

## Notes on the Sixth Meeting of the ARENA Project Partners.

Held at the museum of the St Petersburg State University.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2003

### Action Points for the ARENA Partners

- The time table for the searchable index level (SMR type) data, the ARENA interoperable portal is as follows:
  - Sept 2003 – Feb 2004: Partners complete work required to allow ADS to carry out searches either through z39.50 direct or by harvesting data through OAI.
  - Feb: Meeting in Iceland to assess success or problems in the above.
  - April: CAA Prato. Launch the ARENA portal.
- If they have not done so already partners need to send to the ADS mappings of the following:
  - Mapping index type records database to Dublin Core.
  - Mapping monument types in partners database to 18 top-level terms.
  - Mapping local period terms to the 12 ARENA period terms.
- To complete and return the financial reporting pro-forma before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2003.
- To complete the technical development and installations required allowing z39.50 operation or OAI harvesting. (This has to be completed in line with the mapping of databases to Dublin Core)
- To supply JK and TA at ADS a brief work plan showing how the above tasks will be completed.

### Action Points for Jon Kenny:

- Add resource downloads connection to the ARENA archives page.
- To review the English in the Kowalwko archive.
- To facilitate a working meeting on Dublin Core Indexing of excavation archives between himself, Tony Austin and Claus Dam in York.
- To ensure that the results of the Dublin Core Indexing work are disseminated to the ARENA partners and to the broader CAA network / community. Probably through a CAA paper.
- To contact partners still working on mapping monument types in databases to 18 top-level terms.
- To contact Henrick and Claus about supplying a map of Iceland.
- To circulate the financial reporting pro-forma as soon as possible.
- To compile the ARENA end of year operations report including the end of year accounts.
- To arrange with Tony the circulation of the URL for software required for OAI.
- To arrange with Tony for the circulation of the formal XML schema for OAI harvesting.
- To instigate an ARENA email list discussion to decide on a session topic for CAA 2004.
- To circulate partners to ascertain numbers coming to the Iceland meeting.
- To circulate URLs for:
  - CIE demonstrator.
  - ARENA search interface map.

### Persons Present:

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), Øyvind Eide (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway), Gitte Hoy-Petersen (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway).

### Notes on the Meeting:

#### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**03/030** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true account.

## **2. Matters Arising**

**03/031** No matters arising were discussed.

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

### **03/032 Updates From the Partners.**

Each partner gave an update on the archives that are available and developments with some archives where resources are still being improved. All of the archives that have been promised as part of the ARENA project have now been made available. There have been some important developments for some archives:

### **03/033 Danebury Archive.**

The Danebury archive has been well received and has been included in reading lists on the Iron Age at the Dept of Archaeology at York. The resource has the advantage of bringing together interconnecting resources such as the Council for British Archaeology research reports. The Hampshire Museum have also offered to deposit the finds location database linking the digital archive to the physical archive.

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.

### **03/034 Danish Archives.**

There a near complete although they may receive more data sets at a later date. There are a number of GIS files amongst the downloadable resources. Claus has made a clear resources area where users are guided to the freeware viewers that can be downloaded. This has been a successful feature, JK will undertake the addition a link to the ADS downloads page from the ARENA Archives page.

### **03/035 Repertory of Romanian Archaeology.**

This major resource of digitised archives is now available in Romanian and will soon be available in English too. The repertory consists of two resources: 1) a card index (of more than 32,000) detailing archaeological activity and observations in Romania from as far back as the 18<sup>th</sup> century developed by the Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest between 1949 and 1956. 2) a set of old inventories, photographs, drawings and manuscripts. These will undoubtedly prove to be an exceptional resource.

### **03/036 Icelandic Archives.**

There is currently discussion of improving the Hofstadir archive by: adding more structure to accommodate detail (down to context level), integrating Daniel Bruun's old archives including old photographs and considering a map interface.

### **03/037 Norwegian Archives.**

The Egge and Hegge archives are still being integrated into a map interface that will link to the SMR record for the location and to the scanned documents. These will include finds documentation. The interface will begin with a map showing the location of archaeological interventions and will then allow links to the scanned documents and older records. Older maps will also be available for comparison. The important issue has become the mapping of SMR data for areas where there is less common knowledge of sites. This is particularly true for developers wanting a profile of the historic landscape.

### **03/038 Polish Archives.**

There will be three resources available from the Poznan Archaeological Museum. 1) The Kowalewko archive is now ready for JK to give in a final review to check the English. This will be an important resource as there are only 200 published copies of the site report. 2) The Biskupin photograph archive is now ready to go live. This will hold the Poznan part of a collection of nearly 2,000 images split between Poznan, Warsaw and the Biskupin Museum. The resource will allow people to view images either through thumbnails (leading to downloadable images) or through a map interface showing the site. 3) A review of the use of standard recording software in the rescue archaeology projects associated with Poland's extensive motorway building programme.

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

##### **03/039 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 and Vienna meetings where it was decided that a demonstration should be developed using suitable excavation archives.

Jon Kenny, Claus Dam and Tony Austin agreed to meet in York to work on the development of a working model. This research and development part of the project will feed into a broader area of interest in the searchability and cross searchability of archives, an issue for which a number of solutions are offered. Dublin Core may be one solution.

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

This section of the meeting has many overlaps with sections 6 and 9, but is kept separate because it results in specific tasks required for interoperable searching of Index level (SMR type) records.

##### **03/040 Mapping SMR Databases onto Dublin Core.**

To achieve interoperability using either z39.50 or OAI technologies all partners will need to map their database fields onto Dublin Core. The partners have been working on this over the summer period and this was an opportunity to discuss progress and problems.

Discussion of the difficulties encountered seemed to centre on the interpretation of Dublin Core terms. It was decided that the time should be taken to discuss each term and its interpretation at the end of the meeting. The key issue for the meeting was understanding the flexibility of Dublin Core. It is possible to accommodate both sites and events into the same mapping it is also possible to accommodate different levels of record. The mapping process can be described as 'shoe horning' varied levels of data into a format that can be searched interoperably.

This action is essential for ARENA to achieve interoperability, but it is also important that we are open about the problems and difficulties encountered when we report on our actions in conference papers and publications. The lesson that we are learning here is that interoperability is not so much about the technologies (although they are required) but the many processes of mapping that we have to do. Interoperability is clearly a trade off between independent data sets and the need for a flat comparable record achieved by mapping to Dublin Core.

##### **03/041 Mapping Site Type and Monument Thesauri onto 18 Top-Level Terms.**

The mapping of monument types onto the 18 ARENA top-level terms continues. This will need to be completed before February 2004 if the theme function is to be built into the search facility. JK reported that this had been a huge task for the ADS but that they had been able to automate a good deal of the work.

Jon Kenny will consult with partners who are still working on this task individually to ascertain when this task is likely to be complete. Jon will also check with partners regarding mapping of local periods to the 12 ARENA period terms.

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

##### **03/042 The Map Search Interface.**

The last sets of data for index (SMR type) records containing coordinates (long / lat decimal) and period are expected to be complete soon. This will allow the development of the search interface.

The problem with obtaining a raster map of Iceland continues. Bartholemew does not supply a raster map and there are no free raster maps available in Iceland. Henrick and Claus suggested that the Danish agency might hold copyright on older maps that they can scan. If Henrick and Claus can supply and scan the map along with suitable georeferencing the ADS can do the cutting up to make tiles.

#### **7. Financial Matters.**

### **03/043 Financial Reporting.**

The end of the ARENA financial year is approaching (end of November). The reporting system will be the same as 2002, Jon Kenny will circulate a spread sheet pro-forma to be complete and returned by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2003. Jon will deal with any queries individually.

### **8. Presentation of the CIE Demonstrator.**

#### **03/044**

William Kilbride presented a demonstrator developed by the ADS for UK government agencies. Developed to demonstrate the potential for geospatial data to be directed at different users this project allowed the ADS to trial the interoperability work required for ARENA. From an ARENA point of view the CIE demonstrator showed that z39.50 and OAI technologies can be used in harness to achieve interoperability, to a degree of complexity not previously imagined. The demonstrator also showed how crucial mapping to Dublin Core is to the working of the technologies and the subsequent searching. Lastly the demonstrator revealed that a step-by-step search interface can allow the development of different interfaces for different users whilst still keeping the same archive structures behind the interface. Jon Kenny agreed to circulate the demonstrator URL whilst it is still available.

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

#### **03/045 Progress and Problems.**

This is now another 'progress and problems' agenda item, as we need to achieve technical interoperability for the Feb 2004 meeting. This is part of the project where the partners will need to make themselves interoperable by installing z39.50 or OAI software. Those who will be using z39.50 will now have a copy of the ZIFX documentation for enabling interoperability. Tony will need to configure the ADS end of the portal so that z39.50 users can test their set up. Tony will circulate the URL for the software (all freeware) required to set up as an OAI harvesting target. Tony will also circulate the formal XML schema required for OAI harvesting.

### **10. EAA St Petersburg Roundtable.**

**03/046** Oscar Aldred, Claus Dam, Jon Kenny and William Kilbride will be running the St Petersburg Roundtable entitled "Deploying digital data: Making the most of digital archives for archaeology". It was hoped that we will have a better audience than we had in Vienna because the roundtable is in the main programme of the conference.

### **11. CAA 2004 Prato Workshop.**

**03/047** Following the poor turnouts at Thessaloniki and Vienna the meeting decided to hold a session for CAA 2004. It was agreed that Jon will instigate a discussion on the ARENA email list to decide on a topic.

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

**03/048** The next meeting will be hosted by the Institute for Archaeology in Reykjavik, Iceland. The meeting will include a seminar on the ARENA project for local archaeologists and will also allow for a possible second meeting to discuss technical issues regarding ARENA interoperability. The meeting will take place in the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2004. Jon Kenny will circulate partners to ascertain who will be attending so that Oscar can make arrangements.

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

**03/049** The end of the meeting was used to allow full discussion of the meaning of each category of the Dublin Core. Examples were used to illustrate the way in which Dublin Core can be interpreted to allow data sets to map to the various categories.