1 Sustainability Working Group

1.1 Purpose and Scope

FAIMS seeks to develop an infrastructure that would allow archaeological data to be managed from its digital creation to processing, archiving and publication. We want to establish the core of a distributed, open-source ecosystem for archaeological data management. Such infrastructure will combine many tools and repositories, and exceed many existing digital resources in scope. Given the idiosyncratic data that archaeologists collect, the mobile tools will need to be continually developed and customised to fit the needs of new archaeological objectives. Repositories and the databases behind them will require ongoing maintenance. Maintaining the functionality of the entire infrastructure and sustaining the development of its individual components will be a major challenge. FAIMS would like this group to consider the challenges of long-term maintenance and development of the FAIMS infrastructure and its components. FAIMS asks this group to articulate approaches and models to sustain the project.

Topics to Consider

a. How do you usually acquire the tools and software required for your fieldwork?

b. How much does it cost your project to manage your data? Consider hardware, software, publication, and personnel costs.

c. Do you think you could invest more in software and tools, and less in personnel?

d. What are the main differences between academic and contract archaeologists in how they invest in data management?

e. How often do you encounter incompatible datasets that hinder your research?

f. Should individual components be funded separately and through different strategies?

g. Are you willing to pay for individual components separately? If so, which ones?

h. What models of funding are you familiar with or can you identify for an open source archaeological data management ecosystem?

1.2 Expected Outcomes

a. Identify possible funding models for FAIMS project.

b. Identify possible funding models for individual FAIMS components.

c. Identify "reasonable costs" for various possible fees.

d. Identify how best to approach different categories of stakeholders (e.g., university researchers vs. contract archaeologists) when funding the project.

e. Articulate a successful overall strategy for long-term sustainability for FAIMS digital tools.

1.3 Ten funding approaches for consideration

Consider this list a starting point - eliminate, add, and qualify as you see fit.

a. Software as a service - a recurring fee for mobile application and other software.

b. A customization fee for field recording systems.

c. A curation fee for online archiving and publication.

d. An access fee for use various FAIMS online components.

e. A subscription fee for the FAIMS portal (i.e., a fee charged to libraries, universities, or researchers to access the datasets).

f. Pay-per-view for downloads.

g. Subscription or hourly rate fees for help-desk support.

h. Grant support sought by FAIMS (i.e., applications for further infrastructure grants).

i. Expectation or requirement that individual (academic?) users of FAIMS apply for grant support (e.g., on ARC or NSF grants).

j. Corporate and/or other institutional sponsorship.