ARIADNE

Roundtable
Long-term preservation and access:
Where is an archive for my data?

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OREA ÖAW / Salzburg Research

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Roundtable questions

- How have repositories for archaeological data been developed, e.g. political, organizational and other drivers (exemplary cases from different European countries)?
- How is archaeological data different to data in the other humanities and hence has ‘special’ requirements?
- What options are there for long-term archiving of archaeological data if there is no appropriate national archive?

Short presentations

- Edeltraud ASPÖCK | Guntram GESER, Austria:

  Introduction: Long-term preservation and access: Where is an archive for my data?
- Reiner GÖLDNER, Germany:

  Small Solutions for Small Institutions – Steps Towards Archiving and Preservation of Digital Data
- Felix SCHÄFER | Maurice HEINRICH, Germany:

  IANUS on the road – building a national research data center in Germany

Long-term preservation and access: **Where is an archive for my data?**

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A Scenario/1

Cross-archive search & access

Metadata harvested into ARIADNE Registry/Portal

Other data sources

Other users, world-wide

Archaeologists working in Europe

33,000

(DISCO estimate 2014)

DISCO - Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe: Transnational Report, 2014.

1 digital archive for archaeol. reseseach data per EU28+ country

Staff/archive: ~10

ADS* (UK): 14
IANUS (Germany): 9
DANS E-Depot Archaeology* (NL): 6 FTE of 43
tDAR (USA): 7

* Domain-specific (also others), mandated, Data Seal of Approval,…

300 (~1%)

could manage the data that is relevant to curate for long-term access in Europe

Cost/project: 1-3% of total, depending on type of investigation and data generated

A Scenario/2

- 1 digital archive for archaeological research data per country
- Reasonable?
  - it works in the Netherlands and UK
- Beneficial?
  - State-of-the-art/best practices, centre of expertise/training, community building
  - Reliable environment for data publication, (re-)use and citation,
  - Cost-effectiveness of data curation and access (e.g. economies of scale),
  - ADS: increase in research efficiency of the users has been calculated to be worth at least 5 times the costs of data deposit, operation and use; including other advantages £ 1 investment in ADS yields up to £ 8.30 return (Beagrie & Houghton 2013)
- Doubts?:
  - „that will never happen in Italy“, a senior researcher of an CNR institute
  - …

An archaeologist's wish list

I wish data archiving to be…

- straightforward
- with clear guidelines
- cost-efficient
- a means to an end: preserve data for reuse & make accessible for researchers

In reality there is...

- no obvious choice of archive
- need to turn abroad
- in most cases, yes
- data only partly accessible, dispersed

Solutions

- National data archives for archaeology (or national archive with archaeology department): support, somewhere to go to, no language barriers, community.
- Sub-disciplines in archaeology use one archive: e.g. archive for eastern Mediterranean archaeology, scientific datasets.

References

- ARIADNE (2015): Preliminary Innovation Agenda and Action Plan. Project deliverable 2.3, November 2015, http://www.ariadne-infrastructure.eu/Resources (see chapter 5: Data archives and curation of archaeological data)
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- Beagrie N. & Houghton J. (2013): The value and impact of the Archaeology Data Service. A study and methods for enhancing sustainability. Final Report, Charles Beagrie Ltd and Victoria University, September 2013, http://repository.jisc.ac.uk/5509/1/ADSReport_final.pdf
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