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Who We Are

**Mission:** The Alexandria Archive Institute (AAI) enhances scholarship through use of the Open Web. Our research and development efforts aim to increase the breadth and depth of scholarship in archaeology and related fields, in order to improve understanding and see wider participation in discovery.

**Vision:** The AAI will lead the research community in developing accessible, reliable, comprehensive, and open access scholarly resources. We will help transform these data into knowledge, making them valuable and relevant for students and scholars worldwide.

**Values:** We work to uphold the following values and principles:

- We support universal accessibility to scholarship.
- We are committed to the development of new research and educational tools to promote scholarship in the humanities and social sciences.
- We promote the development of authoritative scholarly resources that are reliable, comprehensive, and open.
- We strive to promote an open dialogue in developing standards in the collection, dissemination, and storage of research data.
- We are committed to fostering cooperation with organizations that share our vision.
- We acknowledge that the work we are doing is one element of a vast network of organizations and individuals with a common purpose. We strive to both learn from and enrich this complex ecosystem.

The AAI was established in 2001 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in California.

**Employer Identification Number:** 91-2146202

**Mailing Address:**
125 El Verano Way
San Francisco, CA 94127
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Email: contact@alexandriaarchive.org

**Website:** [http://alexandriaarchive.org](http://alexandriaarchive.org)
Key Developments

Open Data in 2013

The past twelve months have seen a number of significant developments in open data. In February 2013, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy announced a new mandate for open access to peer-reviewed outcomes of federally-funded research, including publications and data. The various agencies have been exploring how they will enact this new policy, and have welcomed input from the public. Beyond these developments on the federal level, many institutions have started promoting the free exchange of data. New developments in archaeology include the adoption of a data management policy by the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications, and special panel discussions relating to open access and publishing planned at the 2014 meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA).

The work we do with Open Context is based on a conviction that open data publishing not only makes research more effective, but better aligns archaeology with the public spirit. We have promoted these perspectives in 2013 through publications and presentations, including a call for open access to research content in The SAA Archaeological Record, providing specific steps societies like the SAA can take to work towards opening up access to research.

This year also saw a White House honor for Open Context’s Program Director Eric Kansa as a Champion of Change for his contributions to open science.

Open Context published 18 projects this year. Fourteen of these are already cited in conventional publications. A few examples:

- The Hacksilber Project dataset is linked to a publication in Internet Archaeology.
- The Asian Stoneware Jars project is linked to a discussion in the Journal of Archaeological Science.
- Various datasets in the Archaeology of Mesoamerican Animals Online project are cited in their respective chapters in the edited book, recently published by Lockwood Press.

As the ecosystem of open data grows, the various participants are finding innovative ways of leveraging the power of the Web. Many are promoting approaches to make linking a two-way street—a link from the dataset to the paper, and a link from the paper back to the dataset. For instance, online publications like Internet Archaeology and the Journal of Open Archaeology Data are establishing extensive networks of partners to archive data that links to their publications. Both services list Open Context as a recommended system to host datasets related to their publications.

We are delighted to see data publishing catching on and look forward to what 2014 will bring!
Linked Data and the Gazetteer of the Ancient Near East

The 18-month Gazetteer of the Ancient Near East (GANE) project was supported by a Digital Humanities Level II Start-Up grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The GANE project proposed to develop an authoritative, free and open access compendium of gazetteer records from the Ancient Near East, spanning some 10,000 years. In March 2013, the GANE project wrapped up with the inclusion of over 8,000 well-documented places in the Pleiades gazetteer, as well as a dataset of approximately 65,000 additional place names to be added in the future. From this foundation of authoritative places built by the GANE project and incorporated into the Pleiades gazetteer, researchers can link historical events, historical persons, and archaeological evidence through notions of place and time. The free and open corpus of ancient places, thus, facilitates scholarship by bringing together disparate lines of historical and archaeological evidence on the Web.

Large-Scale Data Integration with the Encyclopedia of Life

In August 2012, the AAI won a Computable Data Challenge award from the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) to explore the challenges of data integration and reuse. Because data archiving practices have gained momentum only recently in “small science” domains such as archaeology, the discipline still lacks a clear understanding of the factors governing data reuse. The EOL grant provided support for an extant (but at the time unfunded) project aimed at bringing a group of scholars together to publish and integrate data from one dozen archaeological sites in Anatolia. This group, the Central and Western Anatolian Neolithic Working Group, represents the first large-scale open-data publication and integration effort in archaeology. Working group participants (Figure 1) published faunal datasets from archaeological sites spanning the Epipaleolithic through the Chalcolithic (a range of 10,000+ years) in Open Context. Open Context’s editors decoded and cleaned the data and annotated a variety of fields in order to make the datasets comparable. The project culminated in a workshop in Kiel, Germany, where each participant presented analytical results based on a specific subset of the 200,000+ item dataset. Project participants are publishing a co-authored research paper presenting the archaeological results, as well as a paper discussing the challenges and lessons taken from the data publishing and reuse process.

Figure 1: Participants in the Central and Western Anatolian Neolithic Working Group.
NSF-Funded DINAA Project

In fall 2012, AAI partnered with colleagues at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Indiana University South Bend, on an NSF-funded project The Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA). The DINAA project addresses head-on a major challenge facing research communities worldwide: how to link disconnected and incompatible data systems in such a way that the combined data are useful for important scientific research. Information about archaeological sites and collections is maintained by every state and territory, but only rarely have these data been compiled and examined at large geographic scales, especially those crosscutting state lines, and never to the extent and for the research and management purposes proposed by the DINAA project. The primary goal of DINAA is to integrate and link data from 15-20 states (more than a half million sites) using an informatics framework that promotes extensions and reuse by government personnel in state and federal agencies, and domestic and international researchers. The availability of output online in the form of maps and data tables (at significantly reduced spatial resolution, to protect sensitive locations) will enhance public awareness, education, and appreciation for scientific research in general and archaeology in particular. In December 2013, the DINAA project launched its public presence with the publication of nearly 100,000 sites from Georgia and Florida. The site data in Open Context can be filtered by time and various descriptive terms, allowing for map-based visualization across multiple states and download of datasets (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Keyword search for the phrase “Chattahoochee Brushed,” a diagnostic artifact type in Florida and Georgia.
Open Context Developments

Most of the developments in Open Context over the past year focused on refining interface and workflow features. All of these updates are fully described and recorded on our GitHub software repositories1. Additional code updates center on editorial functions to allow clearer and more efficient annotation of datasets being prepared for publication. Finally, we are experimenting with additional changes to enable for efficient use of memory and to further streamline editing and version control of data that we publish. As we grow in scale, memory and workflow issues require greater efficiency.

In addition, we have made substantial progress in geospatial visualization. Web mapping services, such as Google Maps, Bing, and others deliver thematic layers of geospatial data indexed as a hierarchy of “tiles.” Map tiles that cover smaller areas are deeper in the hierarchy. The coding scheme is also recursive. The relative position of each child tile is identified consistently with respect to its parent tile. We are adopting a similar approach to organize the geospatial data in Open Context2. Each map tile can be considered a “facet,” and map facets together with facet counts can be visualized on a Web mapping interface.

The new mapping features demonstrate not only the application of quad-tree tiles for geospatial search and visualization, but also the value of organizing information with Linked Data. The Encyclopedia of Life organizes biological taxa into hierarchies. Open Context now uses the EOL’s hierarchies in its own querying services. This enables researchers to query for specific EOL identified taxa and to select for all the additional taxa that may be subsumed in a more general classification (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Content organized with Linked Data, showing the occurrence of items classified as “Caprinae.”

Development plans for the coming year include moving Open Context’s index to a scalable “cloud-based” architecture to accommodate the increasing amount of content.

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1 https://github.com/ekansa/open-context-code and https://github.com/ekansa/open-context-penelope
2 After Liu and Wilde 2011
Conferences, Workshops & Publications

Conferences & Workshops

- **March:** Computer Applications in Archaeology Conference 2013 (Perth, Australia): *Reimagining Archaeological Publication for the 21st Century* (Keynote address by Eric Kansa)
- **April:** Society for American Archaeology (Honolulu, HI)
  - *Open Context Data Sharing Workshop for NEH Digital Humanities Implementation Grant* (one-day workshop with NEH project participants)
  - *Getting the Big Picture by Linking Small Data* (Oral presentation by Eric Kansa)
  - *Archaeology is Data Coding or it is Nothing: Relationships between State and Governmental Archaeological Site File Structures and Professional Definitions through the Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA)* (Poster, co-authored by the DINAA team: Anderson, Wells, Yerka, Kansa, and Kansa)
  - *Web-based Discovery and Integration of Site File Data: The Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA)* (Poster, co-authored by the DINAA team: Anderson, Wells, Yerka, Kansa, and Kansa)
- **April:** International Open Workshop: Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 12,000 Years: The Creation of Landscapes III (Kiel, Germany). Workshop session *Into New Landscapes: Subsistence Adaptation and Social Change during the Neolithic Expansion in Central and Western Anatolia* included presentations by the participants in the Encyclopedia of Life-funded project. Workshop co-chaired by Benjamin Arbuckle (Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Cheryl Makarewicz (Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, CAU Kiel), with a panel of presentations followed by an open discussion.
- **June:** Opening the Past conference (Pisa, Italy): *Open Access in Archaeology* (Keynote address by Eric Kansa)
- **June:** Honor/Award: Eric Kansa discussed the potential of Open Data in a panel discussion at the White House in June 2013, where he was honored as a Champion of Change in Open Science for his work with Open Context and open data. [http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/2013/06/20/white-house-honors-contributions-to-open-science/](http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/2013/06/20/white-house-honors-contributions-to-open-science/)
- **September:** RECODE Workshop (Sheffield, UK): Open Context is participating as one of five case studies in a multi-year project to develop policy recommendations for open access to research data for the European Union. Sarah Kansa participated in the autumn 2013 workshop on...
“Stakeholder values and ecosystems” as a panelist representing data sharing challenges in the social sciences.

- **September**: Harvard University, Digital Futures consortium: *A More Open Future for the Past* (Invited lecture by Eric Kansa). A September 17 article in the *Harvard Gazette* presents highlights of the talk.
- **November**: Invited lecture at Dumbarton Oaks Archives (Washington DC): *Introduction to Open Context and discussion of "data sharing as publication"
- **November**: American Schools of Oriental Research (Baltimore, MD)
  - 'Big Data' and Collaborative Research in Zooarchaeology (Oral presentation by Sarah Whitcher Kansa and Benjamin Arbuckle)
  - Data Management as Scholarly Communications in Near Eastern Archaeology (Oral presentation by Eric Kansa)
  - From the Ground Up: The Construction of the Cisjordan Corpus and Its Data Set As A Platform for Frequency Specific Metallic Sequencing and Data Sharing As Publication (Oral presentation by Christine Thompson, NEH working group liaison)
  - Late Bronze Age Pot Marks and Provenience: The Problem of ‘Hidden Data’ (Oral presentation by Michael Sugerman, NEH working group liaison)
  - Topics in Cyberinfrastructure: Scholarship in the 21st Century (Forum)

**Program-Related Publications**


Other Communications

In addition to more traditional academic communications venues we actively participate in less formal social media. Below we list some of our high-impact blog posts from 2013 (impact determined by comments, ping-backs, and tweets):

“It’s the Neoliberalism, Stupid: Why Open Access / Data / Science is not Enough” (2013-12-11)
http://www.alexandriaarchive.org/blog/?p=931

“Celebrating a Year of Open Data” (2013-12-11)
http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/2013/12/11/celebrating-a-year-of-open-data/

“Sustainability at Any Price is not Sustainable: Open Access in Archaeology” (2013-05-07)
http://www.alexandriaarchive.org/blog/?p=925 (Reprinted by ASOR at:
http://asorblog.org/?p=4606, one of the highest impact blog posts at ASOR this year)

“Lessons in Data Reuse, Integration, and Publication” (2013-05-02)
http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/2013/05/02/lessons-in-data-reuse-integration-and-publication/

“Decoding Data- A View from the Trenches” (2013-02-26)
http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/2013/02/26/decoding-data-a-view-from-the-trenches/

“Archaeology, Open Access, and the Passing of Aaron Swartz” (2013-01-13)
http://www.alexandriaarchive.org/blog/?p=891
Datasets Published in 2013

Note: All of the datasets published this year are cited in conventional publications (if already published, venue is indicated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Data Contributor / Key Project Participant</th>
<th>Project DOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatolia Working Group</td>
<td>Alfred Galik</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M78G8HM0">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M78G8HM0</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Çatalhöyük (East and West Mounds)</td>
<td>David Orton</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7G15XSF">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7G15XSF</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Çatalhöyük (TP area)</td>
<td>Arek Marciniak</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7B8562H">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7B8562H</a></td>
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<td>Cukurici Hoyuk</td>
<td>Alfred Galik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domuztepe</td>
<td>Sarah Whitcher Kansa</td>
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<td>Erbaba Höyük</td>
<td>Ben Arbuckle</td>
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<td>Ilipinar</td>
<td>Hijlke Buitenhuis</td>
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<td>Karain Cave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Köş Höyük</td>
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<td>Pinarbasi (1994)</td>
<td>Denise Carruthers</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7X34VD1">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7X34VD1</a></td>
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<td>Suberde</td>
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<td>Mentese</td>
<td>Lionel Gourichon</td>
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**Ancient Mediterranean Trade Working Groups**

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<th>Project DOI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hacksilber Project</td>
<td>Christine Thompson</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M74M92GB">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M74M92GB</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceramics, Trade, Provenience and Geology: Cyprus in the Late Bronze Age</td>
<td>Peter Grave</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M70V89RM">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M70V89RM</a></td>
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**Others**

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<th>Data Contributor / Key Project Participant</th>
<th>Project DOI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology of Mesoamerican Animals (several datasets are cited by the authors in the book <em>The Zooarchaeology of Mesoamerican Animals</em>). <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7KW5CX5">See abstract and table of contents at Lockwood Press.</a></td>
<td>Kitty Emery and Christopher Götz</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7KW5CX5">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7KW5CX5</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Stow West Zooarchaeology (cited by the author in the book <em>Animals and Inequality in the Ancient World</em>, 2014)</td>
<td>Pam Crabtree</td>
<td><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7QC01DG">http://dx.doi.org/10.6078/M7QC01DG</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Financial Information

**Statement of accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013**

Total income for the AAI during the financial year ending June 30, 2013 was $212,185. Expenses during that period totaled $195,264.

## Assets

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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$246,898</strong></td>
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</table>

## Liabilities & Equity

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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
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<td>Opening Balance</td>
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<td>Unrestricted (retained earnings)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net income</td>
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<td>Total Equity</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>$246,898</strong></td>
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## Income

<table>
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<td>Individual donations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Service Accomplishments</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Creating Educational Content</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Heritage Programs</td>
<td>78,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$195,264</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Details:**
  - Salaries & related expenses: 133,514
  - Travel: 16,537
  - Conferences / Meetings: 12,679
  - Telephone/Internet/Software: 4,605
  - Consulting: 19,664
  - Other (temp help, prizes, supplies, equipment, compliance): 8,265

1. **Publishing Research Content:** Manage Open Context, an open access data publishing platform for scholars, students, and the public to explore and use cultural heritage and field science data. Work with communities to add content to the database and to address workflows and incentives for sharing research data.

2. **Open Data Advocacy:** Promote open access to cultural heritage content, specifically through open data publishing. Work with scholars and stakeholders to explore the impacts of open data on scholarship. Present research at professional society meetings and in relevant publications.
People

Staff

- Sarah Whitcher Kansa, Executive Director
- Eric Kansa, Technology Director and Open Context Project Director

Consultants

- Francis Deblauwe, Content Editor, Gazetteer of the Ancient Near East
- Adi Keinan, Developer, West Bank and East Jerusalem Archaeological Map (linking to the Gazetteer of the Ancient Near East project)
- Phoebe France, Usability Specialist

Interns

- Michelle Taylor, Presidio Historic Preservation Intern, Fall 2012

Board of Directors

The AAI's Board of Directors consists of scholars, philanthropists, and other community leaders who share the Alexandria Archive Institute’s vision and have personal qualifications to lead this organization to success. Board members oversee and enable progress towards growth, and evaluate the AAI’s performance in working toward its mission, values, and goals. In 2009, the AAI formed an Honorary Board of Directors to recognize individuals who have provided continued support and services to our organization.

- Denise B. Carruthers, Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Liverpool, & Co-owner of The Permedia Research Group, Inc. Ottawa, Canada
- Elizabeth Carter, Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Eric Kansa, Technology Director and Open Context Project Director
- John G. Kutz, Senior Manager, Deloitte & Touche, LLP., San Francisco, CA
- Richard H. Meadow, Senior Lecturer, Harvard University; Director of the Peabody Museum Zooarchaeology Laboratory; Director of Harappa Excavations, Pakistan
- David Schloen, Assistant Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Bryan J. Stone, Associate Director, Financial Services Industry at World Economic Forum
- John P. Whitcher, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California, San Francisco, CA
Honorary Board Members:

- **Martha S. Joukowsky**, Director, Brown University excavations in the Great Temple at Petra; Professor Emerita, Center for Old World Archaeology and Art & Department of Anthropology, Brown University
- **Jason M. Schultz**, Professor, UC Berkeley School of Law

Open Context Editorial Board

Open Context’s Editorial Board was established in mid-2010 and currently comprises eleven members. The Editorial Board assists the Executive Editor in developing editorial policies and procedures, in soliciting datasets to be considered for publication in Open Context, and in recommending reviewers for projects that request peer review. The Editorial Board also assists with the annual review of the editorial policies and the performance of the editorial staff. The Editorial Board continues to grow to reflect the depth and breadth of the published content and to address the technical, ethical, cultural, and legal complexities of data publication.

Current Editorial Board Members:

- **Sarah Whitcher Kansa** (Executive Editor), The Alexandria Archive Institute
- **Levent Atici**, Department of Anthropology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- **Harrison Eiteljorg, II**, Center for the Study of Architecture, Bryn Mawr College
- **Catherine P. Foster**, MicroCommons and U.S. Department of State
- **Eric Kansa**, Technology Director; Open Context Project Director
- **Morag Kersel**, DePaul University
- **Benjamin Porter**, University of California, Berkeley
- **Yorke Rowan**, University of Chicago
- **Alexia Smith**, University of Connecticut
- **Sannie Kenton Osborn**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- **Joshua Wells**, Indiana University, South Bend
- **Sebastian Heath**, American Numismatic Society and Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University
- **Lori Jahnke**, Medical Heritage Library, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania
- **Stephen Yerka**, University of Tennessee
Our Supporters

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for supporting the AAI’s programs and activities in 2012-2013 through financial contributions or services:

- U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities (Award #HD-51425-11 and HK-50037-12)
- The Encyclopedia of Life (Computable Data Challenge Award)
- American Council of Learned Societies (Digital Innovation Fellowship)
- The National Science Foundation (Award #1216810 and #1217240)
- Google Grants
- The California Digital Library
- The Presidio Trust
- David Boochever
- Norma Kershaw
- Jack and Marilyn Whitcher