SEADDS WG4: Does the data define the user community?

Tim Evans 31-03-2020

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk
In April 1996 a consortium comprising eight Departments of Archaeology from UK Universities joined forces with the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) to put a proposal to the Arts and Humanities Data Service Executive to establish an...

Archaeology Data Service
Digital Data and Archaeology

- Archaeology is **destructive**
- Comprehensive records of field work are imperative
- Majority of data recorded in grey literature
- Traditionally, access to ‘data’ has been problematic
"This CD-ROM can hold more information than all the paper that's here below me" - Bill Gates, 1994
Background
The Archaeology Data Service is the only accredited digital repository in the UK for heritage experience and teaching and learning.

Total Collections

2977

The ADS disseminates a broad range of digital heritage data that are free to access and re-use. This includes data-rich archives, unpublished reports, journals and metadata records.

Deposit

Depositing heritage data with the ADS ensures that your data will be professionally curated in the long term and easily accessible for future re-use.

Search
Designated Community

- Who is our (user) Community?
- OAIS
- Contentious e.g. https://doi.org/10.1002/prab.2016.14505301038
- Broad (public) versus Narrow (Specialist)
- User Community (everyone!)
Designated Community

- Core Trust Seal (R0. Please provide context for your repository.)
- “The ADS provides preservation services to UK-based practitioners and researchers... within the UK and International archaeological and heritage communities.”
- See ADS Collections Policy https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/collectionsPolicy.xhtml
“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

(1 Corinthians 9:22)
Funding Bodies

- Historic England
- NERC (Science of the Environment)
- Arts & Humanities Research Council

Development control

- York City Council
- Durham County Council

Everyone else!

- Oxfordshire County Council
Quality

https://doi.org/10.5284/1011888
• Idea of a digital archive (and what we think this is) does not fit all our Community?
  
  • Some Academics: generating research archives, citation, authority
  
  • Others...
Familiar favourites

https://doi.org/10.5284/1028192  https://doi.org/10.5284/1030449
Idea of a digital archive (and what *we* think this is) has not permeated, our very diverse Community

- Community groups:
  - not for us?
  - skills/confidence?

- Development Control:
  - part of a process –sometimes a box to be ticked
  - takes too much time
  - no guidance (historically) on what a digital archive should be
  - “you want what???”
  - focussed (understandably on meeting the planning condition)

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk
Crossrail: Archaeological Investigations Conducted in Advance of Construction of the Elizabeth Line
Crossrail Ltd, 2019

Introduction

Site List

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Resource identifiers
ADS Collection: 2902
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5284/1055125
How to cite using this DOI

Site List

- 18-19 Hanover Square, Bond Street Station (Eastern Ticket Hall) (Crossrail XSG10)
- Bloomsfield Street Phase 2 Mitigation, 11-12 Bloomsfield Street (Crossrail XTB12)
- Bloomsfield Worksite, Liverpool Street, 11-12 Bloomsfield Street, EC2 (Crossrail XSL10)
- Bond Street Station (Crossrail XSC10)
- City Wall at Old Broad Street (Crossrail XSZ11)
- Connaught Tunnel (Crossrail XSY11)
- Custom House Station, Victoria Dock Road (Crossrail XTH13)
- Eleanor Street Shaft (Crossrail X1TJ13)
- Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall, Phase 2 Mitigation, Hayne Street (Crossrail XTE12)
- Farringdon Station, Minor Works and Utility Diversions, Hayne Street (Crossrail XSF10)
- Finsbury Circus, Liverpool Street (Crossrail XRZ10)
- Gazetteer of Heritage Assets assessed for Built Heritage and Railway Heritage Publications (Crossrail Publication Series Nos 3 and 4)

https://doi.org/10.5284/1055125
Final thoughts

- It **is** getting better
- More commercial sites are now giving us plans (vector).
- Maybe we need another indicator (rather than just numbers – reuse quality)?
- Maybe we need to get better at demonstrating impact (all our community)
- Different approaches for different parts of our community?
Thanks!

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