

Round Table

Entry ID: 204

Title: **Sustainability vs Innovation in Digital Fieldwork**

Description (250-300 words required)

Impressive technological developments and unbroken speed of innovation notwithstanding, digital field work in Archaeology has always been plagued by fundamental problems when it comes to aspects of sustainability. Key promises of the digital field work paradigm, such as effortlessness, cost efficiency, reproducibility and reusability of data have remained unfulfilled on a general level. It seems that the quest for ever faster, higher resolution data capture, the sheer speed of technological innovation, and the diversity of digital technologies leave little room to address less exciting but fundamental aspects of digital field work design and data capture. In close relation, there seems to be no comprehensive trend towards standardisation, simplification and interoperability, leaving one of Digital Archaeology's greatest promises, simple comparative analysis of globally distributed sites, as distant as it was before the introduction of digital technology.

Thus, we need to find answers to questions of sustainability in digital field work, such as:

- * What are the most promising technological paradigms for archaeological field work?
- * Can investment in multiple technological platforms, such as CAD and GIS, be sustained by the archaeological community, or is it time to remove some technologies from best practice, and fully invest in others?
- * What kind of data should we need to produce, so that future archaeologists can make good use of them? Do we need to focus on simple, standardised relational data structures, or will the use of AI make data structure irrelevant?
- * What are the factors that stand in the way of stronger interoperability and standardisation (and how much standardisation do we actually need)?

This session invites presentations that move beyond showcasing current technology, by providing ideas, insights, and ideally working approaches to the challenges of digital field work with a long-term sustainability focus.

Motivation:

The session is motivated by a specific need for resource optimisation. Digital archaeology being the domain of an enthusiastic community that is often short on resources, investments in (often expensive) digital technologies must be made with long-time sustainability and reusable digital output in mind.

Target Audience:

The session should cater to all those interested in gaining inspiration and insight into aspects of economically and technologically sustainable, digital fieldwork.

Keywords (3-5 keywords required):

sustainability, investment, digital fieldwork