

Archaeological Excavation Modelling Working Group: Activities and scope

The Archaeological Excavation Modelling Workgroup was created in the framework of the ARIADNEplus project to investigate the potential of developing an Application Profile for excavation data, explore the current state of excavation data modelling and propose a roadmap for further activities. Since its inception, the workgroup has actively engaged in a range of activities. Members have convened several times to discuss key aspects of archaeological excavation data modelling, organised a [virtual workshop](#) on excavation data modelling, and delivered presentations at the annual ARIADNEplus project meeting and the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) [conference](#) in 2022. As part of the ARIADNEplus deliverables, the group also prepared a detailed [report](#), arguing in favour of the sufficiency of CRMarchaeo to describe the excavation process and including five appendices covering various facets of excavation modelling.

Following the conclusion of the ARIADNEplus project, the group has continued its work that culminated in a collaborative article on semantic modelling of excavation data in [Internet Archaeology](#). A series of online workshops has also been launched to enhance members' skills in applying CIDOC CRM to archaeological excavation data. While participation in conferences as a group has been limited, the workgroup remains committed to pursuing such opportunities.

Altogether, the Archaeological Excavation Modelling Workgroup brings together a community of CIDOC CRM developers and domain experts. The group provides a forum for conceptual mapping exercises aimed at aligning excavation data descriptions and addressing the practical challenges of improving excavation data discoverability and reusability. The group believes that semantic modelling holds great potential for advancing the conceptual understanding of archaeological knowledge building practices, streamlining parts of the excavation process, and enriching data archives. Furthermore, some of this work may contribute to efforts by the CRM-SIG towards model expansion and revision to better accommodate less-structured areas of archaeological excavation research.

The group's ongoing efforts focus on making the CIDOC CRM ecosystem of concepts more accessible to practitioners, educating new modellers, and developing tools and methods to simplify semantic mapping and enhance data aggregation and retrieval. As the group has yet to establish an independent platform for sharing its collective output, the CIDOC CRM website is seen as an ideal venue for hosting and disseminating their work, linking it to a broader network of relevant resources.

For further information and your addition to the mailing list of the group's participants you can send an email to mkatsianis@upatras.gr

On behalf of the group

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