

Agnieszka Oniszcuk

EAC Working Group for Archaeological Archives annual progress report.

March 2021– February 2022

Current composition of the group

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|---|------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Agnieszka Oniszcuk | PL | National Institute of Cultural Heritage; Chair |
| 2 | David Novák | CZ | Institute of Archaeology CAS; Co-chair |
| 3 | António Batarda Fernandes | PT | Divisão de Inventariação, Estudo e Salvaguarda do Património Arqueológico (DIESPA), Departamento de Bens Culturais Direção-Geral do Património Cultural |
| 4 | Peter Bisták | SK | Pamiatkový Úrad Slovenskej Republiky |
| 5 | Christoph Blesl | AT | Bundesdenkmalamt Abteilung für Archäologie |
| 6 | Kaatje De Lange | BE | Flanders Heritage Agency |
| 7 | Barbara Gumbert | NL | Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken |
| 8 | Rhonda Robinson | UK | Historic Monuments with the Historic Environment Division (HED), Department for Communities Northern Ireland |
| 9 | Claire Tsang | UK | Historic England |

Corresponding members:

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|---|---------------------|-----|--|
| 1 | Till Scholz | CH | Archäologische Bodenforschung Basel-Stadt, Switzerland |
| 2 | Marcus Smith | SE | Riksantikvarieämbetet, Sweden |
| 3 | Agnes Stefansdottir | ISL | Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland/Minjastofnun Íslands |

Activities of the Working Group

1. One online **meeting** in person was organised (June 2021).
2. Within the theme of **digital archaeological archiving**, the themed issue of *Internet Archaeology*, co-edited by David Novák, was published: Richards, J.D., Jakobsson, U., Novák, D., Štular, B. and Wright, H. (eds.) 2021. Digital Archiving in Archaeology: The State of the Art. Introduction, *Internet Archaeology* 58. <https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue58/index.html>

The WG is now planning to prepare a short document for policy and law makers, advocating for the heritage value of digital archaeological archives, aiming at raising the awareness of what the digital preservation in archaeology is, including recommendations, and tackling other relevant issues such as copyright (or rather the lack the awareness thereof among archaeologists and heritage service officers).

First steps will be:

- to list recurring problems and identify their sources, based on the available summaries (Richards, J.D. et al. 2021, *Internet Archaeology* 58),
- to think what archaeological reporting with regard to digital assets should mean,
- to consider how to break down the barriers hampering digital archiving in archaeology.

The WG is planning to have the document ready in 2023. The WG will continue to cooperate with the SEADDA COST Action, so the draft document will be consulted with the EAC and SEADDA members.

The scope of the proposed document is in line with the EAC being an organisation of state heritage organisations; it also reflects other WG activities (e.g. Articulating significance of archaeological sites). Plus, it should be welcome by the SEADDA team, because their focus is on more technical issues and the EACWGAA will elaborate on what makes an archive significant.

3. *Guidance on selection in Archaeological Archiving. EAC Guidelines 3* was translated into Polish with financial support from the Board.
4. The *EAA conference* session organised by the EAC (10.09.2021) - *Decision-Making in Archaeological Heritage Management: Moving forward* was attended by David Novák who presented a paper entitled “*Selecting archaeological archives – an old topic still to be dealt with*” (co-authored by Agnieszka Oniszczyk).