



THE ALEXANDRIA  
ARCHIVE INSTITUTE

Opening the past. Inspiring the future.

# Annual Report

# 2015

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# Who We Are

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**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.

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

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## Key Developments & New Programs

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In 2015, we developed several programs aiming to look beyond the archive. These are in response to our previous research and have the broader objective of addressing a major challenge faced by archaeology: not only do we need to preserve data, but we also need to promote the skills and perspectives essential for creating a meaningful, reusable digital record of the past.

***“We need the Humanities,  
now more than ever,  
because they give us access to  
the most fundamental and consequential  
dimensions and forces of our experience.”***

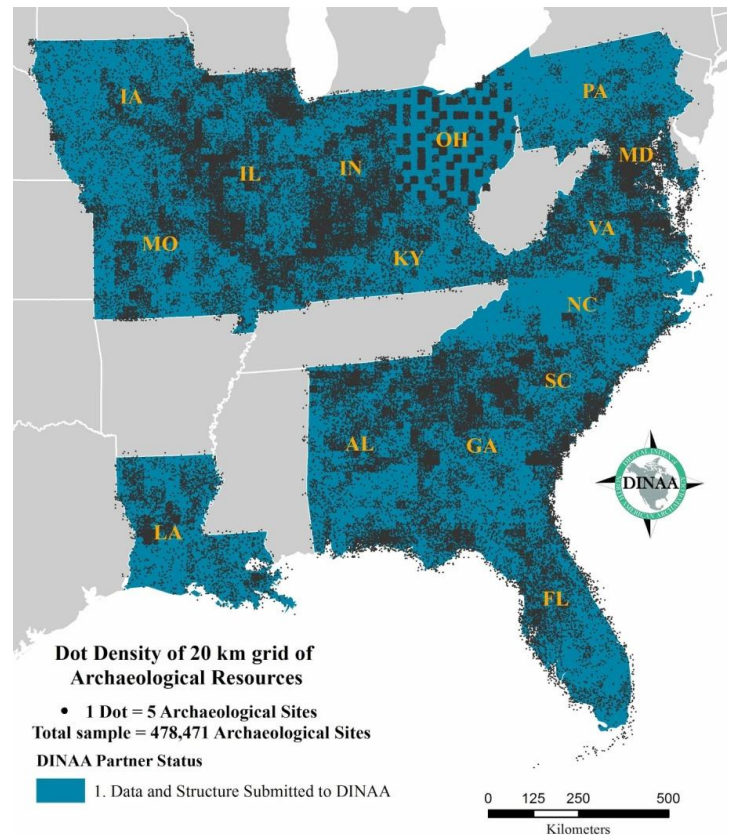
– William D. Adams, NEH Chairman

### Bridging Data Collection and Use

This year, the AAI received a Research and Development Grant from the Preservation and Access Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant supports a three-year project that aims to improve the quality, research impact, and instruction uses of data collected by field archaeologists. This work involves observations and interviews with creators, managers, and re-users of archaeological data in three geographical areas across the globe—namely Peru, Ethiopia, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom, all field projects sponsored by the Institute for Field Research. Our team will investigate data quality and modeling requirements for re-use by a larger research community, with a goal of improving the quality of information collected during archaeological excavations across the globe, preserving it, and sharing it with the public. Outcomes include exemplary open datasets, an expansion of Open Context’s data publishing services, and online educational modules. The project team includes researchers at Stanford University, the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), the University of Michigan, and the Institute for Field Research. The NEH’s support for this work demonstrates their commitment to making quality humanistic research more accessible to the public.

## Expanding the Digital Index of North American Archaeology

The *Digital Index of North American Archaeology* (DINAA) documents the human presence on the North American landscape since the Pleistocene by aggregating archaeological and historical data from governmental authorities that manage heritage resources. In development since 2012 with support from the National Science Foundation, DINAA is hosted by Open Context and developed by a multi-institutional team with collaborators at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) and the Indiana University (South Bend). New funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will expand DINAA's network of collaborating partners to include tribal archaeology professionals, library professionals, and museums, as represented by the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.



DINAA has already integrated and published archaeological site data from 15 states in Open Context, encompassing the rich chronological, cultural, and anthropological metadata used by authorities and researchers alike. Researchers and the public can currently download over 380,000 site file records (with sensitive location, ownership, and other data redacted), free of charge and intellectual property restrictions. With new funding, DINAA coverage will expand to eventually encompass an estimated 2-3 million archaeological sites. In doing so, DINAA will provide researchers, museums, libraries, government offices, stakeholders, and the general public with a powerful gazetteer of all known archaeological sites in the United States, as well as critical infrastructure for indexing widely distributed archaeological and collections databases, and tens of thousands of reports now languishing as nearly inaccessible “grey literature.”

## Data Publishing as Professional Practice

This year saw the successful conclusion of the project *Applying Linked Open Data: Refining a Model of Data Sharing as Publication*, a three-year project supported by a Digital Humanities Implementation Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project's primary aim was to better situate open data in professional practice by developing a model of "data sharing as publication." Our approach highlighted the key importance of editorial processing and peer review in the production of high-quality, reusable datasets. Key to this project's success was collaboration by many individuals working across the globe.

Over three years (Sept. 2012 – Aug. 2015), this project used case studies to demonstrate an extensible model for publishing well-documented and reusable scholarly data in Open Context. The project was highlighted by the digital library and scientific data management communities with a "Best Paper" award at the 2014 International Digital Curation Conference. Major outcomes of the project included refinement of Open Context's Linked Open Data capabilities, including tools and workflows, enabling researchers to relate datasets with other data published on the Web; improved understanding of how to manage data publication workflows and account for their costs; and refinement of Open Context's Editorial Policies & Author Guidelines.

***"...while data preservation alone motivates better data management, emphasizing data reuse as a professional goal will go even further to improve data management practices."***

– Kansa, Kansa & Arbuckle  
in "Publishing and Pushing: Mixing Models for Communicating Research Data in Archaeology"  
*International Journal of Digital Curation* (2013)

## International Collaborations

The German Archaeological Institute (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut / DAI), one of the world's largest institutional sponsors of archaeological research, runs a vast array of scientific and cultural heritage preservation programs worldwide. To support these activities, the DAI has recently built a powerful cloud computing infrastructure, which it will use to provide mirror hosting and back-ups for Open Context. This partnership between the DAI and Open Context represents an important milestone in bringing archaeology to the 21st century. Archaeological research creates digital data of tremendous scale and

complexity, making it extremely challenging to manage. The partnership pairs DAI's successes in digital preservation (through their IANUS project) with Open Context's powerful model for open access publication of rich data sets, image collections, maps, and other content that until now, rarely saw public exposure.

This marks the beginning of a new phase of collaboration to make information sharing easier and more efficient. Over the next year, the DAI will pilot use of Open Context for disseminating their own data, starting with zooarchaeological collections. Additional collaboration will center on developing Open Context's open-sourced software to support multiple languages and expand its capabilities for data visualization and analysis. At the same time, mirroring Open Context on the DAI cloud more than doubles Open Context's capacity and performance while providing additional permanent safeguards for the irreplaceable data it publishes.

Funding to develop this partnership came from a joint fellowship program offered by Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies and the German Archaeological Institute. Additional funding came from The J.M. Kaplan Fund and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



## **Archaeological Conservation Data Access and Preservation**

With support from the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the AAI concluded a pilot project demonstrating innovative approaches to the dissemination and integration of archaeological conservation data from sites in Turkey. This project piloted the expansion of Open Context's publication services to meet the professional needs of cultural heritage conservation. Interviews with conservators and review of conservation datasets informed the development of infrastructure to publish Linked Open Data vocabularies to better organize conservation data. This work's long-term goal is to improve professional practice by providing conservators and heritage managers with information about prioritizing conservation interventions, understanding archaeological significance, and learning from the experiences of others about the effectiveness of prior conservation methods.

# Conferences, Workshops & Publications

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## Conferences & Workshops

1. Society for American Archaeology conference (San Francisco, CA). Presentation: *Academic Freedom, Data, and Job Performance in the Panopticon* (by Eric Kansa)
2. Society for American Archaeology conference (San Francisco, CA). Forum: *Evaluating and Rewarding 21st Century Archaeological Scholarship* (Sarah W. Kansa, organizer).
3. Society for American Archaeology conference (San Francisco, CA). Forum: *Diverse Digital Archaeologies* (Sarah W. Kansa, panelist).
4. Center for Hellenic Studies (Washington DC). Presentation: *Contextualizing Digital Data as Scholarship in Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology* (by Eric Kansa)
5. Linking the Middle Ages Workshop (Austin, TX): Invited presentation: *Scholarly Communications and Linked Open Data in Archaeology* (by Eric Kansa)
6. Dryad Community Meeting (Washington DC, May 2015): Invited Panelist (Eric Kansa)
7. Institute on Digital Archaeology Method & Practice (Lansing, MI). Eric Kansa was a faculty member for the NEH-funded institute organized by Michigan State University's Department of Anthropology and MATRIX: The Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences. The Institute brought together archaeologists and closely associated scholars interested in developing critical, hands-on skills in digital method and practice.
8. 2015 Chacmool Conference (Calgary, AL). Presentation: *Data as Professional Practice in Archaeology* (by Sarah W. Kansa)
9. American Schools of Oriental Research (Atlanta, GA). Presentation: *Connecting the Dots: Data Publishing and Synthesis for the Archaeology of Cyprus* (by Eric Kansa, Sarah Whitcher Kansa, and William Caraher)
10. American Schools of Oriental Research (Atlanta, GA). Presentation: *Research Impacts of Linked and Open Archaeological Data: Case Studies from the Eastern Mediterranean* (by Eric Kansa)



## Program-Related Publications

Kansa, Eric. 2015. Contextualizing Digital Data as Scholarship in Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology. *CHS Research Bulletin* 3(2). [Available open access: <http://www.chs-fellows.org/2015/08/03/contextualizing-digital-data-as-scholarship-in-eastern-mediterranean-archaeology/>]

Kansa, Eric C. 2015. Reimagining Archaeological Publication for the 21st Century. In A. Traviglia, ed. *Across Space and Time: Papers from the 41st Conference on Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology, Perth, 25-28 March 2013*. pp. 367-378. Amsterdam University Press.

Kansa, Sarah Witcher and Carrie Dennett. 2015. Exploring Open Access for SAA Publications. *The SAA Archaeological Record* 15 (2): 5-8. [[Available Open Access](#)]

Kansa, Sarah Witcher and Eric Kansa. 2015 "Reflections on a Road Less Traveled: Alt-Ac Archaeology." *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology & Heritage Studies* 3(3): 293-298. [DOI:10.5325/jeasmedarcherstu.3.3.0293](https://doi.org/10.5325/jeasmedarcherstu.3.3.0293) [[Article](#)] [[Open Access Preprint](#)]

# Financial Information

Statement of accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015

Total income for the AAI during the financial year ending June 30, 2015 was \$137,204. Expenses during that period totaled \$90,872.

Assets	
<i>Checking/Savings</i>	
Checking	49,012
<i>Total Checking/Savings</i>	<i>49,012</i>
<i>Accounts Receivable</i>	
Pledges Receivable	50,000
<i>Total Accounts Receivable</i>	<i>50,000</i>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$99,012</b>
Liabilities & Equity	
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable	11,861
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>11,861</i>
<i>Equity</i>	
Opening Balance	4,855
Unrestricted (retained earnings)	35,965
Net income	46,332
<i>Total Equity</i>	<i>87,152</i>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$99,012</b>

Income	
Grants	133,904
Individual donations	2,000
Data publishing fees	1,300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$137,204</b>
Expenses	
<b>Program Service Accomplishments:</b>	
<i>Creating Educational Content<sup>1</sup></i>	54,523
<i>Cultural Heritage Programs<sup>2</sup></i>	36,349
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$90,872</b>
<b>Details:</b>	
Salaries & related expenses	60,590
Travel	1,921
Conferences / Meetings	5,245
Telephone/Internet/Software	6,303
Consulting	9,877
Other (temp help, grants, supplies, equipment, taxes, compliance, printing)	6,936

<sup>1</sup>**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 and individuals to add content, develop workflows, and address incentives around research data management.

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

# People

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## Staff

- [Sarah Witcher Kansa](#), *Executive Director*
- [Eric Kansa](#), *Technology Director and Open Context Project Director*

## Consultants

- John Ward, *Software Engineer*
- Phoebe France, *Usability Specialist*
- Carter Wells, *Fundraising Consultant*

## 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.

- [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, Director, 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](#), Associate 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. Witcher, 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

The Editorial Board for Open Context was established in mid-2010 and currently comprises the fourteen members listed below. 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.

- [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 (retired)
- [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

# Current Support

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We are grateful to the following organizations who, in addition to our Board of Directors and individual donors, sustain the AAI's programs and activities through financial contributions and services:

- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (Award #HK-50037-12)
- [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
- [National Science Foundation](#) (Award #1216810 and #1217240)
- [J.M. Kaplan Fund](#)
- [Leon Levy Foundation](#)
- [Center for Hellenic Studies](#), Harvard University
- [German Archaeological Institute](#) (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)
- Google Grants
- [California Digital Library](#)



Deutsches  
Archäologisches  
Institut



CENTER FOR  
HELLENIC STUDIES  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**



**CDL**



INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES

**Google grants**

# History of Projects & Funding

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The majority of AAI's support comes from government grants and private foundations. In addition to grant funding for the projects listed below, we rely on many individuals for enabling financial and in-kind contributions.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Granting Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
<b>2015</b>	\$299,112	National Endowment for the Humanities	Research & Development Grant (to commence in January 2016): <i>Beyond Management: Data Curation as Scholarship in Archaeology</i>
<b>2014</b>	\$30,000	The J.M. Kaplan Fund	Support for the project <i>Conservation Data Management to Promote Good Practice</i>
<b>2014</b>	\$35,000	German Archaeological Institute / Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies	Faculty Fellowship (Eric Kansa): <i>Best practices and workflows for publishing Classical archaeology data</i>
<b>2012</b>	\$261,056	National Endowment for the Humanities	Digital Humanities Implementation Grant: <i>Applying Linked Open Data: Refining a Model of Data Sharing as Publication</i>
<b>2012</b>	\$33,000	Encyclopedia of Life	Computable Data Challenge Grant: <i>Exploring the Biogeography of Early Domestic Animals using Linked Open Data</i>
<b>2012</b>	\$120,000	National Science Foundation	Archaeology Program Grant: <i>The Digital Index of North American Archaeology</i>
<b>2012</b>	\$90,000	American Council for Learned Societies	Digital Innovation Fellowship: <i>Developing a Data Journal for Archaeology</i>
<b>2011</b>	\$49,707	National Endowment for the Humanities	Digital Humanities Start-up Grant: <i>Gazetteer of the Ancient Near East</i>
<b>2011</b>	\$108,000	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	Scholarly Communication Grant: <i>Toward Data Sharing as Publication: Establishing Editorial Policies and Workflows around Scientific Data Dissemination</i>
<b>2010</b>	\$35,000	Google	Digital Humanities Award: <i>Google Ancient Places (GAP) project</i>
	\$50,000	National Endowment for the Humanities	Digital Humanities Start-up Grant: <i>The Open Modern Art Collection of Iraq: Web tools for Documenting, Sharing and Enriching Iraqi Artistic Expressions</i>
<b>2008</b>	\$250,609	National Endowment for the Humanities / Institute for Museum and Library Services	Preservation & Access Grant: <i>Enhancing Humanities Research Productivity in a Collaborative Data Sharing Environment</i>
<b>2007</b>	\$75,400	National Endowment for the Humanities	Digital Humanities Fellowship for <i>Accessing and Presenting Open-Source Cultural Heritage Collections</i>

<b>2006</b>	\$250,000	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	Open Educational Resources Program Grant: <i>Open Context &amp; open data advocacy</i>
<b>2004</b>	\$375,000	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	Open Educational Resources Program Grant: <i>Open Context &amp; open data advocacy</i>
<b>2003</b>	\$125,000	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	Presidential Discretionary Fund Grant to <i>demonstrate an open access data sharing platform for archaeology</i>