



Newsletter 2

June 2013

ARCHES – Archaeological Resources in Cultural Heritage – a European Standard

We are very pleased to welcome you to the ARCHES project which is coordinated by the State Office for Cultural Heritage Management Baden-Württemberg in Germany and consists of 8 partners from 7 countries.

ARCHES is an exciting project which started on June 2012 and runs till May 2014. The result will be a standard and manual of best practices for the management of archaeological archives

We look forward to keeping you informed through this newsletter which is published twice a year.

You can also follow us and join in discussions about the project on the ARCHES page on LinkedIn.

Check out the latest information about ARCHES on its website:
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/arches/Wiki.jsp?page=Main>

Contact and information:
arches@e-a-c.org

The 2nd ARCHES General Meeting

The 2nd General Meeting meeting took place in the beautiful city of Prague (Czech Republic) on January 30-31, 2013.

During this second meeting, the **Core Standard** was finalized. You can find the full text on the ARCHES website: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/arches/Wiki.jsp?page=CORE%20STANDARD>

This Core Standard constitutes the first step in our common goal of creating a manual of best practices in archaeological archiving. It contains the definitions of an archaeological project and an archaeological archive, a description of the main elements of which an archaeological archive is composed, an outline of the basic principles of archaeological archiving and identifies who carries responsibilities, followed by the standards for both the documentary archive as the material/finds archive.



The session concerning the organization of the national/regional workshops defined the various questionnaires to be used during the workshops. Two questionnaires were created. The first one, “**Applying the Standards**” aims at making a survey on the current guidance amongst the partners within the institutions in charge of archiving the archaeological documentation

(<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/arches/Wiki.jsp?page=Applying%20the%20standards>)



This questionnaire is split into 3 main chapters: the documentary archive, the material/finds archive and the reports and publications. For each type of document or find, the various phases of an archaeological project are considered: planning, data-gathering, analysis and report writing, preparation for archive transfer, and curation.

The second questionnaire, on “**Roles and Responsibilities**” aims at making a survey on the actual roles and responsibilities within the partner institutions in charge of archaeological archiving. This questionnaire contains 6 chapters: planning, data gathering, analysis, reporting / publication, archive compilation and curation.

(<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/arches/Wiki.jsp?page=Roles%20and%20Responsabilities>)

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of these questionnaires, please contact:

arches@e-a-c.org

ARCHES WORKSHOPS

Each partner within the ARCHES project has held a workshop during Spring 2013, using the questionnaires on “Roles and Responsibilities” and “Applying the Standards” Workshop dates:

- **March 13, 2013:** Bonn, Germany
- **March 18, 2013:** Sweden
- **April 3, 2013:** Reykjavik, Iceland
- **April 24, 2013:** Brussels, Belgium
- **April 25, 2013:** Amersfoort, Netherlands
- **April, 2013:** Prague, Czech Republic
- **May 8, 2013 :** England

Our Swiss colleagues, partners within the EAC Archaeological Archives Working Party; have held 2 workshops: March 1 and March 15, 2013.



What do you mean « I need it fast ? »...

The results of these workshops will be discussed during the next plenary meeting hosted by the Archaeological Heritage Agency in Reykjavik, Iceland, 25-26 September 2013.

ARCHES PARTNER PROFILES

In this newsletter:

1. **Institute of Archaeology ASCR, Prague, v.v.i. (ARÚP)**
2. **State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt – State Museum of Prehistory- Halle (Saale), Germany**



Institute of Archaeology ASCR, Prague, v.v.i. (ARÚP)

Representatives: Martin KUNA & Dana KRIVANKOVA

The Institute of Archaeology ASCR, Prague, v.v.i. (Archeologický ústav AVČR, hereinafter ARÚP) is one of the “public research institutions” (v.v.i.) associated within the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR). Its main task is to carry out basic research within the field of prehistoric, medieval and modern period archaeology. There are two institutes concerned with archaeology within the ASCR, one in Prague, operating mainly in Bohemia, the other in Brno, working prevalingly in the territory of Moravia and Silesia). Although the research focus of ARUP is the Czech Republic and Central Europe, occasionally – if it is convenient for the goals of research – other parts of Europe and beyond may be targeted too (recently, for example, Yemen, Northern Africa, Mongolia, Afghanistan).

The activities of ARUP employ all kinds of approaches. Within the field, ARÚP combines excavations (almost entirely rescue projects) with various types of non-destructive methods, such as aerial photography, geophysical survey and mapping through surface artefact surveys. ARÚP disposes of various types of high quality equipment both for the field and laboratory research: an aircraft, geophysical devices, labs for radiocarbon dating, DNA analysis,

anthropology, archaeozoology, paleobotany, conservation and restoration of finds.



Fig. 1. Institute of Archaeology, Prague (buildings on the right), on a photograph from 1950s. The Institute is located in the very centre of the historic city – The Prague Castle may be seen in the background. The negative has been damaged by the flood of Prague in 2002. Archive ARUP FT-11640.

At the beginning of the 1990s, ARUP was reorganised (so was the whole ASCR) and its staff has been reduced considerably. Nevertheless, ARUP still employs about 120 people, including some 70 research specialists. The list of publications of ARUP typically includes about 10-15 books and 200-300 research papers per year. A special place among them is hold by the *Archaeology of Prehistoric Bohemia* (Archeologie pravěkých

Čech), a survey of prehistory of Bohemia in eight volumes published in 2007-2008. This work represents a legacy of a whole generation of Czech archaeologists (the last comparable work appeared in 1978); its English translation is just being prepared for publication. ARUP is also the publisher of two main academic journals in the CR (*Památky archeologické* and *Archeologické rozhledy*) and other series, such as *Castrum Pragense*, *Castelloologica Bohemica* and others.

ARUP systematically creates and operates the largest archaeological library in the CR and makes its contents available to scholars, students and general public. The library suffered during the flood of Prague in 2002 and underwent massive restructuring during the following years. Not only was the building and the library stocks rebuilt, but the library system was reorganised and its catalogues fully digitized. At the present day, the library offers more than 40,000 titles.



Fig. 2. The flood of Prague in August 2002. Buildings of the Institute in the centre, an entrance to the Prague Metro, fully flooded, in the right. Photo by J. Frolík.

Large capacities of the ARUP staff are dedicated to university teaching. In cooperation with the Charles University in Prague, ARUP is accredited for doctoral programmes in archaeology and anthropology – human genetics. The number of hours lectured by the ARUP specialists has gradually grown up to 1200-1500 per year and is distributed among most of the universities in the CR (archaeology is currently taught at eight of them).



Fig. 3. One of the depots and study rooms of the archives of the Institute of Archaeology, Prague.

As part of this task ARUP is also obliged to build and manage a central archive of field documentation. In the course of the last two decades, the contents of the ARUP archives have been converted into the Sites and Monument Records of Bohemia and the Digital Archives of Czech Archaeology. Today, these databases include information on several tens of thousands of archaeological sites and activities, as well as 70,000 of excavation reports, 200,000 photographs, 10,000 of aerial snaps and many other documents. Within a current project of ARUP, these records are being revised and changed into a complex information system The Archaeological Map of CR. The participation of ARUP in the project ARCHES is, therefore, logically resulting from these activities and the international contacts obtained in this way are considered to be of key importance for further development of ARUP in this field.



Representative: Bettina STOLL-TUCKER

The State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology and State Museum of Prehistory (LDA) as the central institution in the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt is responsible for its rich cultural heritage. The principal duty of the LDA is the recognition of monuments, to further the knowledge about cultural heritage, to document, and to publish. Also the counselling of monument owners, architects, craftsmen and conservators in the manifold concerns of practical preservation of monuments and historic buildings is an important task. Other offices receive expert reports in the frame of planning applications and proceedings relating to permission. Archaeologists plan and supervise excavations. The results are documented, finds are conserved and stored.



Fig. 1: Front view of the Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte Halle with banner „Nebra Sky Disc“, photo Juraj Lipták

Extensive depots store numerous testimonies of the regional human history spanning thousands of years. In the State Museum of Prehistory – one of the most eminent archaeological museums of Europe – the most

spectacular finds are presented. Since more than one hundred years the archives of the LDA store the records concerning heritage management and archaeology, historic and recent photos, plans and drawings. A large and well stocked specialised library holds books and periodicals from around the world on archaeology, art and architectural history as well as monument and heritage specific titles.



Fig. 2: Central finds depot in Halle (Saale).

The State Museum of Prehistory in Halle (Saale) is one of the most prestigious institutions of archaeology in Europe. Its home is Germany's oldest purpose-built building for prehistoric archaeology. The collection encompasses numerous finds of international importance, including the world-renowned Nebra Sky Disc.



Fig. 3 : Storage of Bronze Age vessels in the study collection

Founded as the „Museum für heimathliche Geschichte und Alterthumskunde der Provinz

Sachsen“ (opened 21.03.1884) the LDA is already a longstanding institution for the preservation and research on prehistory and the cultural heritage of the region. On 21.01.1991 the “State Office for Archaeological Heritage Management (State Museum of Prehistory)” was installed. On 08.04.1997 it was renamed in “State Office for Archaeology –State Museum of Prehistory–“ and on 01.01 2004 it was joined with the State Office for Monument Preservation to form the “State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt –State Museum of Prehistory– “ of today.

Why we need a manual for good practice in archaeological archives



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.