ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Bernese Archaeological Database. Don't reinvent the wheel. Linked database - also for to go.

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Abstract

Archaeology would be meaningless without the data describing artefacts and their archaeological context. Therefore, accurate documentation of the artefact and its context is integral to archaeological research. Current excavation databases often rely on highly individualised software solutions that lack interoperability.

The Bernese Archaeological Database project, initiated in 2023, aims to create a standardized data model for an archaeological **graph database**. The data model is designed to meet the requirements of two ongoing archaeological projects: **excavations** in Sirkeli Höyük and the Togolok Archaeological Project (TAP). The project at Sirkeli Höyük records data in a relational database, whereas the TAP stores data in multiple unrelated data tables. A planned archaeological project in Iraq will contribute a third practical case study for conceptualising and realizing the data model.

In my contribution, I present the designed data model and discuss the challenges of integrating data sets exported from existing databases and unstructured data inherited from archaeological missions of the pre-digital era. Regarding the comparability of archaeological data sets, I outline the benefits of **Linked Open Data (LOD)** and argue for the implementation of controlled vocabularies, e.g. the **Getty Thesaurus of Geographical Names (TGN)®**, the **Cultural Objects Names Authority® (CONA**), and the **Iconography Authority (IA**).

Keywords

Excavations, Database, Linked Open Data, CIDOC, FAIR Principles

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