

**SAA 2012 Annual Meeting: FORUM DIGITAL DATA STANDARDS AND "BEST PRACTICES" NEEDED FOR ACCESS TO AND PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION**  
**Thursday Evening April 19, 2012 Room: L-2 (CC) Time: 6:00 PM–8:00 PM**

**Session Abstract:**

With ever greater frequency, archaeologists produce and use archaeological information and data in digital formats. Grants programs, curation agreements, background research, comparative studies, and syntheses of archaeological information require better access to and long-term preservation of digital archaeological data. Some standards and “best practices” already exist, others remain to be developed. Participants will discuss existing standards, efforts underway to provide better or needed standards, and related key topics from the perspectives of data-generating, funding, preservation, and regulatory agencies, as well as organizations that have created and utilized standards.

**Organizer:** Francis McManamon

**Chair:** Keith Kintigh

Discussants will have up to five minutes for opening statements. Following each initial statement, the Chair will allow a couple of questions on the specific statement. After all the opening statements are completed, there will be a general discussion and Q & A with the audience.

<b>Discussants and Order of Presentation</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Julian Richards</b> —Director, Archaeology Data Service, University of York	Current standards and best practices: the <i>Guides to Good Practice</i> for Creating and Caring for Digital Archaeological Archives
<b>Mary Whelan</b> —Geospatial and Research Data Manager, Informatics Section, Arizona State University Libraries	Existing standards for trusted digital repositories and why such standards are essential for long term preservation and use of digital data
<b>Donald Craib</b> —Attorney at Law, Cultural Heritage Partners, LLC, Alexandria, VA	Describe and discuss statutory and regulatory mandates for access to and preservation and use of archaeological digital data
<b>S. Terry Childs</b> —Manager, Museum Program, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC	Discuss the standards and best practices needed to preserve digital associated archaeological records as part of collections management
<b>Mary Downs</b> —Senior Program Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC	How is the NEH requirement for data management plans as part of proposals being utilized? E.g., are panels applying existing standards and best practices for data management plans?
<b>John Yellen</b> —Program Officer, Archaeology Program, National Science Foundation	How is the NSF requirement for data management plans as part of proposals being utilized? E.g., are panels applying existing standards and best practices for data management plans?
<b>Cynthia Herhahn</b> —National Coordinator, Cultural Resource Data-Sharing Partnership, BLM New Mexico and Washington, DC	The BLM-SHPOs in western states have a partnership to share archaeological site information. Are there standards and best practices that have been used to facilitate this data sharing?

## Online resources and references:

### **Archaeology Data Service and the Center for Digital Antiquity -- Guides to Good Practice**

<http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

This new and revised series of *Guides to Good Practice* for creating, documenting, and archiving digital archaeological data has been produced through a two-year collaborative project between the UK Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and the Center for Digital Antiquity in the US. The project has encompassed important revisions of the existing six ADS *Guides* as well as the development of entirely new documents covering areas such as marine survey, laser scanning, close-range photogrammetry, digital audio and digital video. The project has involved previous *Guides* authors revising existing content alongside new authors, from both Europe and the US, also contributing to the development of the guides into new themes and areas.

The project has been undertaken in collaboration with the Center for Digital Antiquity, a US-based organization with the mission of enhancing the preservation of and access to digital records of archaeological investigations. A major aim of the *Guides* is to provide the basis for archaeological project workflows that will create digital datasets that can be archived and shared effectively by Digital Antiquity's tDAR archive and repository in the US and by the Archaeology Data Service in the UK. The development of the *Guides* involves close collaboration with teams in the US at both the University of Arkansas and Arizona State University.

Previous versions of the ADS/AHDS *Guides to Good Practice* have been archived and are still available on the [old Guides to Good Practice page](#).

### **BLM-Western SHPOs, Cultural Resource Data Sharing Partnership, Guidelines and Standards.**

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/CRM/CRDSP/permitting\\_standards.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/CRM/CRDSP/permitting_standards.html)