ARIADNE: Building a European Data Infrastructure for Archaeology

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• Working internationally
• Collaborative underlying technologies
• Growing interest in archiving archaeological data across Europe
• Archives and repositories are typically based in one country, even if the data they hold is international.
• International aggregation platforms aren’t typically built out of a large partnership
Working internationally

- Had a detailed workplan but as this level of collaboration hasn’t been done before, figuring out how to work together is half the project
- Far greater variability in capacity across the network than anticipated; used ARIADNE as internal leverage
• User Needs Survey
  – 700 respondents
  – Combination of online surveys for data users and data providers and in-depth interviews
  – Main result is that while people are interested in technologies that allow useful research, but what they really want to know is what is out there.
Underlying technologies

• Working with International Initiatives:
  – Mapping to Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus (controlled)
  – Contributing to/using PeriodO (assertions)
  – Enrichment services (Pleiades)
  – Linked Data (5 Star)

Creative Commons zero (CC0) open source code, available from [https://github.com/cbinding/VocabularyMatchingTool/](https://github.com/cbinding/VocabularyMatchingTool/)
Underlying technologies

- Manually matching vocabulary concepts to Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) concepts
- Uses linked data – Javascript components using external SPARQL endpoints (no back-end)
- Side by side comparison of concepts, with contextual details (labels, scope notes, linked concepts)
- Multilingual - French, German, Spanish, English, Dutch AAT concept details
- Export created mappings to JSON, CSV, RDF
Growing interest in digital archiving
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• There is huge variability in capacity across the network of archaeological partners.
• While able to contribute their data, most partners have no archiving options within their own countries.
Growing interest in digital archiving

- Paper given by our partners in Slovenia and Ireland made apparent an important opportunity to focus within the project.
- Plans were made to offer data management workshops to partners in their own countries. Austria and Slovenia were first to accept.
Growing interest in digital archiving

- Data management workshops were held in Vienna and Ljubljana in January
Growing interest in digital archiving

- Local partners worked hard to make sure governmental and institutional stakeholders attended, and took on understanding and presenting the state of play in their country.
Growing interest in digital archiving

• Level of interest was much higher than expected:
  – Pressure from funders
  – Pressure from institutions
  – Funding available but no guidance
  – No appropriate options for archaeological data

We may have found a key moment...
Growing interest in digital archiving

- Conversations are continuing on how to seize the moment, take the expertise within the ARIADNE network to continue this momentum beyond ARIADNE, but beyond the current network.

Thank You!

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