A Model for Transferring Legacy Datasets to Living Documents
A Case Study Using a GIS Geodatabase for Archiving

**Anasazi Origins Project (AOP)**
- In the late nineteen-sixties and early seventies, Cynthia Irwin-Williams investigated the antecedents of the Ancestral Puebloans, the Oshara Tradition.
- The Arroyo Cuervo region of northwestern New Mexico
- Fundamental to the understanding of the Archaic period in the northern Southwest
- Never archived, preserved, published the data or analysis of the findings from the AOP
- This neglect, caused the AOP to fall into a state of disrepair called a legacy dataset

**Inherent Problem in Archaeology**
- Continuous digging with little serious evaluation of the condition of the archaeological record or for that matter, the publication of findings
- Field work has come to be known as the “sexy” part of archaeology amongst its practitioners
- Lack of ethical practice due to circumstances of the discipline
- Financial and sometimes due to the lack of interest in the archaeological community

**Legacy Dataset**
1. Old
2. Not in Use
3. State of Disrepair
4. Obsolete

**Living Documents Approach**

1. The dataset is accessible for multiple parties
2. The dataset can be integrated with datasets from other disciplines
3. The dataset should be capable of being easily updated with additional data.
4. The dataset will have accompanying documentation which can include articles that explain or give additional meaning to the dataset.

DS*Geodatabases created by GIS are among the best tools in creating living documents for archaeology

**Geodatabase**
- Object-based vector data model
- Combination of geo (spatial data) database (data repository)
- Central electronic data repository for spatial data storage and management

**Methodology**
1. **Paper Documents:**
   - Two copies on acid free paper of the AOP site records
   - Original AOP site records and one copy on acid free paper stored in ENMU deep curation facility
   - One copy of the AOP site records on acid free paper copy available for researchers
2. **Database entry:**
   - AOP Site Records data entered into an Access database
   - Used Laboratory of Anthropology site record format
3. **Geodatabase:**
   - ArcGIS
   - Convert AOP Access database into a GIS geodatabase

**Results**
- A fluid electronic database:
  - Replication is easier and faster, without duplication of effort
  - Alternative storage
  - Capability to analyze data
  - Data and documents are preserved
  - Data can be reintroduced into the current archaeological dialogue

**Summary**
- A Model:
  - To preserve, archive and update legacy datasets to a fluid and transparent platform using a living documents approach
  - GIS Geodatabase as a tool to apply a living documents approach
  - Application of this model within recursive research

**Future Research**
- Expand the AOP database
- Submit AOP Site Records to:
  - Archaeological Records Management Section
  - New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System (NMCRIS)
  - Digital Antiquity
  - The Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR)
- Apply this model to other Legacy Datasets
- Experiment with multiple viable tools for preservation, archiving and living documents approach:
  - Google Earth, tDAR and NMCRIS
  - Develop a model for preserving and archiving other types of legacy datasets
- Create a contextual document:
  - A compendium of electronic databases for replication
  - How documents are preserved

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