Preservation of cultural heritage data: challenges and opportunities during the life cycle of archaeological data

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Heritage actors have long been committed to digital transformation as a privileged mean for the long-term dissemination, conservation and valorisation of cultural heritage. Digitisation is also a key medium in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable society, especially in times marked by profound changes and crisis. The exponential amount and much varied nature of data produced in the context of archaeological interventions require the implementation of digital tools suitable to international scientific standards and procedures.

ARIADNEplus (https://ariadne-infrastructure.eu) is a project funded by the European Commission to provide a digital infrastructure for archaeological datasets which enables sharing, discovery, and research across national and regional borders. The ARIADNEplus consortium comprises 41 partners from European and international national heritage authorities, archaeological research institutions and associations, data repository providers and technology partners. The project supports a more sustainable archaeological practice by promoting investment into long-term strategies for archaeological data preservation for the next generations with the help of technological solutions. The ARIADNEplus catalogue includes currently around 2 million records, comprising multiple archaeological data types and subdomains.

The session invites papers to reflect on the development and application of standards during the archaeological data life cycle, with a focus on questions of interoperability and sustainability. What are the challenges during the several processing steps in a project from data creation to usage, long-term data storage and re-use? How do data record standards and vocabularies enhance access to datasets and what was the experience of ARIADNEplus data-providing partners and associated partners when aggregating their data in the project? How is it possible to use aggregated archaeological data for research across multiple providers and subdomains, and hence valorise individual datasets? In what ways do initiatives such as ARIADNE contribute to protect, research and valorise Cultural Heritage? Does the infrastructure lead to an increased sustainability of archaeological research practices? Which changes would be necessary to move closer to achieve these aims?

#cultural heritage data #data life-cycle #digital infrastructure #sustainability #archaeology