

## **Notes on the Fifth Meeting of the ARENA Project Partners.**

**Held at the Department of Cultural Affairs, Friedrich – Schmidt - Platz 5, Vienna, Austria.**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2003**

### **Action Points for the ARENA Partners**

- To continue work on presentation of archives.
- To use the spreadsheet circulated by Jon Kenny to map SMR databases onto Dublin Core.
- To provide Jon Kenny with a date for the completion of mapping onto 18 top-level terms.
- To complete work on interoperability through installation of OAI or Z39.50 creating useable targets by Feb 2004.

### **Action Points for Jon Kenny**

- Work with Claus Dam to create a demonstrator using Dublin Core to index excavation archives.
- Circulate spreadsheet for mapping of SMR databases onto Dublin Core.
- To email partners individually to ascertain deadlines for mapping onto the 18 top-level terms.
- To contact partners with an under spend to discuss current payment and expenditure for the second year.
- To ensure that partners receive details of open source software appropriate for using OAI or Z39.50 to achieve interoperability target above.
- To ensure that experience learned at ADS during geospatial demonstrator project is applied to ARENA project.

### **Persons Present:**

Julian Richards (ADS, University of York, UK), Jon Kenny (ARENA Project Officer, ADS, University of York, UK), William Kilbride (ADS, University of York, UK), Andrzej Prinke (Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poland), Oscar Aldred (FSI, Institute of Archaeology, Iceland), Henrik Jarl Hansen (National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark), Claus Dam (National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark), Irina Oberländer-Tarnoveanu (cIMeC, Institute for Cultural Memory, Romania), Corina Bors (cIMeC, Institute for Cultural Memory, Romania), Florela Vasilescu (cIMeC, Institute for Cultural Memory, Romania), Øyvind Eide (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway), Gitte Hoy-Petersen (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway), Christian –Emil Ore (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway).

### **Notes on the Meeting:**

#### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**03/017** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true account.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

##### **03/015 Approach from ROB in the Netherlands for membership of the ARENA partnership.**

Julian Richards and Jon Kenny reported that regrettably ROB was not able to take up our invitation to join the ARENA partnership. They will remain as corresponding partners, being kept up to date on developments at ARENA.

### **03/016 Discussions with possible new Culture 2000 bid from Guus Lange at ROB.**

Julian Richards and Jon Kenny reported that they had been in discussion with Guus Lange who is seeking partners for a new Culture 2000 programme dealing with artefact reference collections. A workshop was being held by Guus on the afternoon following the ARENA workshop.

### **03/006 Terms and Conditions Pages.**

Julian Richards and Jon Kenny reported that during the development work on the ARENA online Archives it had become apparent that a terms and conditions page would have to be positioned just before entry to any archive. This being the case it is practical for each partner to hold terms and conditions on the local server. This has the advantage of allowing for specific local terms or conditions to be applied.

## **3. ARENA Online Archives: Progress and Problems.**

### **03/018 Updates From the Partners.**

Each partner gave an update on the archives that are available and the progress towards the finished article. The archives represent a variety of archive types, this diversity can be seen as a strength in research terms as it allows the ARENA project to demonstrate the potential of such archives.

### **03/019 The Archives Interface.**

All but two of the archives are now available through the ARENA web site. This will continue to be developed as the archives develop to be finished for EAA St Petersburg in September 2003.

## **4. Layered Metadata Indexing.**

### **02/020 Application of Layered Metadata Indexing.**

The extensible nature of Dublin Core standards allow for the extension of metadata for excavation archives to provide searchable indexing. This issue has been discussed at the Copenhagen meeting but now needs demonstrating on suitable archives. As the ADS and Danish partners have provided excavation archives it was decided that Jon Kenny and Claus Dam should co-operate to create a working demonstrator using two of their smaller archives. The demonstrator to be ready for EAA St Petersburg in September 2003.

## **5. ARENA SMR Level Records: Progress and Problems.**

### **02/021 Mapping SMR Databases onto Dublin Core.**

All partners will need to map their database fields onto Dublin Core. Julian Richards summarised each of the Dublin Core elements and the paper written by Tony Austin demonstrating the way in which ADS maps onto Dublin Core. It was decided that Jon Kenny will circulate a spreadsheet containing the names of ADS database tables and fields and the DC element to which they are mapped. The partners can then do the same using the ADS example for guidance.

### **02/022 Mapping Site Type and Monument Thesauri onto 18 Top-Level Terms.**

To demonstrate the possibility of interoperable searches by theme as well as period the partners all need to map their thesauri into the 18 top-level terms. The very general nature of these terms was discussed, they are very much a top-level and some may be very underused whilst others contain a very large number of site types and monuments. The congregation of terms around a particular set of the top-level terms will demonstrate the areas where more thesauri development needs to take place. This kind of focussed thesauri development has been shown to work by the HEIRIN project (working on heritage management terms) and the Bronze Age Thesaurus.

This is likely to be a considerable task for some of the partners. Jon Kenny will contact each partner individually to agree a completion date of this task.

## **6. ARENA SMR Level Records: Search Interface.**

### **02/023 The Map Search Interface.**

Jon Kenny demonstrated progress at ADS on the map interface going from the CIA map giving period density of records available to the Bartholomew's map. By clicking on the Bartholomew's map a list of sites from the selected period are returned. There have been particular problems in finding a map for Iceland. ADS will continue to pursue this in co-operation with Oscar in Iceland.

## **7. Financial Matters.**

### **02/024 Payments from the European Commission.**

The ARENA payment from the European Commission has been received. The amount paid reflects exactly the over or under spending in the first year. Each partner will receive 50% of the second year budgeted figure in advance and the balance of the money for the first year adjusted according to any over or under spend. Those who stand to receive less than budgeted, due to an under spend, will be contacted individually by Jon Kenny.

## **8. Z39.50 and OAI Interoperability.**

### **02/025 Progress and Problems.**

This is likely to become another 'progress and problems' agenda item as we need to achieve technical interoperability for the Feb 2004 meeting. Each partner updated the meeting on their current situation.

Norway (Z39.50): Were optimistic that they have what they need. They will start work in the spring 2003 and should know more in the summer. They will create a shadow database to sit on top of their own SMR, the problem will then be communicating between the target and Oracle. This should be done by the end of the spring. ADS will direct partners to the location of open source software available. The end result should duplicate ADS set-up. ADS will need to get location of software to Norway for July.

Denmark (Z39.50?): The servers are maintained by a private company who do not have a lot of experience. Consequently partners are looking at alternative companies. They will have to look at the ADS specifications with the new developers but will be working to the February deadline.

Iceland (OAI): Currently in a decision making stage regarding contractors taking into account their relative skills. Will know more in about a months time. This may mean that they will have to bring in external contractors to install OAI.

Romania (OAI): Have the staff to deal with this internally, they just need to be advised where the software is available. Tony has the email address of the engineer in Bucharest.

Poland (OAI): Also have staff available internally. Just need pointing to the software.

It was agreed that ADS would forward details of the Software by July indicating what is needed. This will be enhanced by the work that ADS will be carrying out to create a geospatial demonstrator project in the UK.

## **9. CAA Vienna Workshop.**

**03/026** Partners who are giving papers as part of the workshop were all ready. Jon Kenny reminded partners that the workshop would be summarised by William Kilbride in a later session, thus ensuring publication and a wider audience.

## **10. EAA St Petersburg Workshop.**

**03/027** The ARENA roundtable at EAA will be entitled: "Deploying Digital Data: Making the Most of Digital Archives for Archaeology". This roundtable will be as hands on as possible, only having a small number of presenters who will discuss particular issues (User Evaluation, Reaching Different Audiences, Case Studies using Data, What do we mean by Data? Research Culture and Managing Expectation). A room with Internet access has been arranged and it is hoped that students can be encouraged to attend as well as EAA candidates. William Kilbride has agreed to chair the session.

## **11. The Next Meeting.**

**03/028** The next meeting will be in St Petersburg on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

## **12. Any Other Business.**

**03/029** Presentations will be given including ARENA by both Julian Richards and Andrzej Prinke at the World Archaeological Congress in Washington DC in June.