

Agnieszka Oniszczyk, David Novák

EAC Working Group for Archaeological Archives annual progress report.

March 2022– February 2023

Current composition of the group

1	Agnieszka Oniszczyk	PL	National Institute of Cultural Heritage; Co-chair
2	David Novák	CZ	Institute of Archaeology CAS; Co-chair
3	Peter Bisták	SK	Pamiatkový Úrad Slovenskej Republiky
4	Christoph Blesl	AT	Bundesdenkmalamt Abteilung für Archäologie
5	Kaatje De Lange	BE	Flanders Heritage Agency
6	Barbara Gumbert	NL	Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken
7	Rhonda Robinson	UK	Historic Monuments with the Historic Environment Division (HED), Department for Communities Northern Ireland
8	Claire Tsang	UK	Historic England
9	Juliane Watson (new member)	DE	IANUS Forschungsdatenzentrum Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

Corresponding members:

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. Two **meetings** were organised: March 2022 (Vienna), October 2022 (online).
2. Within the theme of **digital archaeological archiving**, the WG has been pursuing the goal of creating the recommendations for decision makers. It has included so far:
 - a. Analysis of the contributions in 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 papers demonstrated that organisational issues are the primary challenge in archiving, rather than technical ones. The digital transition is part of the solution, but the challenges go beyond technology and involve the way in which we handle and perceive archaeological records. It also turned out that without legal obligations, digital archaeological archiving falls short of common expectations and best practices. Improper handling of archaeological fieldwork data is a problem, regardless of whether it is in analogue or digital format.

b. Questionnaire

In order to complement the papers the questionnaire was prepared with regard to the practical approach and current situation in archiving of fieldwork data, fieldwork reports and secondary data. It was distributed among 33 national experts (also from the SEADDA community) and the answers from 27 countries were received.

c. Paper

Extensive summary of the results is to be published in *Internet Archaeology* as: Novák, D. – Oniszczyk, A. – Gumbert, B. 2023: *Digital archaeological archiving policies and practice in Europe: the EAC call for action*. It will include: the survey results, call for action, good practice and main recommendations. It has already been sent to the Board and the WG members for comment.

d. Recommendations

During the next meeting in Bonn the WG is to work on the next steps, using the main points of the paper as basis for the recommendations.

3. *Guidance on selection in Archaeological Archiving. EAC Guidelines 3* was translated into Czech. Both PL and CZ translations are now on the EAC website. The latter is to be printed. All these activities were funded or co-funded by the Board.
4. Archaeological Archives Working Group wishes to **continue** their work.