The Mediterranean Archaeological Network - A Cyberinfrastructure for Archaeological Research and Site Preservation Planning

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The Mediterranean Archaeological Network (MedArchNet) is envisioned as a series of linked archaeological information nodes, each of which contains a regional database of archaeological sites that share a common database structure in order to facilitate rapid query and information retrieval and display within and across nodes in the network. Web-based attribute and spatial query applications are powered by open-source software and Google Maps/Google Earth mapping engines. These applications support scholarly research and preservation of archaeological sites; the tools assist in the development planning process, through pinpointing and then avoiding sensitive sites that are in areas of adverse impact, thus reducing overall project costs and helping identify and preserve archaeological sites. MedArchNet, at http://medarchnet.org, currently contains two active nodes: 1) the Digital Archaeological Atlas of the Holy Land (DAAHL) at http://daahl.ucsd.edu and the Aegean Digital Archaeological Atlas (ADAA) at http://adaa.ucsd.edu. The data nodes are developed by the GAIA lab, and served from Calit2 at UCSD. The cyberinfrastructure needed to support data collection and representation, information integration and display for the rich media collections represented by such a network of archaeological data have been developed so that they are extensible to other locations and other archaeological efforts, such as Egypt. The MedArchNet project actively cooperates with research organizations and government agencies to develop new data nodes and applications. Each of out current nodes has received significant sponsorship. The Digital Archaeological Atlas of the Holy Land (DAAHL) is a sponsored project of the American Schools of Oriental Research. The Aegean Digital Archaeological Atlas (ADAA) is a joint effort of the National Archive of Monuments of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the Institute for Aegean Prehistory. As MedArchNet develops additional data nodes, we look forward to expanding our cooperative efforts with additional data donors, research organizations and government agencies.