One Size Does Not Fit All

Reflections on Online Research Infrastructures

ads ARCHAEOLOGY DATA SERVICE

CAA Atlanta
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Online Research Infrastructures

What is it?

A sustainable online platform that freely and openly disseminates archaeological data from a variety of sources, and/or aggregates data persistently

- **Archive:** Data is preserved and disseminated
- **Aggregation platform:** Data is disseminated from a variety of persistent sources
- **Publishing platform:** Data is held in a persistent repository and disseminated

Online Research Infrastructures

How does collaboration contribute to the success of online infrastructures?

- How does it make them more sustainable?
- How does it make them more resilient?
- How does it help establish best practice?
- How does it make us more innovative?
- How can we use it to make access more equitable?

Introduction to the ADS

The Archaeology Data Service

- Set up in 1996
- Based at the University of York, UK

Mission

Supporting research, learning and teaching with free, high quality and dependable digital resources

- Digital preservation and dissemination
- Free online access to data
- Guidance and support for data creators

What do we hold?

Archives

- 18 Journals and Series
- 40,000+ Grey Literature reports
- 1000+ Project Archives
- Six specialist Bibliographies
- 19 Doctoral Theses

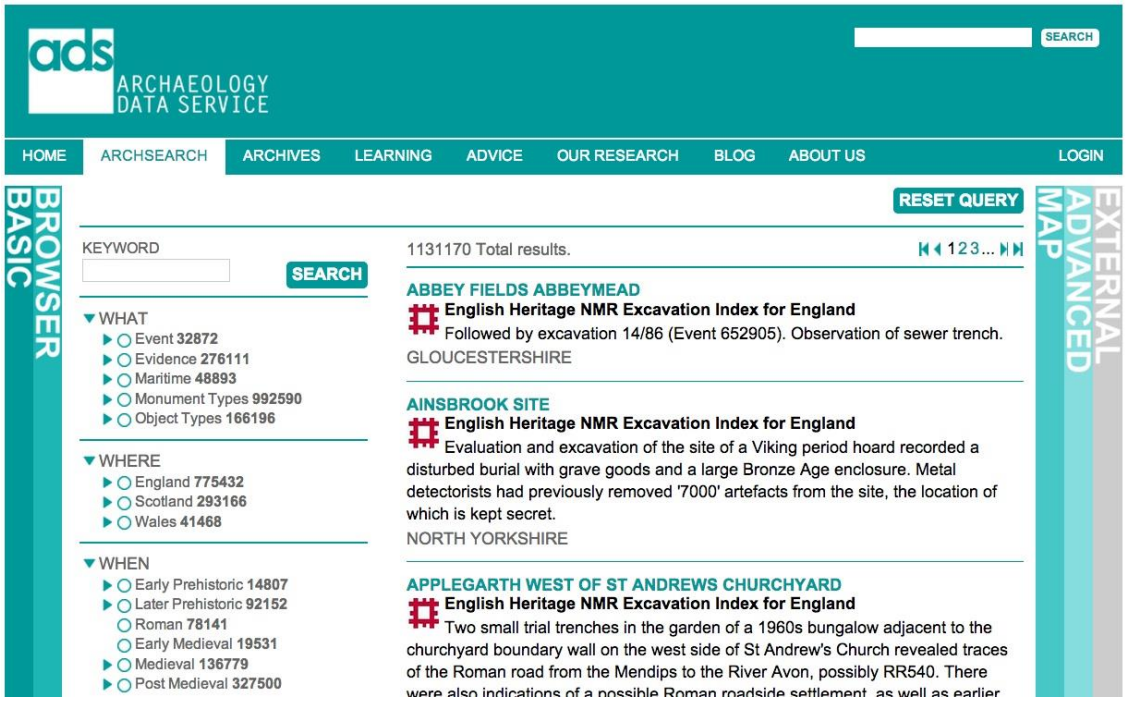
Specialised Websites

- England's Rock Art
- Image Bank

What do we hold?

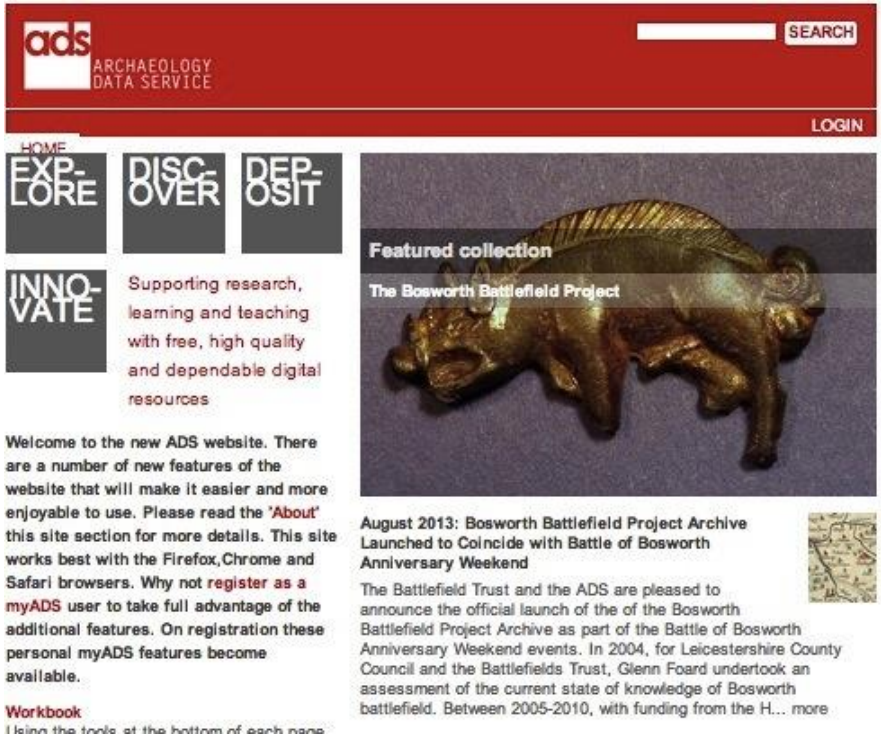
Archsearch

- Online catalogue indexing over 1.3 million metadata records
- Includes ADS collections and metadata harvested from over 30 UK national and regional historic environment inventories.



Dissemination

- Disseminate our own data
- Provide integrated resource discovery across data we aggregate
- Also disseminate to other aggregators
  - OAI-PMH
  - Linked Data
  - Via Export



What is the role of collaboration for ADS?

- Collaborations have been built up over our 20+ years – allows us to build meaningful relationships and dialogue within the domain – informing each other
- Might take a decade for a resource to come to us – can take a long view – times change – attitudes change
- Allows us to be flexible rather than proscriptive – building a relationship that accommodates a data holder's needs at the time also gives them options if things change

What is the role of collaboration for ADS?

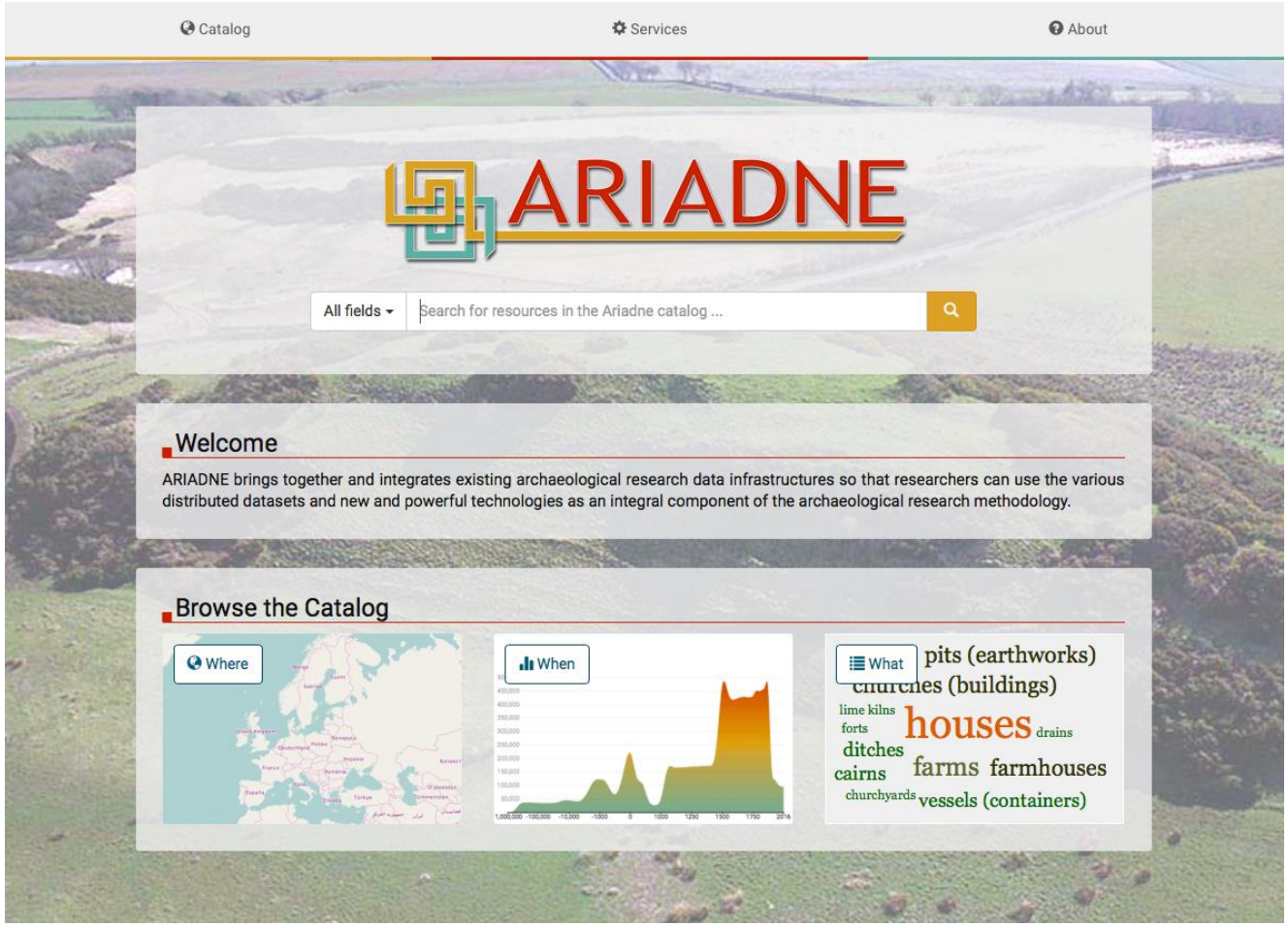
- Can be a mirror site – expands dissemination for partners
- Dissemination to other international aggregators creates added value
- Allows ADS to constantly update best practice within the domain
- Allows us to expand best practice and engage in current research through international projects
- Gives us very diverse (if messy) funding sources

Introduction to ARIADNE

- EU FP7 project under the 'Infrastructures' theme, including 23 European partners across 16 countries
- Four-year project: ended January 2017
- 17 Workpackages – primary deliverable: collection level metadata aggregation portal
- Coordinator: PIN Scri - Polo Universitario "Città di Prato" at the University of Florence
- Deputy Coordinator: ADS

ariadne-infrastructure.eu

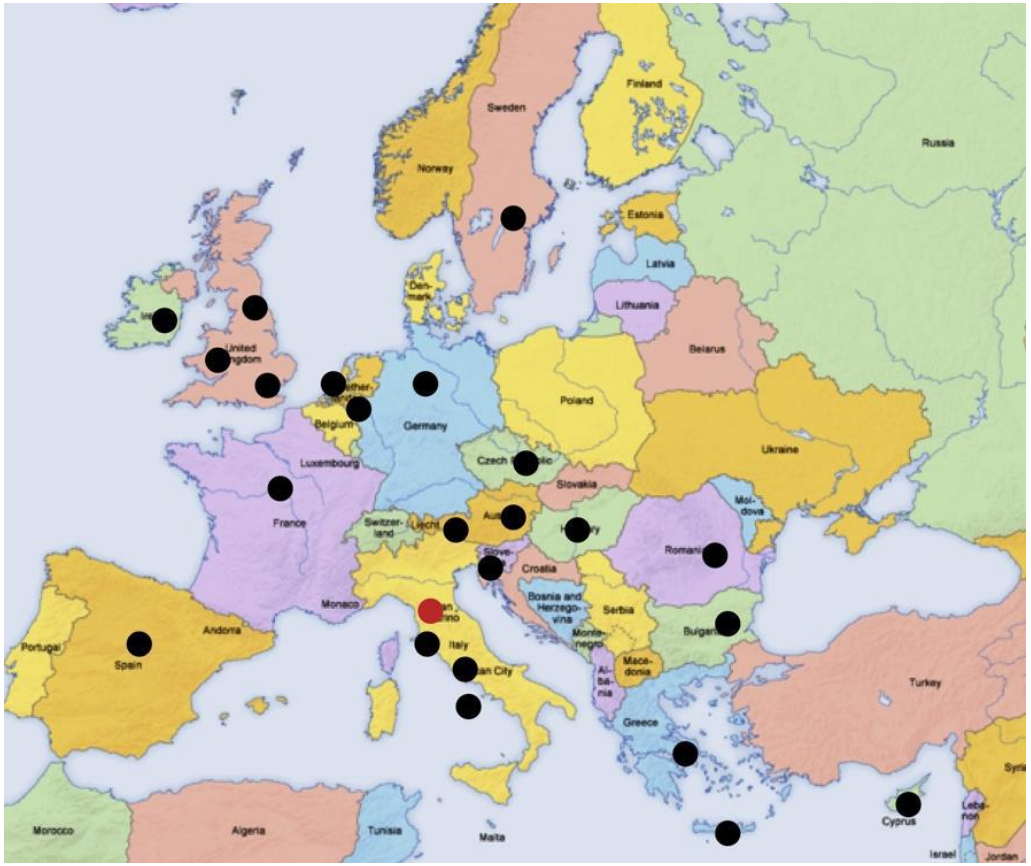
ARIADNE


Catalog
Services
About
ARIADNE
All fields
Search for resources in the Ariadne catalog ...
Welcome
ARIADNE brings together and integrates existing archaeological research data infrastructures so that researchers can use the various distributed datasets and new and powerful technologies as an integral component of the archaeological research methodology.
Browse the Catalog
Where
When
What
pits (earthworks)
churches (buildings)
lime kilns
forts
houses
drains
ditches
cairns
farms
farmhouses
churchyards
vessels (containers)

ARIADNE

ARIADNE Community:

- 9 ICT organisations
- 14 archaeological organisations
- 15 Associate partners
- Community building
  - Transnational access
  - Training events
  - Special interest groups



ARIADNE

What is the role of collaboration for ARIADNE?

- Archives and repositories are typically based in one country, even if the data they hold is international – had to develop and agree upon new ways to make metadata interoperable and multilingual
- Aggregation platforms aren't typically built out of a large international partnership – had to figure out how to work together on a technical and best practice level – forging new and expanding existing relationships

ARIADNE

What is the role of collaboration for ARIADNE?

- Had a detailed workplan but as this level of collaboration hadn't been done before, figuring out how to work together was half the project
- Far greater variability in capacity across the network than anticipated – used ARIADNE as internal leverage
- While able to contribute their data, most partners have no archiving and dissemination options within their own countries

ARIADNE

What is the role of collaboration for ARIADNE?

- Paper was given by partners in Slovenia and Ireland talking about “have’s and have nots” when it comes to having an acceptable place for their archaeological data
- Plans were made to offer data management workshops to partners in their own countries - Austria and Slovenia both accepted
- Much more successful than anticipated!

Data management workshops in Vienna and Ljubljana

- 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

ARIADNE

Data management workshops in Vienna and Ljubljana

Level of interest was much higher than expected:

- Pressure from funders to deposit data
- Pressure from institutions to deposit data
- Funding available; but no guidance
- No appropriate options for archaeological data

ARIADNE

Data management workshops in Vienna and Ljubljana

- Conversations continued on how to seize the moment, take expertise within ARIADNE and collaborate beyond the current network
- Became apparent that while there was plenty of good practice guidance "one size did not fit all" and working together was going to critical to moving forward
- Archaeological data is often derived from non-repeatable interventions, and digital data is more fragile and subject to obsolescence than analogue data, so we risk losing a generation of research – Urgency!

The Future

COST Action SEADDA

- EU funding (four years) for networking, covering the costs of meetings, training sessions, scientific missions around Research Objectives and Working Groups
  - WG1 Stewardship of Archaeological Data
  - WG2 Planning for Archiving
  - WG3 Preservation and Dissemination best practice
  - WG4 Use and Re-Use of Archaeological Data

- WG4 is the frontier, much to learn from projects like Fasti Online, Pelagios Commons and Open Context

The Future

COST Action SEADDA

- Must be submitted by a group of anonymous proposers, is funded based on strength of idea
- Already have 37 proposers representing 23 countries, from those with no provision in their country and want a place to start, to all the established archives, aggregators and publication platforms
- Due in September, so happy to speak with others who may be interested in joining!

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Further Information

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

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