

1 Contract Archaeology Working Group

1.1 Purpose

Formulate the minimum requirements and parameters for:

- a. Functionality of mobile device applications required by contract archaeologists.
- b. Functionality of processing, analysis, and visualisation tools required by contract archaeologists.
- c. Submission of archaeological data to government agencies.
- d. Federation of government cultural heritage registries.
- e. Collection of, and access to, sensitive data in contract archaeology.

This working group should also discuss and provide direction on any other aspect of the FAIMS project arising during the Workshop relevant to the capture, management or analysis of archaeological data in the realm of contract archaeology.

1.2 Scope

FAIMS has been funded to develop infrastructure to enhance archaeological research. NeCTAR, the funding program, focus on university-based research. In Australia, however, private-sector contract archaeologists produce the majority of historical and Aboriginal archaeological data. It is essential that FAIMS develops a system that meets the requirements of archaeologist working in both the academic and contract spheres. There is likely to be considerable overlap in most areas, and these areas of congruence will be discussed in other work groups. The purpose of this working group is to highlight matters which predominantly affect contract archaeologists carrying out their work for the purpose of cultural heritage management.

It is necessary to consider the requirements of government compliance for data capture and publication, but it will not be possible to cover all jurisdictions. FAIMS will endeavour to provide a useful portal, but some government agencies may not have the resources, capacity, or inclination to share their data in the long run.

1.3 Topics to Consider

- a. What are the fundamental differences between the practices of contract and academic archaeologists, in the field and in the lab?
- b. How different are the legislative frameworks in each state, and across each subfield? How does this affect the way you collect and manage archaeological data?

- c. How do government agencies influence the quality of data recording? Are standards and guidelines meaningful? Are they enforced?
- d. How do contract archaeologists develop and improve approaches to data capture?
- e. How do you share or publish your data? Who owns the data? Do IP concerns restrict data sharing? Who wants this stuff anyway?
- f. How useful and accessible do you find datasets and reports created by other contract archaeologists?

1.4 Expected Outcomes

- a. List of functionality requirements and desires for archaeological data management, including mobile device applications, data processing and visualisation, and submission to repositories / registries that are specific to contract archaeology (if any).
- b. List of requirements for archaeological data or metadata standards and expectations, specific to contract archaeology (if any).
- c. Summary of IP concerns (if any) and suggestions for addressing them.
- d. List of government registries to be included in the FAIMS network (e.g., for digital submission and search), and strategies for approaching the relevant agencies.