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INTRODUCTION TO SAVING EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE DIGITAL DARK AGE (SEADDA) COST ACTION

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Making archaeological data open and freely accessible is a priority across Europe, but the domain lacks appropriate, persistent repositories. Due to the fragility of digital data and non-repeatable nature of most archaeological research, archaeology is poised to lose a generation of research to the Digital Dark Age. The key to mitigating this crisis is to bring archaeologists and data management specialists together to share expertise, and create resources that allow them to address problems in the most appropriate way within their own countries. While important international standards exist and should be used, there is no single way to build a repository. To be successful, archaeologists must be at the decision-making heart of how their data is archived to ensure re-use is possible. This paper will introduce the newly funded COST Action SEADDA (Saving European Archaeology from the Digital Dark Age). SEADDA brings together an interdisciplinary network of archaeologists and computer scientists; experts in archaeological data management and open data dissemination and re-use. SEADDA will allow archaeologists from countries with archiving expertise to work with archaeologists with few or no available options, so they may share knowledge, create dialogue within their countries, and move forward to address the crisis.



Biography

Holly Wright manages collaborative research for the Archaeology Data Service, including participation in the SEADDA, ArchAIDE, NEARCH, E-RIHS, ARIADNE, ARIADNEplus LoCloud, CARARE, and SENESCHAL projects. She holds an M.Sc. in Archaeological Information Systems and a Ph.D. in Archaeology, focused on archaeological field drawing and the Semantic Web. Her areas of research specialisation are visual documentation and communication, archaeological data management, and the use of Web standards and the Semantic Web in archaeology.

