

# ARIADNE Guides to Good Practice

## Archaeology Data Service, University of York

- New ARIADNE Guides on:
  - Dendrochronological data [DANS]
  - 3D Datasets [DAI]
  - Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) [ADS]
  - Thermoluminescence [ATHENA]
- Case studies

- The dendrochronology of the Early-Medieval Emporium Dorestad
- Selection and Retention of files in big data collections: the example of the Pergamon excavation

**Archaeology Data Service / Digital Antiquity**  
Guides to Good Practice

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Digital Archiving  
About these Guidelines  
How to use these Guides  
What is Digital Archiving?  
Archival Strategies

**The Project Lifecycle**

- Planning for the Creation of Digital Data
- Project Documentation
- Project Metadata
- Data Selection: Preservation Intervention Points
- The Project Archive: Storage and Dissemination
- Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

**Basic Components**

- Documents and Texts
- Databases and Spreadsheets
- Raster Images
- Vector Images
- Digital Video
- Digital Audio

**Dendrochronological Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice**  
Peter Brewer, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, USA  
Esther Jansma, Cultural Heritage Agency and Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
VERSION 1.1 - JUNE 2016

**Section 1. Aims and Objectives**

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**Selection and Retention of Files in Big Data Collections: The Example of the Pergamon Excavation of the DAI Istanbul**  
Felix F. Schäfer, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI).

This case study was produced as a component of a two week work placement during June 2013 at the ADS funded by the IANUS and ARIADNE projects.

**I. Background to Research and Documentation at Pergamon**

Pergamon, as the capital of the Attalid dynasty, has been one of the most important and lavishly built cities in the Hellenistic Greek world. During the Roman Empire it was a prosperous city with an estimated population of about 200,000 inhabitants. It is located in the northwest of Turkey in the ancient region of Mysia, about 29km from the sea. Having its historical origin on the top of a 330m high promontory, it successively expanded downwards to the plain of the river Kaikos from the 3rd century BC onwards. Today, the modern city of Bergama at the foot of the hill overies great parts of the Roman city.

The first modern excavations of the impressive and widespread ruins took place in the 1870s and began with the spectacular discovery of the Great Altar which had been reconstructed at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. Since then the ancient site has been a place of continuous investigation and research and is nowadays one of the major, long running excavation projects of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and its department in Istanbul.

With the last change of the director of the excavations, Prof. Felix Pirson, in 2005 the digital era began at Pergamon. Under his guidance, for the first time at this site IT-related infrastructures and methods, as well as digital documentation and analysis, have been established. A new database for recording trenches, finds, surveys, boreholes, architectural studies, etc. has been developed; internal guidelines for data management, file naming strategies and formats have been established; and a local network with a server for centralised data storage and backup routines has been setup. Over the last eight years the total amount of data relating to Pergamon and its hinterland has totalled c.2 terabytes, distributed over c.100,000 single files. An example of the whole folder structure can be seen in Fig. 1.

0001_Allgemein	Layoutvorlagen
002_Ausgrabungen_Sondagen_2009	_Tagebücher
003_Arbeitsfotos_2009	_Vermessung
004_Fundbearbeitung_Ausgrabungen_2009	Ar-01
0057_Fundbearbeitung_Survey_2009	Ar-02
0064_Ceophysik	Ar-03
0069_Restaurationen_RoteHalle_2009	Ar-04



# Impacts and recognition

- Impact

The ARIADNE Guides to Good Practice provide essential advice about file formats and metadata for those working with some unusual archaeological data types

*“The experience of visiting ADS for two weeks and working through the documentation and archiving of the Pergamon dataset was invaluable in helping us set up IANUS, the German national digital repository for archaeology”* – Felix Schäfer, DAI, Berlin.



- Also we...

- Contributed >1.5m ADS resources to the ARIADNE portal
- Developed a freely available Named Entity Recognition service
- Organised 8 international TNA training sessions
- Provided quality control for >40 Deliverables

