

CifA Archaeological Archives Special Interest Group – Bulletin – November 2015

The most recent committee meeting was held on 30 September; minutes to follow on the CifA website.

Discussions centred on the theme and format for the AGM and day conference for next March. We now have a title and a call for papers has been issued, see below:

Selection, De-selection and Rationalisation

Day conference hosted by CifA Archaeological Archives Group and including the AAG AGM

16 March 2016, Birmingham City Centre (venue to be confirmed)

It now seems to be generally accepted that we can no longer retain everything produced or recorded during an archaeological project, while space could be created in museum stores, through retrospective selection to current criteria – but what are those criteria? What should a selection strategy look like and has anybody actually applied one?

The aim of this meeting is to answer those questions with a set of overviews and case studies that provide context, introductory guidance and practical examples, with the ultimate goal being the creation of national guidelines. Participants should include those who monitor selection, those who apply it and those who curate the resulting collections. This issue is of interest to all archaeologists, in the present and the future, and we must ensure that the strategies we adopt are consistent, comprehensive and sound.

Potential themes of interest include

- Case studies where selection strategies have been applied in the field.
- Case studies where selection strategies have been applied during post excavation.
- (In both cases strategies which have involved discussions with the receiving museum would be considered from both the unit and museum perspective.)
- Examples where retrospective rationalisation has been undertaken.
- Discussions on future potential and sustainable development of archaeological archives.

If you are interested in getting involved, please send a 300 word abstract or a clear outline of your paper to Sam Paul s.h.paul@bham.ac.uk no later than **Monday 30 November**.

The Committee also bid farewell to one of its members, Dora Anastasiadou-Leigh, whose contribution will be much missed. We welcomed two new faces, Ellen McAdam and Steve Baker.

If you would like us to include your event in our next bulletin or for us to upload onto our Facebook page then please get in touch at archaeologicalarchives@gmail.com

The current membership of the AAG is 583 CifA members and 19 non-CifA group members.

Please remember all non-members can become a member of the group and all existing non-CifA group members can renew membership to the group anytime at a cost of £10 per year online www.archaeologists.net/groups/about or by sending a cheque to CifA head office. Please do encourage people to join us.

For the latest news, updates and discussions please see the group's Facebook and Twitter pages
www.facebook.com/pages/Archaeological-Archives-Special-Interest-Group/409131725829669
www.twitter.com/ifa_archives