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Looting Hoards of Gold & Poaching Spotted Owls: Data Confidentiality Among Archaeologists & Zoologists

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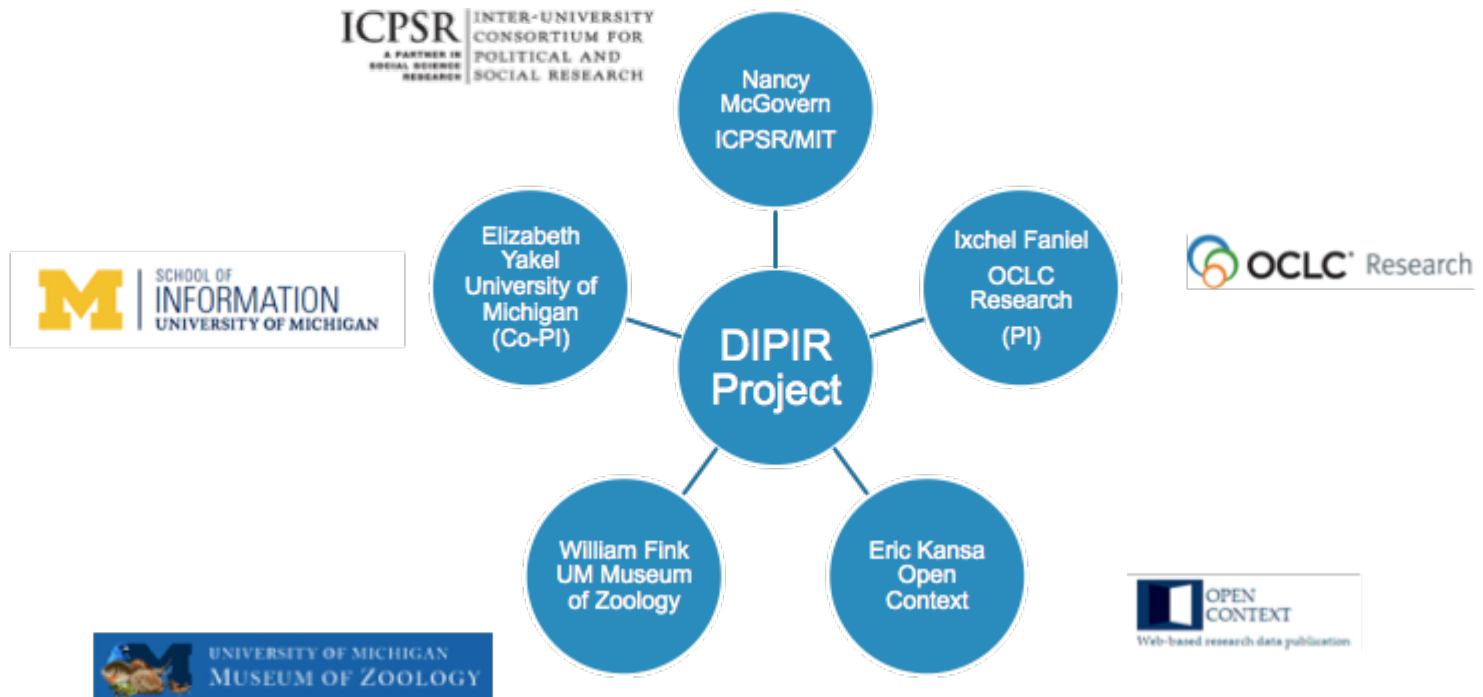
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<http://dipir.org/> @DIPIR_Project

- An Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-funded project led by Dr. Ixchel Faniel and Dr. Elizabeth Yakel.
- Studying data reuse in three academic disciplines to identify how contextual information about the data that supports reuse can best be created and preserved.
- Focuses on research data produced and used by quantitative social scientists, archaeologists, and zoologists.
- Intended audiences: researchers who use secondary data and the digital curators, digital repository managers, data center staff, and others who collect, manage, and store digital information.

Research Team



Introduction



<http://www.archaeology.org/issues/169-1503/trenches/2981-jersey-celtic-coin-hoard-gold-torque>



<https://flic.kr/p/otjKNZ>

Overview

Introduction

Methods overview

Research questions

Data collection & analysis

Findings →

Discussion

Issues for Repositories

Data: Artifacts, Specimens, and Location Information

Data Confidentiality: Sharing or Restricting Access to Location Information

Views About the Effectiveness of Restrictions on Sensitive Data

Data Management Responsibility

Methods Overview

	Open Context Archaeology	UMMZ Zoology	ICPSR Social Science
Phase 1: Project Start-Up (2011)			
Interviews: Staff	4	10	10
Phase 2: Collecting and Analyzing User Data (2012 - 2013)			
Interviews	22	27	43
Observations		13	
Survey			1480
Web Analytics	server logs		

Data Collection & Analysis

Data Collection

22 interviews with
archaeologists

40 interviews &
observations with
zoologists

Data Analysis

Confidentiality

Legal issues

Ethics & values

Funding agency mandates

Research Questions

How do perceptions of risk or potential harm influence attitudes about data confidentiality among archaeologists and zoologists?

How do perceptions of risk or potential harm influence attitudes about who should take responsibility for managing issues of data confidentiality among archaeologists and zoologists?

Data: Artifacts, Specimens, and Location Information

“Information about the age and the **location in a particular stratigraphy** where you find a specimen, the **location of the spot where the specimen came from**, and the taxonomic information about the assessment.” (Zoologist07)



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Data Confidentiality: Sharing or Restricting Access to Location Information

“We have very precise locational data **that we don't want the general public to access** because we're afraid of the **potential looters and hunters**” (Archaeologist02)

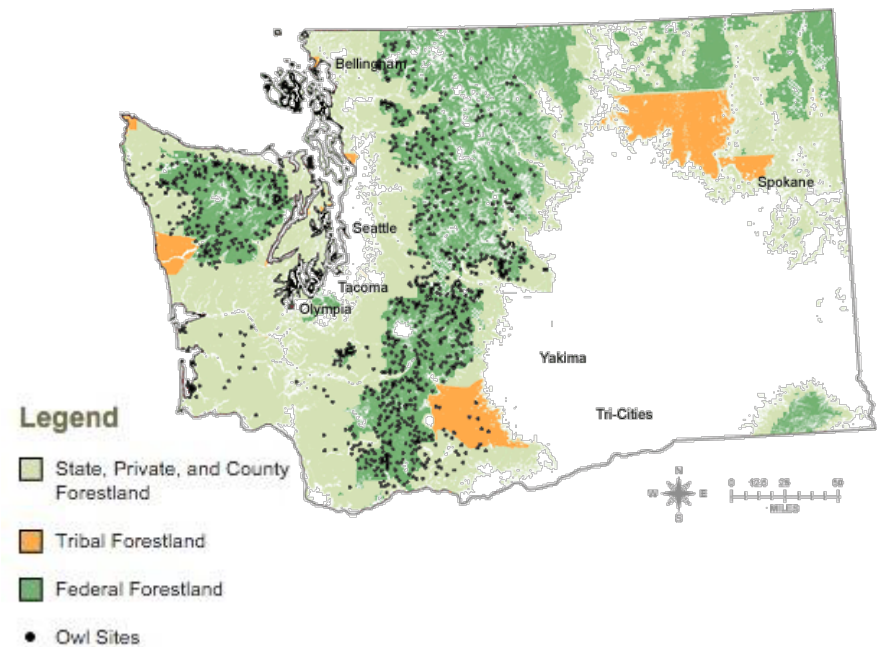


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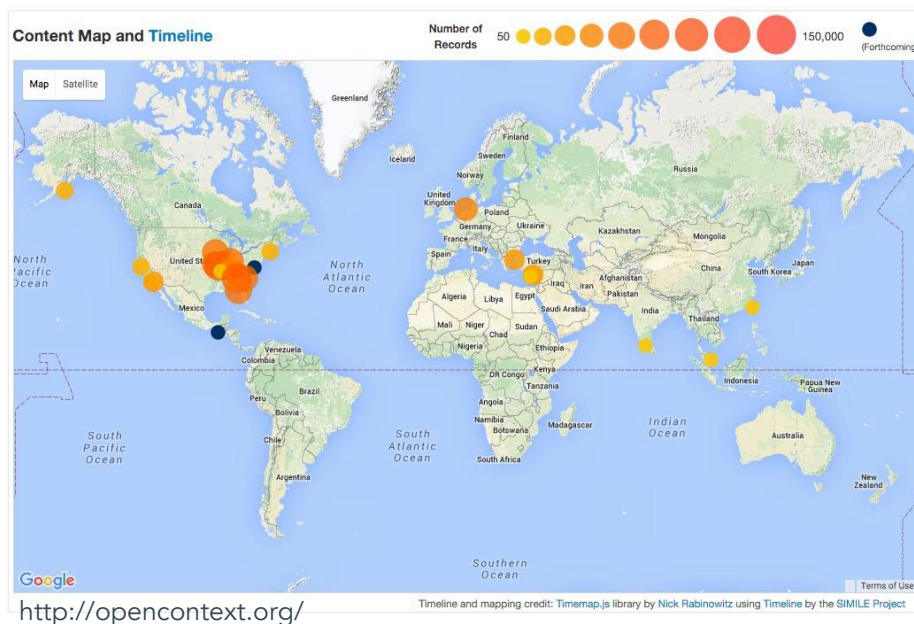
Views About the Effectiveness of Restrictions on Sensitive Data

"If you have data on all the nests of spotted owls of the Pacific Northwest, yeah, **that data should not be queryable by the public.** But that doesn't mean that if another scientist emails you and asks you for that data, that you should not give it to them." (Zoologist11)



<http://www.northernspottedowl.org/owlLocations/index.html>

Views About the Effectiveness of Restrictions on Sensitive Data



"we really **want people to know** where the sites are because **we believe that that protects them.**" (Archaeologist09)

Data Management Responsibility

"I'm going to pass the buck, so **repositories need to figure it out**...I wouldn't want to be responsible for making these choices." (Archaeologist06)

"Essentially, it's **not my responsibility** to police who's doing [what] with it." (Zoologist19)

Discussion

Potential harms

Shifting disciplinary norms

Locus of responsibility



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Issues for Repositories

Multiple, sometimes conflicting laws, rules, and ethical frameworks.

Sensitive data may be able to be inferred from other data points.

Identification of confidential data in past accessions may be difficult.

Developing systems, protocols and regimes that enable monitored reuse can be difficult and costly.



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