number of separate places to search therefore encouraging by default more use of 'grey material'

It must be up-to-date. I publish annual round-up of all archaeological publications relating to London. When BIAB is two or more years behind, it's useless.

When I first started my project (a bibliography), I found a lot of references in BIAB. Some of the references (especially the older ones) were incomplete and occasionally inaccurate But in the last few years I have found it to be slow in adding new references and little help. I look forward to BIAB being more timely

I haven't used BIAB in years, partly because my research has moved outside mainstream archaeology and a lot of my references are from other fields, I have less use than I used to for archaeological results, which is what I primarily associate with BIAB, but I feel I ought to give it a second chance

Promote it and its benefits more widely

Not a suggestion for improvement but BIAB does have a very user-friendly and intuitive interface. This is excellent.

Add the ability to search geographically for publications that relate to particular areas. This should be via textual entry of criteria and also ability to use a map to identify the area of interest.

I would try to include minor papers/journals and ephemera wherever possible.

Ensure its up to date. Which it doesn't seem to be (or possibly it misses a lot of material)

the service is already good but if further items are applied it will be of great use

Link the database to articles/works readily available online.

Create URI's, add persistent identifiers and link to as many repositories and online databases as possible. BIAB can become an important node in the Linked Data of British and Irish archaeology. It's unfortunate that other countries do not have a similar site.

Greater specificity in periods and regions, greater access to relevant work once identified

I would like to be able to follow links through to related online material - record systems, archives

Search facilities are not always intuitive.

Better signposting of archaeological science investigations

Author records need significant updating. For instance, my own record lists only 8 publications, three of which are not by me! There is thus also a need to be more responsive to requests for corrections.

Increase the number of journal articles that can be accessed for free.

Better coverage of medieval and historical topics.

A minor problem is the use of a chronological framework which is slightly at odds with the publication of multi-period projects.

This could be addressed by more extensive cross referencing

Ability to export citations and abstracts to EndNote

more precise search terms yielding more relevant results, which can be organised by type of publication and year

Needs to be comprehensive and up-to-date. I generally use it to search for publications of archaeological excavations and journal articles - would be helpful to have abstracts and pdfs to download as often as possible.

More information about publishers of publications. Quite often I track down the index record, but then have no way to locate original copies of a publication.

I really like it as it is, but I wish there were links to the actual articles if they are available.

no further comment

I like the idea of Grey Literature being merged with BIAB. Usually, if I'm using BIAB, it is because I need to locate sources for quite a poorly covered area of archaeology (e.g. medieval bell casting pits, most recently) that is generally new to me. I need the full reference, so that I can request the publication via Inter Library Loans, and I need an accurate abstract so that I can check whether the report is relevant in the first place.

I have found it to reasonably useful to use, and I can offer no real comments re the improvement of BIAB.

Extremely valuable resource; keep reaching into grey literature, reports, unpublished material

Being integrated into the ADS would be good

Live links to online resources cited would be great, particularly if BIAB is tying up with ADS

Adding in grey literature, and perhaps British phd research, as this could aid students.

No comments

I think there is very little which would improve what is a very useful service as it stands

n/a

- Link in with on-going work in digitising back numbers of journals (which will include more historical topics)
- Align periods with those, in the likes of HERs, recording subject matter to periods - both broad and specific
- Include OASIS URLs or DOIs where possible
- Include links to where articles online where possible (preferably DOIs)
- have the classifications of period and subject displayed at the same time as the entry for an article, so if it says 1B show the classifications 1 and B
- Tidy the references, e.g. Alan H. Reed and Alan H Reed, or L A Richmond is actually I A Richmond (computers don't get it right all the time)
- Give the full 'family tree' of articles beneath the title
- Include abstracts of dated articles, such as the set inherited from Gomme
- Raise presence of biab (bring back the year/article number format and include this to link with other bibliographies, e.g. Post-Medieval Archaeology)
- Raise the profile (and necessity) of biab across all sectors of the historic environment

Keep it up to date with journals and monographs - I used to be a contributor, and would be happy to do so again.

Sort the deeper problems that prevent grey literature from making it onto ADS resources generally (where contractors are willing to upload, but HERs are blocking this).

Fix the problem with some of the the pre-1940s bibliographic material, that has nonsense dates of publication in it, I'm a very happy BIAB user! I can't think of any improvements.

Consolidation of groups of records from the same journal title, but catalogued in different groups.

Narrower categories for classification searches would be helpful.

Develop a much more structured, organised and user-friendly system.

Better search by site

Important to maintain free access to amateur as well as profesional researchers - please

More direct links to electronic items

Better references to some items in journals

I have occasionally noticed that the most recent references are not appearing there

2.11. Having read the text above would you now use BIAB to find references to archaeological publications? (non-users only)

Answer	Response	%
Yes	81	96%
No	3	4%
Total	84	100%

2.12. What other bibliographic resources do you use (non users)?

Answer	Response	%
Academia.edu	41	49%
Endnote	10	12%
Google search	63	75%
Google Scholar	33	39%
Google Books	33	39%
Local library catalogue	42	50%
Mendely	4	5%
Project Gutenberg	15	18%
Researchgate	10	12%
Scopus	3	4%
University Library catalogue	46	55%
University Repository	13	15%
Web of Science	8	10%
Zotero	2	2%
None	4	5%
Other	16	19%

Other responses:

Paperpile

Local Society Libraries eg Surrey Archaeological Society

Ceipac, ADS Archaeology Data Service

ADS

keys to the past, SINE

Scottish archives and library

Bibliographies in books

general research libraries and my own library

jstor

own library, local archive

Northern Mine Research Society; Historical Metallurgy Society

Internet archive - Archive.org

British Library catalogue

2.13. You said you don't use BIAB but you do know about it. Can you tell us why you don't use it? (non-users)

Responses:

Never had a need

Have not had occasion to use it with the reduction in active desk-top work. Before becoming aware of BIAB I did obtain a copy of Lavell, C, 1997 Handbook for British and Irish Archaeology, in my early days and only had very limited occasion to use it. I have some on-going private work which might result in looking for Irish references on glassworks, but it is very occasional at present.

I generally know what is happening in my own field (ceramics) via collaegaies and the relevant journals (those that I can afford to subscribe to) and from publications on the academia website. Not having any university affiliation, I have no access to research quality libraries and the normal library service in the city where I live is under attack from

local and national politicians so is no longer a viable way of gaining access to books or journals (the inter-library loan service, for example, no longer works, even if one offers to pay). So while it would be interesting to use a bibliographic service to follow a trail, there is not much point if the relevant journals are locked up behind barriers maintained by self-appointed, over-staffed, over-paid and utterly ignorant university bureaucracies which have no regard for research.

While I was aware that it existed, I was not aware it was available on line. Having just looked at it, it seems a very useful resource and I'm sure I'll use it in future

I have very localised research needs and am aware of most publications - I will use it for geographical areas that are unfamiliar to me

the resources I need are usually available through HERs.

Time management issues, but having been reminded of it by your email, I'll try to use it in future.

Can get most of the material required from the Archaeological Data Service site.

I have only just discovered how useful it is. I will certainly use it from now on

I am a field archaeologists and if the site has been excavated there will be nothing there and I don't want to be biased by anybody else's opinions

Problems accessing BIAB web site

I have never needed to.

Never had any need

never had occasion

Have not been able to continue my research for the recent past.

Prefer the Archaeology Data Service interface.

Only recently found out - planning to use

I have never felt a need for it. I can usually find the references I need elsewhere.

Pressed wrong button and now cant go back to change it

It is not something that I have needed to use in my current line of work, however that does not mean that there will not be a future need.

I am aware of it, but had not realised the full range of material to which it provided access eg conference proceedings and grey literature, which I access online, through accounts with English Heritage and ADS

Never understood it

Currently writing a bid for HLF funding. If successful will use BIAB for research.

Don't know what it is, vague memories from student days that it was just a list of grey lit but no content; don't know if that's true or not. It has never come up by chance on google searches (e.g. if searching for a known report title), so I've always assumed it would be unhelpful. If it does just provide references (as opposed to actual report content), I'm not sure how useful it would be in commercial work when it's not usually the references that are awkward to get hold of, but the grey literature itself

It focuses mainly on British and Irish archaeology while my work focuses on African archaeology so I have not had reason to use it as of yet.

It is a tool I discovered by chance. Due to ongoing illness I haven't been able to come back to it until today. Because you wanted the survey to be completed by as many users as possible I thought that it may be of use to have my answers as well, even though I am not directly involved with Archaeology itself. I have completed one short course on line with Exeter which began to open the subject in greater detail for me. Because of my age and health now I would never be able to practice, but that in itself shouldn't be reason for a person not to delve into something that has been a life long love but which circumstances made it impossible to follow.

I think I'm usually looking for actual reading material rather than the references to it. Most of the local reports I'm looking for are online at ADS or the Worcestershire Online Archaeology Library

I am using other sources for my research

Got to know about it only recently via a link. Will certainly use it in the future.

Research almost entirely in North America, have no need for searching the detailed U.K.-Irish sources

So far I have not used but I am very much pleased and proud of BIAB.

I think I always assumed it was a listing of references to journals I couldn't access as I'm not a student or academic (ie

I don't have access to a university library). I did use it occasionally as a student about 15 years ago but not since.

I have used it many years ago, for research purposes, but have not found it necessary in recent years for my current employment in local government archaeology (planning advice etc.)

not part of my current study

We are a social/Industrial history museum which acts as an archaeological repository. The information we need is generally supplied with the records deposited and for exhibition information we access that. We do not carry out research.

Just don't remember to try it

There has not been a need to use the service to date, but I can see this changing in the near future.

I am aware of it but as I wasn't fully aware of what it provided I had forgotten about it and so not utilised it as yet.

Unable to access reports

Unfamiliar with how it works/ getting started

i haven't had a need for it yet but thought it may be useful for me particularly in a couple of years

Previously subscribed to the original printed version but early attempts to consult the on-line version were not productive.

It had fallen off my radar

I don't do much research, it's mainly data acquisition for grey literature.

I think I tried to use it once many years ago and couldn't work out how to find what I wanted. I just haven't thought to try again, perhaps I should!

Prior to this year my main focus of research has been in Italy and Egypt. I have recently started a new research project in the UK and hope to begin to use it for background research.

It has not been in the forefront of my mind when researching in the past

My job involves very little research, so I would steer people to BIAB, but not use it myself.

Forget about it.

I have browsed the service before but it is not part of my main role to delve this deep into archaeological publications but if my role changed it would be something I would use more regularly.

We tend to be working with HER data in areas we know and don't need to look further afield

Didn't realise there were some links to online data; when attempted to use in the past, only found results that recorded references, which has limited use in my line of work.

no excuses

Use alternative sources

access

I'm not involved in any direct research so haven't needed to. I would also like to suggest using an acronym for a title and website makes the content of that obscure, Reading the description above is the first time I've understood what it is for.

haven't had a need yet

I have heard of BIAB but probably not been aware of what it actually provides. As I write research reports on occasion I think it would have been of great use to me in the past.

read an email about it but have never looked it up

I don't generally find it a lot of use. As a rule I'm looking for articles rather than just references and I tend to find them through other sources

Error I do use it

I have not needed it up to now as until very recently I was working for English Heritage (Historic England) and had access to the information I needed.

BEING RETIRED DOES NOT THAT ONE DOES NOT READ BUT I FIND THAT FOUR MAGAZINES ARE AS MUCH AS I CAN COPE WITH THESE DAYS

Normally use other sources

My work (fieldwork and research) is mostly outside the UK

I read archaeological reports prepared by others. I do not prepare reports myself or undertake detailed research.

Never occurred to me

Normally when I am looking for articles I already have a reference and I need the article itself, not an abstract of it. So generally I am using ADS for grey lit reports. Perhaps BIAB does/did have links to where the article could be found eletronically and I didn't notice it, but that would be for me the most useful aspect (of course only for those things which are available electronically).

It has never occurred to me to use it.

too complex

Mine is a small field and I keep up to date via journal subscriptions, my university library, and personal contacts

I do use it when appropriate.

i have attempted to use the hard copy in the past but it seemed rather unwhieldy and difficult to navigate. In recent years the archaeology part of my job has decreased and so I have very little time to do any research at all. I haven't used the on line version but i imagine if it links to the actual publications it would be very useful, less so if it doesn't. Am only recently aware of it.

I don't think it's publicised enough as a go to resource compared to say the information held in HERs and ADS.

Don't know exactly what is in it, and haven't had time to explore.

X

To date have not found cause to given other sources of information. I am certainly not opposed to using it if the need were to arise.

I don't know how to.

I always found what I needed when I was a student using the indexes from the universities I studied at and Google Scholar. I now work in the HER and make extensive use of Google and the local library index. It is not often that the BIAB resource comes up in a search from Google. One disadvantage of the BIAB is that it tells you that a publication exists but not where it is available. There is not always an ISBN number and where there is a link to a website it is often to a general web address and not to anywhere specific to the publication searched for. A lot of the publication details are also abbreviated (e.g, Amat Hist) which can make it hard to know exactly which publication is being referred to and doesn't make things very accessible. I can't see a page on the website where these can be looked up. Unless data is made more accessible to people who don't know all the details, so that it is easy to understand and becomes useful and therefore widely used from when people start in archaeology.

I have not used it to date, but might in the future

Other reference mediums have provided all information needed to date.

Lack of time and uncertain of relevance to my area of consultancy

I think I've heard of it - I worked for the IfA (before it was the ClfA!) for years - but my main area of research is Egyptological.