Creating Communities of Collaboration through Digital Archaeology and the Digital Humanities

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The Chaco Research Archive is an online research portal and analytical database that allows the scholarly community and the public at large to access the widely dispersed archaeological data collected from Chaco Canyon, NM over the last 125 years. The products available through chacoarchive.org are all based on a University of Virginia-built PostgreSQL relational database with a Ruby on Rails application framework. Today, the CRA online database contains over 150,000 searchable records built from archival sources - integrating architecture, artifact, survey, and excavation data into a sophisticated research tool. By providing access to a wealth of archaeological data, this resource creates new possibilities for synthetic research and allows for interpretation over temporal and spatial scales not practical before. Each month, countries enhance access to over a century of archaeological research in Chaco Canyon, NM.
Mission:

Cooperative Education Study Unit Agreement between NPS and the University of Colorado.

Gather and consider information on Chacoan landscapes – the cultural landscapes of the 9th thru 13th century Chacoan region.

Subsequent activities to include:

- A GIS meeting (UNL) to discuss and reconcile disparate GIS databases
- Creation of a White Paper on Chacoan Landscapes and Conservation
- Capstone Seminar (Crow Canyon Archaeological Center)
- Lidar demonstration project
The goal of the Salmon Pueblo Archaeological Research Collection (SPARC) project is to preserve and make accessible incomparable legacy data from the important excavations of Salmon Pueblo. Built around 1090 CE, this ancestral Pueblo site was the first major colony outside of Chaco Canyon and was a cultural center on the north bank of the San Juan River 45 miles north of Chaco. The site of Salmon Pueblo is important both for its place in the larger Chacoan world of the twelfth century and its unique archaeological history. A collaboration between four institutions – the Salmon Ruins Museum, Archaeology Southwest, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia – support for SPARC will go toward three phases: (1) digital acquisition, (2) data integration and management, and (3) online preservation of and access to materials.
Ohio Hopewell
Prehistoric Crossroads of the American Midwest

This pilot project will result in the creation of a precise Field Museum artifact inventory with resolved provenience locations and annotated bibliography that will be published via the web. These preliminary steps will permit us to develop a research design to make the entire Hopewell collection at The Field Museum accessible online and to link it to other collections of Hopewell objects in other institutions. By bringing together currently disparate collections online, we hope to create an invaluable information resource that will be used for generations to reveal the mysteries of the prehistoric crossroads of the Midwest that centered around the Hopewell Culture.

Carrie Heitman, UNL, Project Lead
William Parkinson, UIC and The Field Museum, Co-Director
Jaime Kelly, The Field Museum, Collections Manager
Krystal Britt, UIC, Graduate Research Assistant
James Brown, Northwestern University, Project Advisor
The Digital Native American Studies Project is a proposed series of workshops devoted to issues of access, preservation and methodologies related to the use of digital heritage materials in the context of tribal communities.

**Project Director:** Jennifer Guiliano, Indiana University Perdue University Indianapolis

**Consultants:**
- Josh Wells, Indiana University South Bend
- Carrie Heitman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Siobhan Senier, University of New Hampshire
Collaboration

Student Co-Creation

Chaco Landscapes

Student Involvement

CRA Steering Committee

Public Products

Histories of Collaboration
Underlying issues and challenges

- Collaboration is never all-inclusive
- Misapprehension at the time/effort involved
- Challenges of online publication of GIS data while protecting sensitive site locations
- Building partnerships takes time, [specifically face-to-face time] which in turn requires additional resources
- When is it OK to let a project “twilight”? 

- Administrative challenges for grant sub-award coordination
- Academic assessment of digital products
- Creating and sustaining meaningful partnerships with diverse stakeholders
- Semi-permeable boundary between Digital Humanities and Archaeological Science
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Thanks for Listening!