THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
Department of Anthropology
250 South Stadium Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-0720
Phone: (865) 974-4408
Fax: (865) 974-2686

4 October 2013

Dear Colleagues:

This letter is to provide you with an update on our activities during the first year of developing DINAA, the Digital Index of North American Archaeology, our project to link large numbers of archaeological data sources. The project centers on data in state site files and their potential to address large-scale research and resource management issues. We appreciate the support many of you have provided, and hope that more individuals and organizations will be interested in joining the project.

Feel free to share this update, and visit our project website where you can view the full text of our original technical proposal, the first annual report to NSF, as well as project news and other information, including security protocols, operating procedures, and technical papers given to date. We wish to emphasize that all primary site file and other data is strictly and securely maintained to the highest standards, and that no sensitive data gathered during this project will be published or distributed.

The majority of our first year's effort has involved in the development of partnerships and the collection and initial integration of site file data structures and primary information. Our aim has been to produce a set of data that spanned a large contiguous area in eastern North America. To date we have 13 partners and several others pending (Figure 1). We have begun integrating data from eight states so far, and have transfer agreements from five others. The project team has also been contacted by people in several other states with positive outcomes expected. We are near our goal in terms of spatial coverage, but remain interested in developing new partners, to ensure project results are as useful as possible.

Figure 2 shows a dot density distribution of site counts across the eight states incorporated into DINAA thus far. Dots are not exact site locations, but groups of ten sites whose position has been randomly distributed within 10x10km grid cells. Even at this small scale (1:12,000,000), regional patterning is observable with minimal data transformation hinting at the potential utility of the DINAA.

The DINAA project is designed to facilitate communication between site file managers, researchers, and land managers across eastern North America, and help them become aware of operations in states beyond their own. We will be hosting a workshop for project participants and interested colleagues in Knoxville this winter, with the goal of fostering communication while demonstrating the utility of DINAA. Details on the workshop will be forthcoming in a subsequent update, in the near future.

One product that will coming from the DINAA workshop and project will be a baseline summary of the current state of archaeological data management in much of the eastern United States, and how to proceed in the future. An earlier workshop of regional site file managers, held in 1995, produced a monograph that provides examples of the kinds of research and management statements we will be producing. We invite any colleagues interested in participating in this effort to contact us.

The DINAA, upon completion of this project, will be web-based and, thus, will be global, accessible to researchers across multiple disciplines and institutions. As such the project should be able to grow and develop independently, past this initial effort. Our ultimate objective is to have the DINAA, or something like it, eventually operate at multiple levels, from the local to the regional, continental, and perhaps someday global scale. While this will take time and resources to develop, the procedures by which it can be done are being developed as part of the DINAA project.

We thank you for your interest, and our partners for their continued participation.

Sincerely,
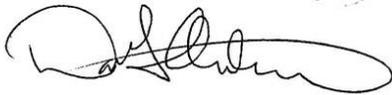
David G. Anderson, Ph.D., RPA
Professor and Associate Head
Department of Anthropology
The University of Tennessee
250 South Stadium Hall
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0720
865-974-2960 (o)
dander19@utk.edu
http://web.utk.edu/~anthrop/faculty/anderson.html
http://pidba.tennessee.edu/
http://bellsbend.pidba.org/

Joshua J. Wells, Ph.D., RPA
Indiana University South Bend
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Wiekamp Hall 2288
1700 Mishawaka Ave.
South Bend, IN 46634
574-520-4434 (o)

jowells@iusb.edu
https://www.iusb.edu/sociology-anth/faculty/personnel/wells.php

Eric Kansa, Ph.D.
Lead Developer, Open Context
Researcher, UC Berkeley, School of Information
125 El Verano Way
San Francisco, CA 94127
415-425-7380 (o)
ekansa@ischool.berkeley.edu
http://opencontext.org

Sarah Whitcher Kansa, Ph.D.
Executive Director, The Alexandria Archive Institute
Editor, Open Context
125 El Verano Way
San Francisco, CA 94127
415-425-7381 (o)
skansa@alexandriaarchive.org
http://alexandriaarchive.org
http://opencontext.org

Stephen J. Yerka, MA, RPA
IT Specialist
Archaeological Research Laboratory
University of Tennessee
5723 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, 37921
865-974-4618 (o)
syerka@utk.edu
http://archaeology.as.utk.edu
http://pidba.tennessee.edu
http://web.utk.edu/~fac/

Developing the Cyberinfrastructure for a National Archaeological Site Database

Figure 1. DINAA partnerships as of 30 September 2013. Colors in the figure represent the phase of interaction with partners.
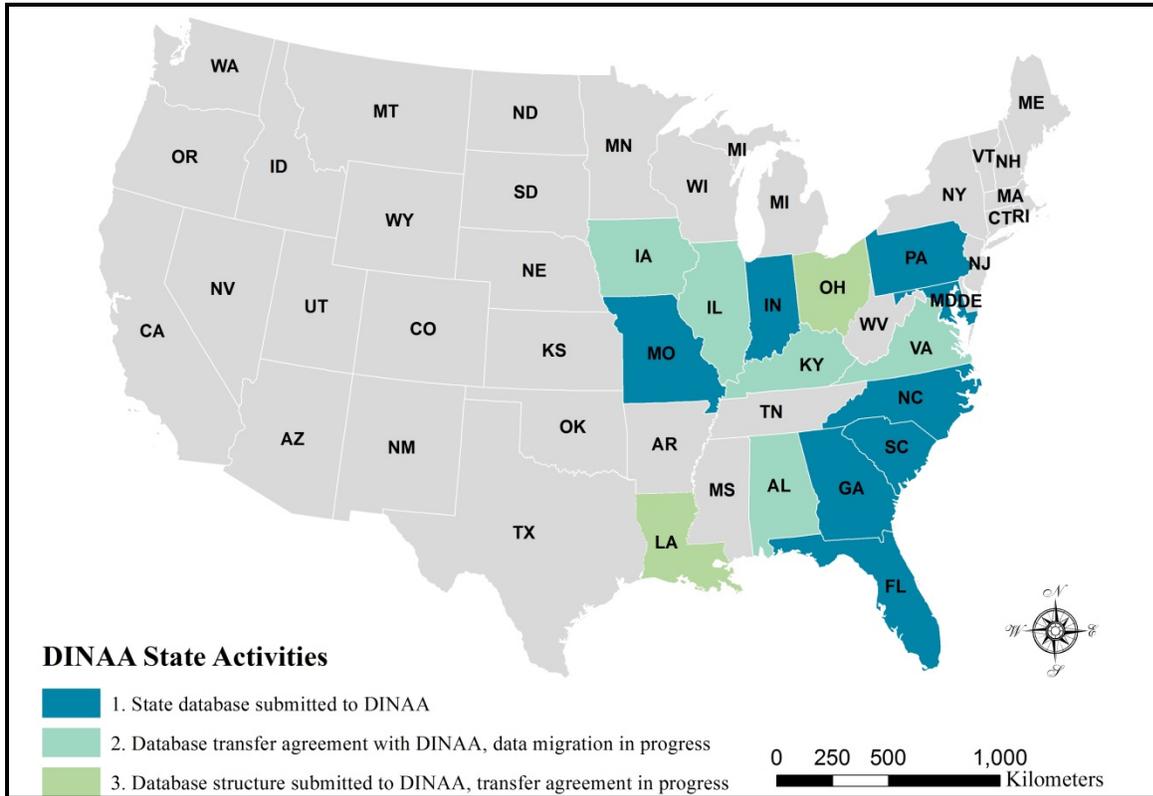
Figure 2. DINAA partnerships as of 30 September 2013 with dot density plot showing the distribution of cultural resources at low resolution within states whose data has been received thus far. Dots do not refer to exact site locations, but to groups of five sites whose position has been randomly assigned within arbitrary 10x10km grid cells (about the size of a USGS 7.5` Quadrangle).