



Archaeological Archives Working Group

Yearly Report March 2015 – March 2016

The activity of the EAC working party Archaeological Archives during 2015 was solely defined by the aftermath of the European project ARCHES (Archaeological Resources in Cultural Heritage – a European Standard) and of its resulting product, the EAC Guidelines vol.1: *A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe*.

1. Renewing and consolidating membership of the EAC Working Party

The day before the EAC Annual Meeting in Lisbon in 2015 a pre-conference workshop was organised during which various EAC members gave an overview of the archiving situation in their country/institution. During the meeting following this workshop, several EAC members marked their interest for continuing the work of the Archaeological Archives Working Group or becoming a new member (Portugal, Poland, Austria). A second meeting was therefore held in Vienna in November so as to decide on the way forward of the Working Group and the necessary actions to be undertaken.

The actual Archaeological Archives Working Party is constituted as follows:

Ann DEGRAEVE, Belgium, chair – adegraeve@sprb.brussels

David BIBBY, Germany, vice-chair - david.bibby@rps.bwl.de

Christoph BLESL, Bundesdenkmalamt Austria - christoph.blesl@bda.at

Duncan BROWN, Historic England, UK - Duncan.Brown2@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Jan HASIL, Archaeological Institute of the ASCR, Prague, Czech Republic - hasil@arup.cas.cz

Bernhard HEBERT, Bundesdenkmalamt Austria - bernhard.hebert@bda.at

Filipa NETO, Directorate General for Cultural Heritage Portugal - fneto@dgpc.pt

David NÓVAK, Archaeological Institute of the ASCR, Prague, Czech Republic - novak@arup.cas.cz

Agnieszka ONISZCZUK, National Heritage Board of Poland - aoniszczuk@nid.pl

Francesca PAJNO, Institute for Advanced Studies, Lucca, Italy - francesca.pajno@imtlucca.it (temporarily)

Till SCHOLTZ, Archäologische Bodenforschung des Kantons Basel-Stadt - till.scholz@bs.ch

Agnes STEFÁNSDÓTTIR, Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland - agnes@minjastofnun.is

Planning 2016-2017:

- Active search for new members from the Mediterranean countries (Greece, Italy, Spain) and Eastern Europe.
- Rebranding of the former ARCHES team back towards the EAC Archaeological Archives Working Party to avoid any confusion with the Getty Institute Arches project.

2. Follow-up of the ARCHES guidelines and contact with countries interested in collaboration

Seeing the huge success in downloading the digital versions of the EAC Guidelines n°1 from the ARCHES website and the clear demand of new translations of this edition, contacts were taken with the new members as to prepare these new language versions. The new translations to be considered are Portuguese, Polish, Turkish and Parsee (via the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut). At the same time, a version 2 of the existing languages should be considered as many translations have been realised within the precipitation of the European project.

Printed versions have been demanded by several libraries. A printed version of the Portuguese version is also necessary to reach the Brazilian colleagues. We therefore want to look into a reconsideration of the printing of the EAC Guidelines n°1.

Planning 2016-2017:

- Follow-up on new translations, to be published on the website (cfr. Point 3)
- Follow-up on printed versions
- Creation of a multilingual glossary, accessible on website
- Follow-up of the bibliography on archaeological archiving, esp. concerning the new Working Group member countries.

3. Social Media

The ARCHES LinkedIn group is flourishing with 926 members on this day, predominantly archaeologists, museum specialists and restorers.

Even with the large success regarding the downloading the EAC Guidelines n°1, it is felt necessary to talk continuously about the existence of this product. Still many institutions and/or individual archaeologists are not aware of its existence. Therefore, new social media types should be created, making it possible to refer to the existing publication.

The current website of the ARCHES EU-project should be transformed into a proper EAC Archaeological Archives website containing continuous information on ongoing archival projects, bibliographical references and multilingual glossaries (cfr. Point 1).

Planning 2016-2017:

- LinkedIn: Check on the countries and stakeholders represented;
- Active contact with (selection of) LinkedIn members for feedback on EAC Guidelines 1 (selection based on country and stakeholder profile).
- Creation of both a Research Gate and an Academia page with essential information on the EAC Guidelines 1, referring back to the website.
- Creation of a new website linked to the actual ARCHES website

4. Working out of new topic of the Archaeological Archives Working Party: XXXXX

During the elaboration of the actual ARCHES Guidelines, an intensive debate had grown concerning the preservation and durability of the vast amount of digital data that are created during an archaeological project. Therefore, parallel to the follow up of the ARCHES Guidelines, this new topic was thought of as being the possible subject of new Guidelines on Archaeological Digital Data.

However, several institutions are actually working on the elaboration of guidelines specific to their situation. The Archaeological Archives Working Group thought it therefore too early to start with the same exercise as for the paper and objects archives.

During the Vienna meeting a huge debate was led during which the various members presented the general situation in their country/institution. The common denominator in the debate was the lack of guidelines in the constitution of the archaeological documentation or the scattered situation of existing forms and basic standards for the archaeological research. It was therefore felt that the new topic to be treated by the Archaeological Archives Working Group should be an Excavation and Documentation Standard and Guide, allowing to produce correct research data (which can, in turn, be archived in a correct way using the EAC Guidelines 1).

Planning 2016-2017:

- Upon acceptance of the EAC Board, working out of an action plan concerning the new topic

Dr. Ann Degraeve

Head Department Archaeological Heritage
Brussels Regional Public Service
Brussels Urban Development – Heritage
Direction
Rue du Progrès 80, bte 1,
B-1035 Bruxelles
Belgium

EAC Working Party Archaeological
Archives
Chair

David Bibby

Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart
Referat 84
Landesamt für Denkmalpflege
- digitale Archäologie -
Berliner Str. 12
D - 73 728 Esslingen am Neckar
Germany

EAC Working Party Archaeologi-
cal Archives
Vice-Chair