

1 Survey Working Group

1.1 Purpose

Formulate the minimum requirements for:

- a. Pedestrian surface survey data attributes to be deployed across the system (captured through mobile device applications and used to facilitate the production of comparable datasets).
- b. Functionality of the capture of survey data on the mobile device application.
- c. eResearch tools required for searching survey data.
- d. eResearch tools required for the analysis of survey data.

The working group should also discuss and provide direction on any other aspect of the FAIMS project relevant to the capture, management or analysis of pedestrian surface survey data.

1.2 Scope

While the requirements for data attributes may vary from project to project, we hope that this working group may agree on some minimum requirements for pedestrian surface survey that may be widely applicable.

FAIMS data capture application development is focused on the digital creation of data in the field on mobile devices (e.g., Android phones and tablets), but the project also envisions the development of companion desktop software. Applications will be modular and extensible. To ensure core functionality and encourage the creation of compatible datasets across as wide a range of projects as possible, we ask this group to focus on a minimum threshold of attributes that should be recorded under all (or almost all) circumstances during surface survey.

1.3 Topics to Consider

- a. What are the 10 most important components of survey record? Why?
- b. What is the desired granularity of your data? What is the smallest spatial or conceptual entity that you would like to be able to record digitally?
- c. What is the achievable granularity of your data? For example, do you only record site-level data, or do you record blanket artefact densities, including absences of artefacts? What is the smallest spatial or conceptual entity that you record?
- d. What data do you need to quantify (e.g., “this unit has 70% visibility”)?
- e. What in your data is a qualitative observation (e.g., “this field is difficult to cross”)?

- f. What in your data is a measured, objective observation (qualitative or quantitative, e.g., “this total pickup yielded 10kg of pottery”, “the color of this ceramic fabric is Munsel 7YR”)?
- g. What in your data is interpretive (e.g., “the pottery in this unit dates to the Roman era”)?
- h. Is there any “data” that doesn’t neatly fit in the above categories?
- i. When discussing the above questions, did the group use the same vocabulary to refer to the same concepts? What similar concepts were mapped to different words? What different concepts were mapped to the same words?

1.4 Expected Outcomes

- a. List of essential attributes required for recording surface survey units in the field.
- b. List of functionality requirements for recording surface survey unit data on a mobile device application.
- c. List of functionality requirements for searching surface survey unit data on the FAIMS portal.
- d. Suggestions regarding workflow or approach - what would the process of recording a survey unit in the field look like?
- e. Suggestions for analytical tools to be included within or developed by the FAIMS portal.
- f. Should controlled vocabularies be used throughout (and if so, global or local)?