ADS-easy
Opening the Door to Simple Online Data Deposition
Looking back, 2012 was an extraordinary year for the ADS. Our host organisation, the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, was awarded a prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The nomination statement highlighted the impact of the work of the ADS and Internet Archaeology and in February I had the honour of going to Buckingham Palace with Brian Cantor, York’s Vice-Chancellor, to be presented with our award by Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh.

In July the ADS was awarded the British Archaeological Award for Best Archaeological Innovation 2012, for our Grey Literature Library. The library now stands at over 18,000 reports and the award was bestowed for our use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to provide a permanent citation for each report, and a geospatial search facility to make it easier to find relevant reports.

Finally, in December, the ADS was awarded the Digital Preservation Coalition’s Decennial Award for the most outstanding contribution to digital preservation over the last decade. The shortlist also included the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the International Internet Preservation Consortium, so ADS Deputy Director Catherine Hardman and I were delighted to receive our award from Dame Lynne Brindley at a ceremony at the Welcome Institute.

Looking forward, however, there is still a lot to achieve and new challenges ahead. The heritage sector as a whole remains in recession and with public sector cuts and pressure on local government archaeologists and contractors there is a daily risk of data loss. In the university sector there have also been casualties and closed departments, but on a more positive note there is a renewed emphasis on digital preservation, as well as encouragement to cite datasets and link to publications.

In April 2011, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) set out its research data management expectations for institutions in receipt of EPSRC grant funding, which included the development of an institutional ‘Roadmap’. Most universities are now grappling with the challenge of setting up an Institutional Repository. As archaeologists we need to emphasize the added value and impact that follows from data aggregation and re-use in a discipline-focused data archive, as well as the risk of consigning data to dark archives. The ADS is working with many universities to allow them to ‘outsorce’ the long term access and preservation for the archaeological research data produced by their academics, whilst facilitating universities to harvest an index record so that an institutional view can also be maintained. We are also working with publishers to encourage authors to deposit supporting data with ADS and to link to it from their articles. In pursuing these new initiatives we hope that 2013 will be as rewarding as 2012.
To get up to the minute news follow us on twitter @ADS_Update and Like us on Facebook

Find us at:

An ADS representative will be attending the following events:

- **Institute for Archaeologists Conference.** Birmingham, 17-19 April 2013.
- **Workshop on Computer-based archaeology, organised by the German Archaeological Institute.** Xi’an, 6-8 May 2013.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Arts and Humanities Research.** Southampton, 10-11 July 2013.
- **European Association of Archaeologists Conference.** Pilsen, 4-8 September 2013.

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**New Faces at ADS**

Since the last edition of ADS News there have been a number of staff changes at the ADS. After six years with us, first as User Services Manager and then Deputy Director (Access), Stuart Jeffrey has returned to his native Scotland to take up the post of Director of Research at the Digital Design Studio at the Glasgow School of Art and Design. Jen Mitcham, who joined ADS as a Curatorial Assistant in 2003 has also moved to the University of York’s Borthwick Institute for Archives, where she is Digital Archivist.

Meanwhile we are delighted to welcome back Jo Gilham (nee Clarke). Jo worked for ADS from 1998 to 2006, when she moved to the University of Sheffield as a Learning Technologist. Jo is now back as one of our Digital Archivists.

We are also happy to welcome back Holly Wright, who has been appointed as European Projects Manager. Holly has just completed a PhD on applications of the semantic web in archaeology and will be taking a lead role for ADS in both the ARIADNE and LoCloud projects.

Holly is joined by Katie Green, our new Communications and Access Manager. Katie undertook a PhD at the University of Newcastle where she applied Historic Landscape Characterisation to Mediterranean landscapes.

We’ve also made two fixed term appointments. Jenny Ryder is on a 12-month appointment preparing the Silbury Hill digital archive for deposition with the ADS and English Heritage Archive in a post funded by English Heritage (see p.13).

Neil Gevaux, formerly of the Archaeological Investigations Project (AIP), has been awarded a 12-month IFA/HLF workplace bursary held within ADS and Internet Archaeology. One of Neil’s tasks is to accession Internet Archaeology articles and datasets into the ADS Collections Management System (see p.15).

**Link Your Data:** Want to integrate and link your data within your research publication? IA has always welcomed data-rich articles but where a related richer dataset exists, we explicitly encourage authors to deposit this with the ADS as well, so that the links between article and archive make for a wider impact of their research.

**Metal-detecting and Archaeology:** IA is just about to publish a full issue on the theme of metal-detecting and archaeology, with articles from a variety of authors, including non-archaeological voices from the international coin collecting and UK metal-detecting communities.

**Open Access:** Issues 1-21 of Internet Archaeology (IA) are now Open Access and only a low-cost subscription is required for content in issues 22 onwards, except where Open Access has already been enabled. 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. See http://intarch.ac.uk/open_access.html
This streamlining tool will have significant benefits for depositors as well, with the headline grabbing development being a reduction in real costs. The ADS has always prided itself on a transparent charging policy, available online since the late 1990s, and we believe the costing calculator within the ADS-easy system will build on this by simplifying the charging process further. It will do this by charging a single, one-off payment to cover the deposit process, with additional costs levied on a per file basis. It will also develop a costing module that will mean depositors can experiment with the balance between budget and content. This will be particularly useful during the planning phase of a project, allowing potential depositors to build in costs for the archiving of digital outputs at an early stage.

ADS-easy will be rolled out for use by all potential depositors during the spring of 2013. For further news on ADS-easy check the ADS website, our facebook page, or follow us on twitter @ADS_Update.

Telling readers of ADS News about the importance of preserving digital data would be like ‘teaching a grandmother to suck eggs’, but within the frustrated economic climate in which archaeology finds itself it is often the last thing on people’s minds. While the ADS has not been as badly affected as others by the wider economic downturn, we have been looking at ways to enhance our business model. One key way in which we have been doing this is by trying to engage more fully with producers of digital archives from commercial archaeology. We want to make it easier and cheaper to deposit small to medium sized archaeological archives.

Not only is this for all the usual well-rehearsed reasons for archiving, but since ADS has received the deposit of collections culled mainly from contract archaeology (in particular the Grey Literature Library), we have seen increased interest in combining numerous small datasets to address large research questions, which are of interest to the archaeological profession as a whole (see The Roman Leverhulme Project p.8).

The SWORD-ARM project, funded by JISC, has allowed us to develop an online deposition system called ADS-easy. In doing so we have attempted to create procedures that will rationalise workflows. A significant cost in the archiving process is the amount of human intervention involved in the preparation of the digital data (by the depositor) and its preservation (by the archivist). ADS-easy attempts to address this issue by streamlining existing workflows so that manual involvement is kept to a minimum. ADS-easy allows data files to be uploaded directly from the archaeologists’ desktop into the ADS repository. This allows the automation of elements of the accessioning process, such as file movement, virus checking, checksum generation and the generation of technical, file level metadata; all of which can be carried out programatically. ADS-easy also allows project metadata to be added directly into an online form by the depositor and allows for the re-use of existing metadata from OASIS.
The Roman Leverhulme Project
Tim Evans

The Roman Leverhulme Project is a new collaborative three year project lead by the University of Reading and Cotswold Archaeology with funding from the Leverhulme Trust and English Heritage. The project uses archaeological grey literature alongside published sources to write a new account of the rural settlement of Roman Britain, as well as examining the research value of commercial archaeological work. The project follows on from a previous project which assessed the research potential of grey literature for the study of the Roman period, the results of which have been archived and presented online by the ADS (http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1000418).

The ADS’ involvement to date has been the design of a robust database for the team at Reading to undertake data collection (recording great detail on thematic subjects such as coins, pottery and animal bone) and the incorporation of the database with a desk-based GIS system for subsequent analysis. We have also provided assistance to Cotswold Archaeology in relation to our current grey literature holdings, and the scanning of reports not already in our database. By the end of the project (2015) it is anticipated that the ADS will have an almost complete grey literature record of Roman rural archaeology in England, this will be searchable via our Grey Literature Library interface as well as ArchSearch. In addition, we will also be archiving the dataset and providing a database and GIS interface on which to query the rich metadata created by the project team and linking to the digitised reports. This will be an invaluable research tool.

The project is currently nearing the end of its first phase of data collection and analysis (East of England), with preliminary results and dissemination strategies to be presented at a Regional Seminar to be held at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge, on the 16th of March. Updates on the project will be made via the ADS website, our Facebook page and our Twitter account @ADS_Update.

As Two Successful Projects Come to a Close; two new projects are set to start!

It’s an exciting time for European research projects at the ADS. We’ve just seen the successful completion of the Archaeology in Contemporary Europe (ACE) Network: Professional Practices and Public Outreach and Connecting ARchaeology and ARchitecture in Europeana (CARARE), and are now looking forward to the start of Local Content in a Europeana Cloud (LoCloud) and Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking (ARIADNE). Participation in these projects allows us to work closely with European partners, and ensures we stay at the forefront of research into the preservation and dissemination of digital archaeological data.

Archaeology in Comtemporary Europe Network
Holly Wright

The recently completed ACE project, funded through the EC Culture Programme, aimed to promote contemporary archaeology at a European-wide level, by emphasising its cultural, scientific, public and economic dimensions. The project particularly looked at the challenges and opportunities posed by the development process, while aiming to find new ways to increase knowledge about the past, and enhance sustainable archaeological heritage management for the benefit of all European citizens. The ACE network was coordinated by the Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (INRAP) in France and included 13 European partner institutions, ranging across archaeological services, university departments, research institutes and cultural operators from across Europe.

The ADS had several areas of involvement within the project, one of which was the further development of the online edition of the ‘Guides to Good Practice’ (http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk). Many of the ACE partners contributed case studies to the guides to provide important examples from across Europe.
The ADS was also one of four sites offering work-based placements for partners in the network through a bursary scheme. The ADS offered placements focusing on archaeological digital archiving and documentation. We were pleased to host individuals from a number of European partners, including France, Greece, the Netherlands, Sweden and Poland, each of whom was in residence for an average of two weeks. During the placements partners learned about the way data are preserved and disseminated at the ADS and our staff were able to learn more about projects and methods from other parts of Europe.

Another highlight of the ACE project was the ‘Working in Archaeology’ photographic exhibition, which opened at the UNESCO headquarters in 2011 and has toured around Europe, visiting us in York in 2012. The exhibition featured photographs by Pierre Buch which reflected the varied experiences of the archaeological profession. The exhibition is available online, as part of the ADS archive; the PDF archive of over 18,000 commercial archaeology reports that make up the ‘Abbey’ and ‘Rock Art’ archive, the PDF archive of over 18,000 commercial archaeology reports that make up the Grey Literature Library, and the 3D PDFs found in the Virtual Amarna archive. Taken together, the ADS contributed over 40,000 metadata records to Europeana through CARARE. Now that these datasets are discoverable through Europeana, they sit aside a vast array of other related material and become searchable within this wider interoperable context.

As an example, a keyword search in Europeana for Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire returns a range of records related to Fountains Abbey from Image Bank taken by ADS alumni Jenny Mitcham. Europeana not only shows a thumbnail of the image which links to a full version in a new window, but also the relevant metadata like time period, geographical coverage, subject, description and data provider. Much of the metadata is clickable allowing additional searches in many directions. Within Jenny’s Fountains Abbey record, the user can choose to click on the subject ‘Abbey’ and Europeana will return a range of records related to Abbeys, or by clicking on ‘Jenny Mitcham’, it will return all of Jenny’s Image Bank photos. For those who prefer to browse records visually, a range of related thumbnails line up at the bottom of the record.

As CARARE drew to a close, ADS was also involved in an assessment to determine the viability of becoming a legal entity and self-sustaining aggregator after the completion of the best-practice research phase of the project.
EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Local Context in a Europeana Cloud
Holly Wright

LoCloud is another best practice network which began in March 2013 and will run for three years. It is coordinated by the Norsk Kulturrad and made up of 33 partners across 25 European countries. LoCloud follows directly on from the aforementioned CARARE project and EuropeanaLocal, another recently completed best practice network project, funded under the e-Contentplus programme. It played an important role in ensuring the digital content provided by Europe’s local and regional cultural institutions were represented in Europeana. 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 contents accessible via Europeana. The ADS has a role in most of the project workpackages and will lead work on dissemination and use, organising events, and networking and promoting services.

Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking
Holly Wright

ARIADNE is a large project which began in February 2013 and runs for four years. It is funded under the e-Infrastructures programme and includes 24 European partners across 16 countries, and it is coordinated by PIN Scri-Polo Universitario ‘Città di Prato’ (PIN) in Italy. The ADS is the deputy coordinator and is involved in a variety of ways across the project. The purpose of ARIADNE is to integrate the existing archaeological data infrastructures in Europe, so that researchers can use the various distributed datasets with new and powerful technologies, as an integral component of archaeological research methodology.

ARIADNE will focus on core aspects, like the free and open use and re-use of archaeological data and the importance of good practice in data preservation and dissemination. It will carry forward elements of international interoperability and aggregation through common interfaces, as explored in the TAG, ARENA and CARARE projects, the use of thesauri and linked data in STAR and STELLAR, and the use of natural language processing in Archaeotools and STELLAR. The integral role of the ADS in ARIADNE is a direct result of the critical mass developed through the many partnerships and years of work carried out in these projects. They have allowed us to be at the centre of what promises to be an important and exciting time for digital archaeological data in Europe, and we hope the outcomes of this project will inform the potential use of archaeological data in years to come.

We also look forward to working with this group of enthusiastic, committed and expert individuals, both those with whom we have established relationships from other projects, and those we are pleased to be working with for the first time.

http://www.ariadne-infrastructure.eu

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.

HMJ Underhill Archive
This re-release now enables ADS users to access the excellent handpainted slides from the archive’s download page. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/100234

Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast
A database of Early Tana Tradition ceramics, from excavated sites across the region. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1016128

Kimbridge Farm Quarry, Dunbridge
Wessex Archaeology’s project archive from a 17 year watching brief of the gravel extraction from the Kimbridge Farm Quarry. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1018064

Royal Archaeological Institute’s Archaeological Journal
Open Access to the first 120 volumes of this journal, which spans all aspects of the archaeological, architectural and landscape history of the British Isles. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1018064

Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports
Open Access publication established in 2000 to publish freely accessible, fully peer reviewed information suited to an electronic format. http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1017938

Silbury Hill
Jenny Ryder

Silbury Hill is a Neolithic mound roughly 4,500 years old, whose significance and function remains unknown despite various investigations over the past few centuries. The Silbury Hill Conservation Project effectively began in 2000 when a hole appeared at the summit of the hill resulting from the collapse of an 18th century excavation shaft. A series of surveys, assessments and evaluations followed, culminating in the re-excavation of a tunnel dug by Richard Atkinson and the BBC in 1968.

The digital archive reflects the varied nature of the project and includes; images from the site, photogrammetry data, traditional drawings, context sheets, specialist reports and environmental, artefact and survey data. The dataset was created over the nine-year span of the works and beyond as data was retrieved, used and expanded upon without being curated. Consequently the archive was piecemeal, Aerial shot of Silbury Hill and the works compound. © English Heritage.
extremely large, inconsistent, with many working copies and file duplicates and no coherent folder structure or naming conventions.

My contract with the ADS began last September, when I was appointed to a year-long contract to prepare this digital archive for deposition. The excavation works proved difficult, both logistically and technically, and the archive preparation work has proved no different. It has taken around six months to work through over 30,000 files: undertaking the difficult and time-consuming task of assessing whether each file should be retained or discarded. I am in an advantageous position of assessing whether each file should be retained and technically, and the archive preparation work has proved no different. It has taken around six months to work through over 30,000 files: undertaking the difficult and time-consuming task of assessing whether each file should be retained or discarded. I am in an advantageous position of assessing whether each file should be retained or discarded. I am in an advantageous position in that I have been involved with the Silbury Hill Conservation Project sporadically since 2007 and have kept in contact with many members of the team, enabling me to turn to them for advice on the files they have created.

The dataset is now reaching its final form, with a new structure and file-naming procedure being implemented. The rest of the work will involve creating metadata for the c.15,000 files that remain, ensuring that they are in suitable formats for deposition. It is intended that the graphic archive will be deposited with English Heritage and the rest of the data: spreadsheets, databases, reports and geophysical data etc., will be deposited with the ADS. The digital archive will be available for researchers to use within the next year.

I will be creating a final report at the end of my work detailing the time and effort that has been involved to create the final archive. It is hoped that my work may be used as a case-study to promote the need for effective and continual digital data management throughout a project’s lifecycle, from conception to dissemination.

For further information on Silbury Hill and its history and research, visit the English Heritage websites.

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/silbury-hill/history-and-research

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/archaeology/silbury

Archiving Internet Archaeology

This year ADS and Internet Archaeology are hosting an IFA Workplace Learning Bursary for Archaeological Skills Development. The IFA Workplace Learning Bursary is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bursary provides an opportunity for a twelve-month training programme to learn skills in Digital Archaeology focussing on data archiving, data management and web publication. The successful applicant for the post, Neil Gevaux, was appointed in November 2012. Neil gives us a little insight into his background, new role and how he’s finding the placement to date.

“I came to York in November 2012, after successfully applying for the IFA Workplace Learning Bursary. I first studied archaeology at Bournemouth University, after which I worked on the Archaeological Investigations Project (also based in Bournemouth). This background has given me a good foundation for working with archaeological data, as well as providing me with an appreciation of the nature and scope of the archaeological work that has been carried out in England over the past few years.

My time during the IFA placement is split between Internet Archaeology, the world’s premier e-journal for archaeology, and the ADS. Working with the ADS is proving to be an extremely rewarding experience. I believe that digital archiving is the only way to efficiently deal with the vast amounts of archaeological data that is produced, both in this country and further afield, and it is fantastic to be in an environment that is recognised to be at the forefront of its discipline. I also think it is extremely valuable that the data archived by the ADS becomes available for everyone to access.

I am currently working on archiving the back catalogue of Internet Archaeology for the ADS. Internet Archaeology (http://intarch.ac.uk) is unique because of the inclusion of video, audio, searchable data sets, full-colour images, visualisations, animations and interactive mapping, and it has the potential to explore avenues of research that traditional print journals, by their very nature, cannot. Archiving this varied material is allowing me to experience first-hand the methods used by the ADS in their digital archiving process. I find it extremely interesting to see how changes in technology, and the innovative ways in which people have used technology, have been reflected over time in the journal’s back catalogue. I also love the international nature of the journal, especially as a lot of the work I have done in the past has been primarily restricted to English archaeology.

Another element of the placement that I find invaluable is the option to attend the seminars and lectures for the York University MSc in Archaeological Information Systems. This is really expanding my knowledge, as well as providing access to expertise and techniques in areas that I might otherwise find elusive. So far my placement has been an amazing experience and I’m looking forward to the rest of my year.”

Neil Gevaux
PRIZE QUIZ

Using the ADS website, solve the following questions and enter the answers into the grid below. Send the word that is spelled out in the shaded boxes to help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk before the 1st of June to enter the prize draw to win a £20 book token.

1. What is the name of the ADS learning resource that provides post-graduate teaching materials for research and data management in archaeology?

2. If you were to browse the our website for electronic copies of journals and books, what is the first facet that you can select to narrow your search?

3. What is the name of ADS’ current research activity aiming to refine and enhance our ingest and charging process by creating a client to streamline and automate deposit.

4. Currently, the ADS archive provides access to over 18,000 unpublished reports. By what name are these reports colloquially known?

5. Within ArchSearch there are four ways, other than the ‘basic’ keyword search, to investigate our archives. What tool allows you to search by geographical area?

6. By registering (for free!) as a myADS user, research is made much easier by providing additional tools and tailoring the service to suit the way you work. As a registered member, what is the name of the service allowing users to both add resources to a favorites list and save the results of complex searches?

7. Overcoming intense competition from the Library of Congress and the National Archives, the ADS was awarded a Decennial Award, for an outstanding contribution to digital preservation, by which organisation (acronym)?

8. Which ADS staff member is responsible for developing European projects?

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Quiz by Alex Peterson

Solutions will be available online from the 1st of June at: http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/about/ADSOmeline25Solution