



DARIAH-EU Annual Event

16th May 2019

ARCHAEOLOGY AND OPEN DATA

A step towards decolonization

Marta Lorenzon

marta.lorenzon@helsinki.fi



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROCESS

Excavation: data
collection

Analysis: data
interpretation

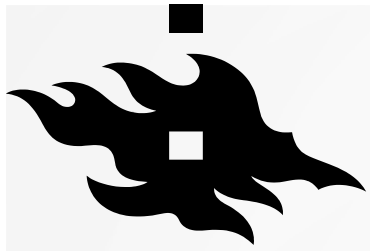
Dissemination: data
communication and
preservation

DATA COLLECTION

A photograph of ancient stone ruins, possibly a fortress or temple, situated on a small island or peninsula. The ruins are made of light-colored stone and feature several rectangular windows and doorways. Some people are visible walking on the ruins. The structure is surrounded by calm water, and the sky is a clear, pale blue. The text 'DATA COLLECTION' is superimposed in large, bold, black capital letters across the center of the image.

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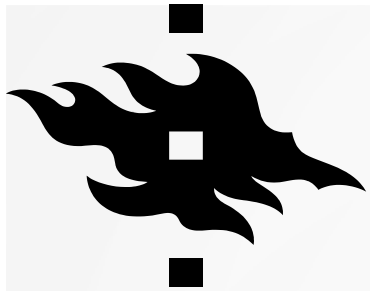
19.6.2019



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

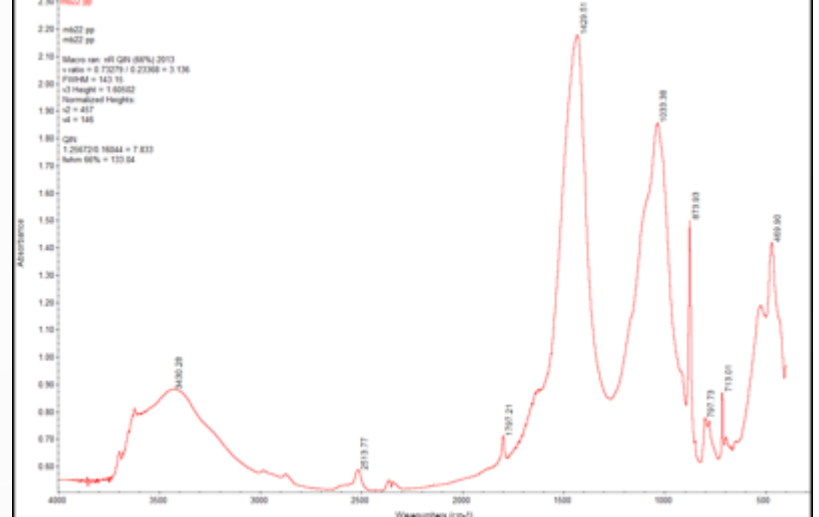
- Excavation destroys the context so archaeological recording is of paramount importance;
- Qualitative and Quantitative types of data;
- Active case study

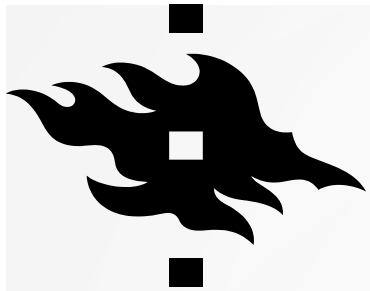




ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

“When the primary source has gone, the secondary source can be but a faint reflection of this” (De Grooth and Stoepker 1997, 299)





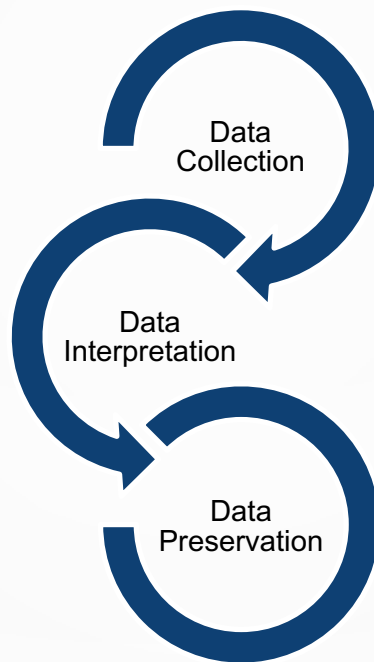
WHICH TYPE OF DATA?

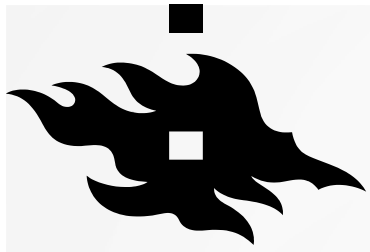
- Excavation records includes different data typologies → i.e. Geochemical, osteological, spatial, climatic, stratigraphic data
- Large quantity of data in multiple medium





THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROCESS

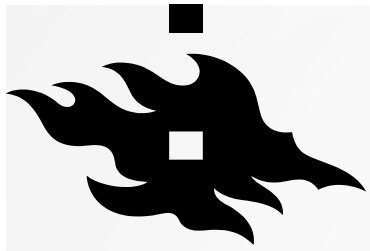




CASE STUDY: EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

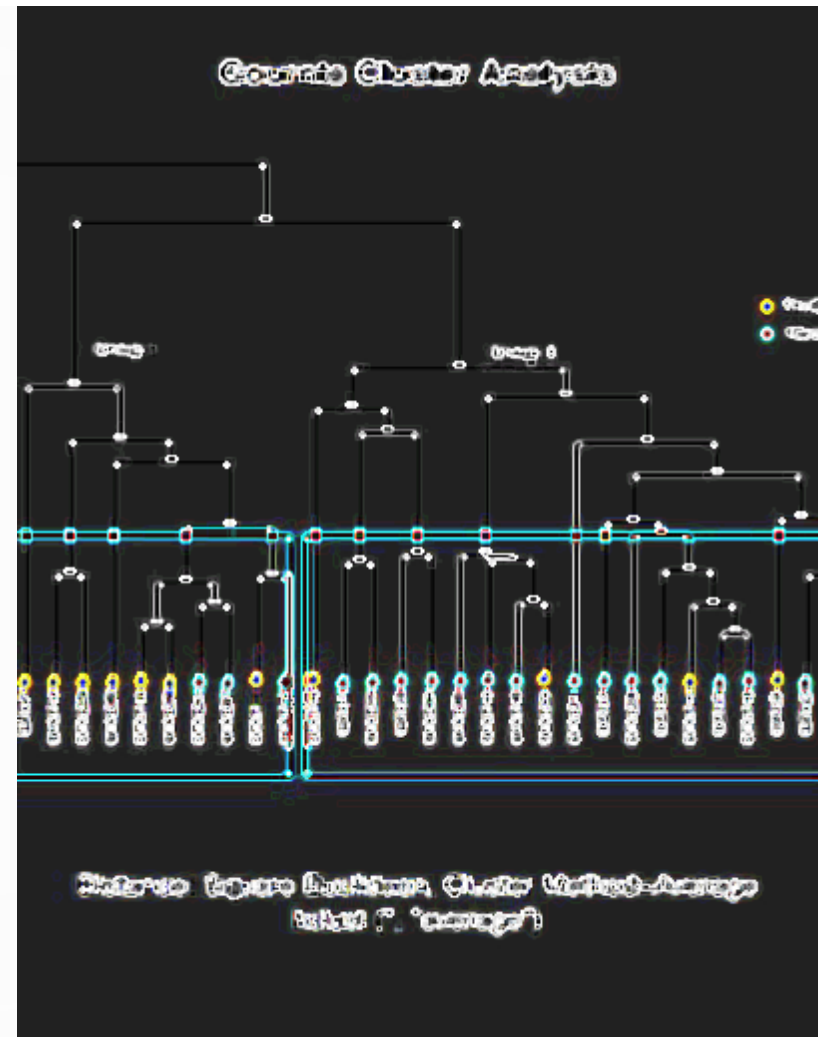
- Architectural data → spatial, structural and quantitative information
- Geoarchaeological data → geochemical records(XRF, XRD, FT-IR, SEM-EDS), petrography, and micromorphology
- Ethnoarchaeological data





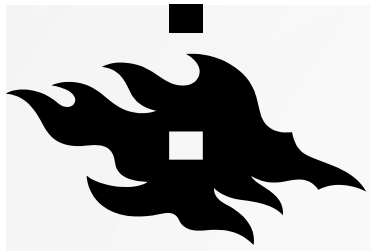
DATA INTERPRETATION

- Combination of methods (i.e. GIS, statistical tools)
- Multiple specialists
- Publication





DATA DISSEMINATION



CASE STUDY: EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

- Repositories of long term preservation
→ viability and applicability
- Publication is often associated with data interpretation, but requires interoperable platform to present complex data

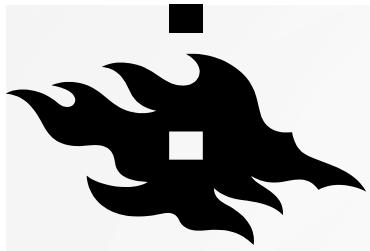




DATA PRESERVATION

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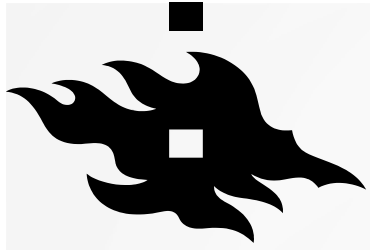
19.6.2019



DATA PRESERVATION

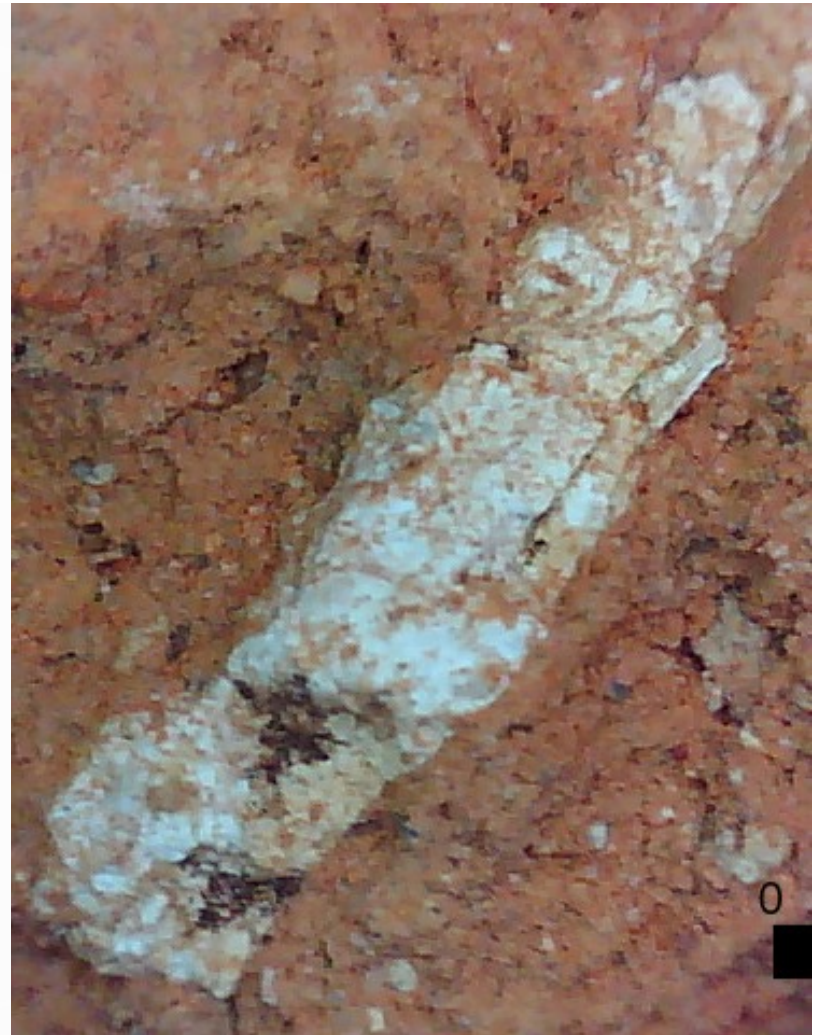
- Long-term preservation as Open data in ZENODO
- Archaeological data management (complexity of data)
- Community interactions with long-term repositories

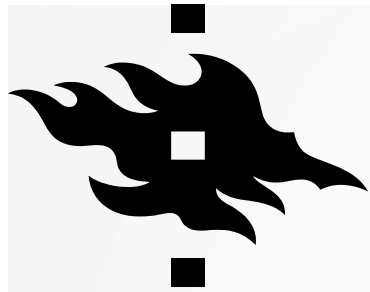




CASE STUDY: EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

- No dataset available in Zenobo
- Limited amount of data is open access
- Published data is often presented through interpretation lenses





DECOLONIZATION

- Decolonization in archaeology seeks to rebuild the narrative of the past through the empowerment of historically underrepresented communities
 - Interoperability of data
 - Interdisciplinarity of data
 - Accessibility of data



DISSEMINATION AS KEY TOOL

- Does the data belong to the archaeologists?
- Does it belong to the country where the excavation is located? Or to the local community nearby the excavation location? Or the financial sponsor of the excavation?
- What can we disseminate and how?

In Europe most national funding bodies financed by public money support open access to the primary data, but the situation is often not the same around the world or with different funding bodies.



DECOLONIZING ARCHAEOLOGY THROUGH DATA DISSEMINATION

- Archaeological data should belong to everyone as a source of public information about our shared past;
- Open access policies allow wider access to scholars from developing countries as well as local and indigenous communities;
- Archaeological practices should include publication of primary data;



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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