ads

ARCHAEOLOGY
DATA SERVICE

news

HERALD:
a new beginning
for OASIS

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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Professor Julian D Richards

Sharing research data has been given some very welcome high level support last summer. On 13 June 2013 The European Parliament ratified new rules on Open Data, first championed in 2011 by Neelie Kroes, Dutch Vice-President of the European Commission. Although Open Data in Science had been promoted for decades the June ruling removed exemptions for cultural heritage data, causing major policy shifts in southern Europe in particular. Then on 18 June the G8 summit, meeting in Enniskillen in Northern Ireland, unveiled their Open Data Charter, heralding "a new era in which people can use open data to generate insights, ideas, and services to create a better world for all." In the United States, Archaeology was awarded special recognition for its contribution to the Open Data Movement when our US-based colleague Eric Kansa, founder of Open Context, was invited to the White House as a 'Champion of Change'.

Rather than just being the bandwagon of the eccentrics and the geeks it seems that Open Data is finally gaining high level political support across the world and, in the UK, funding bodies are falling into line and following the EPSRC in requiring researchers to make their data freely available.

However, the Open Data movement, with its emphasis on unrestricted access, sometimes takes the focus away from the importance of preservation. There is little point in providing access to data if it is going to disappear in a few years. The ADS has been providing access to Open Data since 1998, and ensuring that primary archaeological data will be maintained into perpetuity. In line with this our policy of assigning permanent Digital Object Identifiers to datasets and reports ensures that they will always be available from the digital citation address given. Similarly, ADS and our sister ejournal Internet Archaeology, have recently introduced ORCID identifiers for people. These ensure that when we reference an author the unique numeric identifier links to a controlled authority list and we avoid bibliographic errors and inconsistencies. Such lists are the building blocks of the web of Linked Open Data which has been oft hyped but which now seems to be becoming a reality.
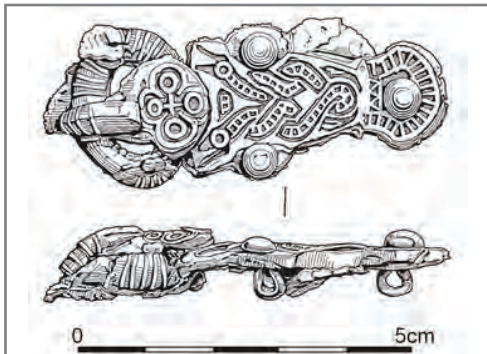

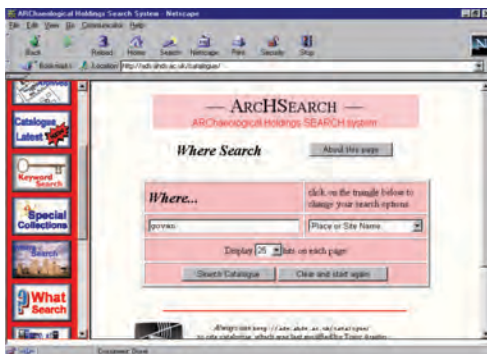**The ADS Team outside the ADS Offices in King's Manor, York.**

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The new OASIS webpage (see page 6).

Buckle from the Anglo-Saxon Graves and Grave Goods Archive (see page 13) © English Heritage.

Screenshot of Archsearch c. 2000 (see page 15).

This newsletter is also available online at
http://archaeologydataservice.
ac.uk/about/newsletter

ARCHAEOLOGY
DATA SERVICE

ADS UPDATE

News

Data Seal of Approval: we've still got it!

Avid followers of the progress of the ADS recall that in early 2011 we were awarded the internationally recognised Data Seal of Approval (DSA). What you may not know is that in order to retain the award you have to re-apply periodically. During our reapplication process we were able to include a number of enhancements to both our public interfaces and our back-room procedures. Enhancements for users have included the addition of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to each of our collections; the completion of the new editions of the online Guide to Good Practice series; and the establishment of digital licences for depositors. Behind the scenes we have redeveloped elements of our Collections Management System (CMS) to accommodate file level metadata and implemented the use of DROID, a file profiling tool. We're really pleased that the progress we have made over the last two years has been recognised and are proud to have had our accreditation renewed.

MEDIN Update

MEDIN is a partnership of UK organisations committed to improving access to marine data by delivering data through a network of accredited Data Archive Centres (DACs). ADS has been a MEDIN accredited DAC for a year now and has recently updated the harvesting system so that the DOI's for our Project Archives and Grey Literature Library reports are also included in the MEDIN metadata, allowing users finding ADS records via the MEDIN portal to directly access the data held in ADS through a permanent link.

Revamp for the Guidelines for Depositors

The ADS has recently been successful in an application for funding from the Archives and Records Association to update and improve ADS's current 'Guidelines for Depositors' and develop a set of tools in order to better disseminate guidance and standards for archiving. It is intended that the revamped 'Guidelines for Depositors' will include a new user friendly interface and interactive training exercises and video tutorials. The new interface design will aim to be more intuitive and instructive in its presentation and will be driven by feedback from user-based focus groups with training materials intended to communicate the correct way for depositors to prepare their data for deposition. The new 'Guidlines for Depositors' will also emphasise the importance of digital archiving and good data management throughout the lifecycle of a project. The new 'Guidelines for Depositors' should be available from August 2014.

DADAISM

ADS is excited to be involved in a new collaborative project funded through the Digging into Data Challenge, which brings together researchers from the diverse fields of archaeology, human computer interaction, image processing and text mining from the Universities of York, Saskatchewan and Amsterdam. The project aims to improve the techniques of finding and retrieving useful images with correctly associated information for research purposes.

To get up to the minute news follow us on twitter

@ADS_Update

or **Like** us on Facebook

Find us at:

An ADS representative will be attending the following events:

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology Conference UK. Oxford, 21-22 March 2014.

Institute for Archaeologists Conference. Glasgow, 9-11 April 2014.

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology Conference. Paris, 22-25 April 2014.

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. Austin, 23-28 April 2014.

Digital Heritage 2014. York, 12 July 2014.

European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting. Istanbul, 10-14 September 2014.

Staff Spotlight

Dr Paul Young
Web Developer

Paul joined the ADS in August 2012 and is responsible for developing and maintaining the ADS Collection Management System (CMS). Over the past year Paul has been hard at work redeveloping elements of our CMS to accommodate file level metadata, implement DROID and issue automated deposit licences. Paul has also designed the interface for ADS-easy our new online deposit tool and integrated ADS-easy with our CMS. All Pauls work behind the scenes helps streamline the work of our Digital Archivists.

internet archaeology

News

New article
'Jarlshof Lost and Found: Low altitude aerial photography and computer-generated visualisation for the interpretation of the complex settlement remains found at Jarlshof, Shetland' (Open access thanks to support from AHRC). http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.36.1

One step closer to Open Access
A further two issues of Internet Archaeology are now Open Access which means that everything up to and including issue 23 is freely available. It is IA policy to enable Open Access on all content when article development costs are met with the longer term aim of making the whole of IA Open Access.

Data Papers
Deposited an archive? Maximise your dataset's re-use potential by publishing a related data paper in Internet Archaeology. http://intarch.ac.uk/authors/data-papers.html

Going to CAA, Paris?
Judith Winters (IA editor) is co-organising a session on 'Strategy, Practice & Trends in Online Archaeology' where ADS's Catherine Hardman will be speaking. ADS Director Julian D Richards will also be presenting a paper on history of data sharing (in another session). We hope to see you there! http://caa2014.sciencesconf.org/

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COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Recent Releases

The following collections are our most recently released, but these are just a small sample of new resources. To get up to the minute information on all our new releases follow us on twitter @ADS_Update or Like us on Facebook.

The small finds from Baths Basilica
This digital resource makes the full small find assemblage available for the first time. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1023596

Visualisation in Archaeology
This archive explores the philosophical, historical and future of the presentation of archaeological knowledge. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1023599

Carlisle Cathedral, Cumbria
This resource records excavations that preceded construction in 1988. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1019911

West Berkshire Aggregate Assessment
An archaeological resource assessment of the aggregate producing areas of West Berkshire. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1023598.

Newport Medieval Ship
This archive contains the 3D data recording the ship and the hypothetical reconstructions. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1020898

Essex HLC
This resource assesses the distinctive historic dimension of the current rural landscape of Essex. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1022584

North Yorkshire, York and Lower Tees HLC
This resource assesses the character of the modern landscape. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1022583

Drigg Burnt Mound, West Cumbria.
This archive records the archaeological evaluation of a putative Bronze Age hearth or burnt mound at Drigg. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1022582.

Silbury Hill © English Heritage.

Silbury Hill

Jenny O'Brien

Since the last issue of ADS News, the 'Silbury Hill Archive Preparation Project' has been completed. The Silbury Hill digital archive includes the data produced from the remedial works at Silbury Hill, culminating in the excavation of the archaeological tunnels which had been dug into the hill in the 1960s.

The preparation of the dataset for deposition has taken over a year with much of the time spent in data selection. The rest of the project was dedicated to the creation of metadata, using ADS templates, to assist in the accessibility, discoverability, preservation and continued curation of the dataset. The work undertaken is described in a final report which will be disseminated with the rest of the dataset by April 2014. In the meantime, for further information on the 'Silbury Archive Preparation Project', see ADS blog posts: 'The Silbury Hill Archive: the light at the end of the tunnel' and 'Jenny Ryder's Day of Archaeology at the ADS: a Silbury Hill update'.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Buckets of Anglo-Saxon Data

Jo Gilham

With the release last year of two more Anglo-Saxon archives, 'A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Buckets and Anglo-Saxon Graves' and 'Grave Goods of the 6th and 7th Centuries AD: A Chronological Framework', it seems like a good time to highlight this growing theme in our archives. We now hold a mass of Anglo-Saxon collections; six classification or typological collections; four site based archives; and three large area studies of Anglo-Saxon activity in Staffordshire and Kent. We also archive the 'Novum Inventorium Sepulchrale - Kentish Anglo-Saxon graves and grave-goods' in the Sonia Hawkes archive which is currently available online from Oxford University.

The site based archives we hold include the excavation archives for the cemeteries at Cleatham, Mucking and Wasperton many of which also appear in our classification/typological archives: 'Glass Beads from Anglo-Saxon Graves'; 'Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England'; 'Anglo-Saxon Graves and Grave Goods'; 'Unlocking Anglo-Saxon Girdle-Hangers'; and 'A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Buckets'. A quick search across the rest of ADS's Anglo-Saxon archives shows that other sites (picked at random) such as Spong Hill in Norfolk, and Bifrons, Buckland, and Faversham, all in Kent, appear across most of the classification/typological archives and some of the other collections too.

For a list of all the Anglo-Saxon archives available from ADS go to http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/ and put Anglo-Saxon in the Keyword search box in the top left.

Following this Anglo-Saxon theme, a search for Early Medieval and cemetery in the Grey Literature Library brings back 79 reports on this alone… Early Medieval and bead returns 28 reports.

Although these were never designed to be studied together most of them have downloadable data in the form of spreadsheets or database tables that would allow a larger study to be developed and new understanding gained of this interesting period. ADS would love to here of your re-use stories for this corpus of data! Email help@archaeologydataservice with your details.

Reconstruction of a child burial at Mucking. Artist Judith Dobie © English Heritage Images.
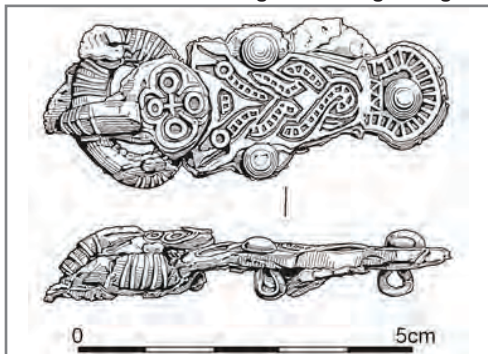
Buckle from the Anglo-Saxon Graves and Grave Goods Archive © English Heritage.

UK PROJECTS

HERALD: a new beginning for OASIS

Catherine Hardman

We all know that the historic environment sector has undergone a great degree of upheaval over the last few years as a result of the recession-busting moves by both central and local government and, perhaps even more importantly, the slump in building activity. At the same time colleagues in the sector are coming to rely more and more on technological solutions to help provide a high quality archaeological information to the public. It is therefore heartening to be able to announce an investment by English Heritage in OASIS to consider a project to redevelop the system to better meet the needs of the historic environment community it endeavours to serve.

We've known for some time that there are elements of the OASIS system which are very twentieth century; this is not a total surprise as the original project was initiated in 1998! A very useful survey and subsequent report by Pye Tait Consulting undertaken in 2011-12 highlighted a number of issues, some very pertinent. But some parts of the report revealed a worrying level of misconceptions about the function and form of the system as it is now. Some of this is understandable; take up of the form has been variable and sporadic over the last decade with new users across all parts of the sector engaging with the system at different times, often without the benefit of formal training or a deep understanding of the potential of the system. We'd like to use the opportunity afforded by the HERALD (Historic Environment Research Archives, Links and Data) project to debunk a few long held myths about OASIS and take another look at the results of the Pye Tait survey and,

The new OASIS webpage.

with the help of our project partners ALGAO and the CBS, identify what we need to do to bring the form, and system that sits behind it, up to date in technological terms but also make it fit for a range of different purposes. For example we'd like to engage more closely with the museum community to see if the data held within OASIS could be of use to them, and if so to what extent and how they would like to be involved in the reporting process. Similarly we'd like to explore ways in which we can encourage a greater use of the form by those who may not routinely report archaeological fieldwork to local authorities, like community groups and academics. We will be seeking views widely across the profession and the sector.

To 'herald' the start of the project in January 2014 we have redesigned the OASIS website, and introduced a blog to keep you all up to date with what is going on with the project; our first step will be to ask you what you want, how the form and system could be changed to better serve your needs, help you report or record events, or deliver grey literature. So watch this space!

http://oasis.ac.uk/

Opening up the Grey Literature Library

Tim Evans

The Grey Literature Library is one of the ADS's most popular resources, and as shown by projects such as the Roman Rural Landscape, one that is of massive research value. The library is constantly growing, with most reports coming from the OASIS system. In 2013 alone, there were 3891 reports submitted. Feedback from all levels of the archaeological community makes it clear that the hosting of openly accessible digital grey literature is a boon. However, one of the questions we are most commonly asked is "why does it take so long for a report uploaded to OASIS to make its way into the library?". This is perfectly understandable; people who have completed an OASIS record to share the results of their fieldwork want to make sure this effort is not in vain. Rest assured it isn't, here's a small insight into what's going on underneath the workings of the library.

To enter the library the associated OASIS record has first to be completed and validated by the HER and relevant NMR. Once signed off, the report enters a list of all reports that need to be 'transferred'. What we don't often make public is the detailed and technical nature of the next stage of this process, but it's the difference between simply putting files on a server, and managing a resource as part of the duties of an accredited digital archive. The archiving of every single grey literature report is something we're very proud of here at the ADS: it's no use having this fantastic research resource if it's not held in perpetuity. The task of archiving these reports falls to an ADS digital archivist and is assigned on a roughly bi-monthly basis. Experience has shown that it is simpler to archive reports in bulk rather than individually. As detailed in the ADS repository operations, each file we receive has to be dealt with as any other digital object:

- Ingested (or accessioned) in its original form
- Migrated to a suitable preservation format
- Migrated to a suitable dissemination format
- Document all stages, processes and the technical details of each object within the ADS Collection Management System (CMS)

The digital archivist assigned to the task will work in batches according to the individual contractor — for example the reports for AC Archaeology or Wessex Archaeology are distinct collections — and all the individual files for each report (note that a single report can exist as numerous files, the record at the moment is 58 for a single watching brief!) are moved from the OASIS system, and stored on the ADS preservation server as a unique accession within such a collection. A long-standing contributor to the library can have numerous accessions under their collection, so for example Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service has 41 accessions representing 1478 files. This accession process, including the names and types of these files are all logged in our CMS; thankfully, a great deal of hard work from ADS's Developer Paul Young has meant that most of the database side of this process is now semi-automated.
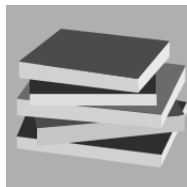
GREY LITERATURE LIBRARY

UK PROJECTS

The digital archivist then has to convert all the files in an accession to a suitable preservation and dissemination format, in the case of PDFs this is currently PDF/A. The trials and tribulations of this process are documented elsewhere in a recent article in 'Information Standards Quarterly' by Digital Archivist Ray Moore (2013). Suffice to say, to ensure a report is adequately preserved, with no loss of information or formatting, is often a significant undertaking. The current record is one day for a single report, which although a rare occurrence illustrates the degree of intervention that is often involved in digital preservation.

Once migrated, the preservation and dissemination files are moved to appropriate locations on ADS servers; the technical process such as hardware and software used for any migrations then has to be recorded within the CMS. We're fortunate that we can record this at a batch level, so for example we could record the migration of 10 PDF 1.4 files to PDF/A 1B as a single event. However, quite often an accession will consist of a multitude of different file types, so the documentation of the archive process for each collection can involve a large number of processes.

Grey Literature Reports from the Grey Literature Library.

Only once all the files within the archive package are fully documented can we move towards transferring the files to the library, the most satisfactory part of the job. Within the internal pages of the OASIS system are scripts to facilitate the transfer of a subset of OASIS metadata into the Grey Literature Library database. As a final step — and thanks to the expertise of our Applications Developer Michael Charno — the script also mints and registers a DOI for each report via the Datacite API, and stores it within the OASIS system. It's then a case of checking that everything has run smoothly. If we look at what is becoming a typical grey literature task, in January 2014, 1011 reports were moved from OASIS into the library. This consisted of:

- 2249 files, split into 99 accessions. The files consisted of:

      * 52 PDF/A 1A   * 95 PDF 1.2
      * 371 PDF 1.7   * 48 DOC
      * 601 PDF 1.6   * 31 DOCX
      * 920 PDF 1.4   * 30 JPG
      * 284 PDF 1.3   * 11 TIF
      * 6 DWG
      * 10 Adobe Illustrator files

- These accessions belonged to 87 existing collections and 12 new collections.

- 338 processes logged within the CMS.

- The replacement of 13 files that were unreadable, or had been mistakenly uploaded.

- The drinking of approximately 79 cups of tea.

So in answer to the original question of "where is my report?" the answer is, that it's being looked after carefully by a committed team at the ADS!

Persistence in Preservation and Publication of Data

Judith Winters

To recognise the effort that authors make in order to deposit digital data and to get academic credit for that effort, Internet Archaeology (IA) and the ADS have established an open access data paper series. 'Data papers' maximise a dataset's re-use potential and help to improve the preservation and the publication of data and are a valuable addition to the advancement of archaeological research. However IA and ADS have now taken the concept a little further.

In order to identify the content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet, each data paper in IA and the corresponding archive in ADS are assigned unique DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers, issued via CrossRef and DataCite). The introduction of these unique digital identifiers has been a major advancement for persistence in data preservation, publication and citation, but our approach has been to extend them to a more granular level. While an ADS dataset is assigned a 'top level' DOI, additional identifiers to specific sections of the data area have also been allocated. This enhances the archive not just by enabling direct access to a subset of data but also allows those sub-sections, often authored by specialist researchers, to be citable in their own right and gives recognition to the individuals who undertook the work e.g. see Richards & Roskams (2013) archive: where the Geophysical Survey, the Field-walking Survey and Animal Bone reports all have their own DOI. There is no limit to the granulation possible and we envisage usage right down to individual

digital objects, such as a photograph or a GIS shapefile, when their importance to a hypothesis is apparent. Such use of DOIs will greatly benefit archaeological research, providing greater transparency in archaeological reporting and improving research efficiency.

The data paper series has also seen the introduction of the ORCID digital identifier (a DOI for people!), which distinguishes researchers and supports automated links between an author and their professional activities, further ensuring that their work is recognized (http://orcid.org/). Its use can again be seen in the data paper by Richards & Roskams (2013). The use of ORCID in data papers, and indeed other digital publications, supports the creation of a permanent, clear and unambiguous record of research and scholarly communication. In combination with granulated DOIs, ORCID identifiers and the open peer review employed in IA data papers, we believe we have facilitated an original and inventive approach to data publication.

Richards, J. and Roskams, S. (2013). Burdale: An Anglian Settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds (Data Paper). Internet Archaeology, (35). http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.35.8

Richards J.D. and Roskams S. (2013). Burdale: an Anglian settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds [Data-set]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor]. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1021540

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

NEARCH
New Scenarios for a Community-involved Archaeology

Holly Wright

NEARCH is a project funded under the European Union (EU) culture programme. The project will run for five years from autumn 2013 and follows on from the EU-supported ACE project. The project also explores the different dimensions of public participation and the significance of archaeological heritage, intertwined with different processes underway in today's Europe.

This January the NEARCH partners packed their mittens and headed to a plenary meeting in lovely, snowy Gothenburg. The group enjoyed a series of excellent keynote presentations centred on different aspects of in-person public engagement, including rare insight into 'Archaeology and Disaster' by Dr. Katsu Okamura; focussed on how cultural heritage public engagement was approached after the earthquake and tsunami suffered by Japan in 2011. Different aspects of the NEARCH project were discussed, and presentations made by the partners, especially within the theme where the ADS has the most involvement, 'Archaeology for the community: informing and involving people'.

The 'Archaeology for the community' theme is drawn from the tenets of the Faro Convention, which stipulate that communities are entitled to engage with their surrounding cultural heritage, and it is the different values within a community that define the significance of that heritage. As such, local community involvement is seen as an essential component. While this has traditionally meant participative experiences on-site, NEARCH also seeks to explore a wide range of communication technologies. The ADS has a key role in this aspect of the work.

As part of the sub-theme involving people through a virtual European 'Day of Archaeology',

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

ADS presented ideas on how NEARCH might contribute an expanded European presence within the existing Day of Archaeology (http://dayofarchaeology.com/). The Day of Archaeology provides a virtual window into the wide variety of pursuits archaeologists undertake all over the world, in the form of blog posts outlining what archaeologists do on a single day in July. Currently run by volunteers, NEARCH will use its networks and resources to reach out to archaeologists working across Europe to expand participation generally, provide technical support, lend language expertise to encourage greater multilingual representation, and promote the resource to a wider audience. The ADS is currently in the planning stages with the Day of Archaeology organisers, with implementation from 2015 through to 2018, becoming a chapter in the ever-growing corpus of experiences logged by the Day of Archaeology.

ADS's Michael Charno presented ideas for the work we will carry out under the sub-theme 'Interacting with heritage, developing mobile technologies'. Michael recently completed a successful app for the Apple iPad in partnership with the British Library, titled 'Archaeology Britain' (http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/research/archbritapp). This app highlights and showcases UK archaeology using content held by both organisations, including antiquarian drawings, paintings and maps of some of Britain's most important archaeological sites, many of which have not been made previously available online. Michael discussed the lessons learned from the project and emphasised the importance of content curation and design. The ADS will be responsible for constructing an app for NEARCH, focussing on the themes of the project, possibly around 'You(r) Archaeology – portraying the past'. Planning is due to begin in the next few months.

Watch the ADS website and social media accounts for more information about NEARCH. We hope to announce the launch of the NEARCH website soon!

LoCloud and ARIADNE

ADS is also involved in two other large European projects that allow us to work closely with European Partners and ensures that we stay at the forefront of research into the preservation and dissemination of digital archaeological data.

LoCloud is a best practice network that follows on from CARARE. The intention of LoCloud is to combine the metadata mapping methodology of CARARE with cloud computing technology, making it easier for small to medium sized heritage organisations to make their content discoverable via Europeana.

The ARIADNE project brings together and integrates existing research data infrastructures so that researchers can use the various distributed datasets and new and powerful technologies as an integral component of the archaeological research methodology.

To keep up to date on ADS's other European Projects subscribe to the ADS e-newsletter by emailing help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk or follow the developments at the following websites:

LoCloud

http://www.locloud.eu/

ARIADNE

http://ariadne-infrastructure.eu/

ADS HISTORY

The Internet Archaeology of the ADS

Michael Charno

While rationalising old and orphaned files on the ADS servers, I stumbled upon an old index.html file for a previous version of the website. Similar to discovering a long forgotten photograph in the attic, this led me down the meandering path of memory lane. However unlike a photograph, reconstructing the look and feel of a web page requires some fiddling to correctly associate the style sheets and any server side includes. After a few cut and paste commands replacing server side includes with actual HTML and a directory search for the missing stylesheet, the old homepage was back up again in all of its glory.

ADS homepage c. 2008.

Even though I spent my first four years at ADS using this homepage it looked totally foreign to me. The structure was confused, the javascript unnecessary and the style was uninspired. The page was functional, but left a lot to be desired compared to the structure and clarity of the present version. The backend framework and systems that make up the current website also make it manageable and easy to update, compared to the organic, disjointed structure of the previous website which led to headache inducing updates as seemingly insignificant modifications led to unanticipated bugs (or features depending on your preferred coping mechanism).

Revisionist liberties are being taken with regards to this webpage review, and everything wasn't as bad as I just laid out. The reality is web sites have a tendency to grow and add complexities, and therefore their structures begin to creak under the weight of new content. For that period in the history of the ADS, the website fulfilled all the requirements of the users and its curators. The further you look back at a dynamic medium such as the web, the more nits you are able to pick. And with a hankering for more nits, I decided to see how deep within the ADS webpage stratigraphy I could dig. I had begun wall chasing, using command-line tools such as find and grep to hopefully excavate an older version of the homepage. Unfortunately no actual HTML could be found, but I was able to find a record of the original website in the form of a screenshot.

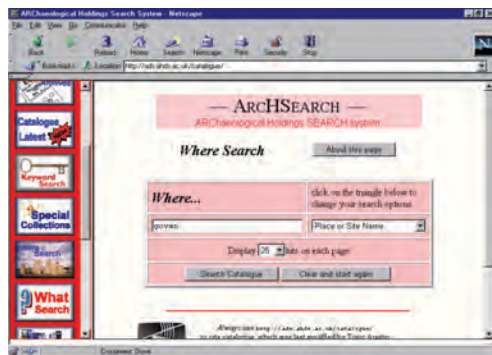**Screenshot of ADS homepage c. 1998.**

ADS HISTORY

However, when "excavating" old web content, we have a tool that has no real world analogy, the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. It is effectively a digital "archive" of the web, with versions of web pages going back to the very beginning of the web as we know it. This allows us to go back and view old web page content in its partial original glory. Partial because images and style are not always included with the snapshot. The earliest version of the ADS website (back then at the http://ads.ahds.ac.uk address) ironically points at an Internet Archaeology landing page (the internet archaeology of the ADS leads to Internet Archaeology).
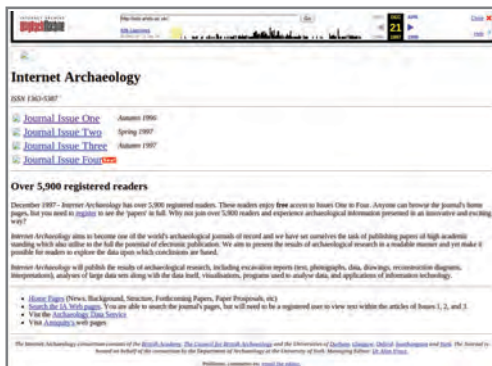
The oldest "ADS" webpage in the Wayback Machine, Dec 1997.

To get to the earliest "ADS-only" homepage, we have to fast forward to December 1998, which gives us the original HTML (albeit slightly modified) that built the screenshot. With this HTML, we could theoretically revive this ancient version of the ADS homepage, although some updating of the image sources and style sheets would be necessary. Performing a type of archaeological reconstruction, we could use the above screenshot to inform us how to rebuild the HTML and images for the now lost web

page. The Wayback Machine also scraped other pages, such as earlier versions of Archsearch. A little more searching for old screenshots also turned up this gem (notice the vintage Netscape Navigator window), which could be used in further web page reconstructions.

Screenshot of Archsearch c. 1998.

A timeline of specific ADS web pages could easily be presented in the original HTML, providing a sort of typological gallery of web design at the ADS. However, the utility of these kinds of web page reconstructions barely goes beyond a novelty, as most web interfaces within the ADS are thought of as temporary.

We (and most of our users) are more interested in the underlying data, which we present from a transient interface or shop window. Like museums, we sometimes change the layout but that data and our archives remain static. Unlike museums though, we can convert and duplicate our content to ensure its long term preservability, a capability any museum would surely love to have. A real world Wayback Machine would also probably be pretty nice too.

CRYPTARCH 7

Across

1, 5. Long barrow myth was sadly in disarray (8,6)
10. Hold a fortification (4)
12. see 34
13. Hugely wooly? (7)
17. see 22
19. Controls and confesses (4)
20. The sailor returned a love cheat (3)
21. Prisoner on a degree course? Results are indisputably delicious! (5)
22, 17, 15, 31. A capital prison (3,5,2,6)
24. Confused snake ends up therapeutic? (3)
25. Worker rests by church tree (5)
27. Knock back a little Budweiser and play some reggae (3)
28. Anna Bobbit holds a powerful position abroad (5)
30. Alan and Vernon somehow shortened Spring (6)
33. Welsh heavy weight is down by 14lbs (9)
34,12. Clay urn, woad, mixed up at broch (3,8)
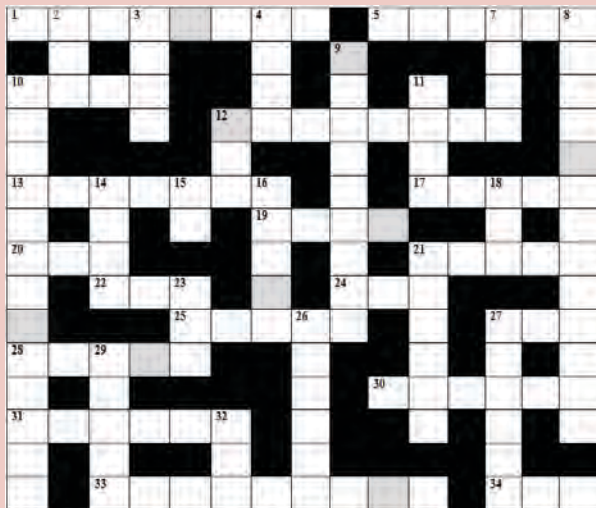
Send the word spelled out in the shaded boxes to:
  help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk
before the 1st July to enter the prize draw to win a £20 book token.

Down

2. Pale, headless beer (3)
3. First look in person's soul suggests they are for kissing (4)
4. It can be a bumpy road for a childish explorer. (4)
7. Pocket in y-fronts contains little (4)
8. Hill Fort haunted by general evil (9,4)
9. Heedless, Danish follow the call to stone circle (9)
10. Did we overhear an assassination order in linear cemetery? (9,4)
11. Sometimes he's not entirely without wit. (4)
12. A mouse's end? (3)
14. To fight the cold, I'm back on the wagon (4)
15. see 22 across
16. Bingo! Somewhere to stay (5)
18. Global archaeological meeting begins with a colloquium (1,1,1)
21. Harry is a native mammal (6)
23. Main drain (3)
26. Floor (6)
27. Dalriadic capital is twisted and dud (6)
29. Cheap accommodation for two workers we hear (1,3,1)
32. What one's spouse used to be (3)
34, 12. Clay urn, woad, mixed up at broch (3,8)

Answers will be available on the ADS website from the 1st July 2014.

Front Cover Image: Durrington South Circle reconstruction © Clive Ruggles