ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Ethical Open Data in Heritage and Archaeology: Steps Toward Improving FAIR + CARE Practices

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Abstract

This poster presents the development of ethical open data governance tools for digital heritage. These resources aim to prioritize collaboration and mitigate data loss due to hardware failures, media degradation, software obsolescence, and inadequate documentation. Through highlighting the activities of two grant-funded research networks conducted under the auspices of Alexandria Archive Institute, it focuses on novel ways to implement FAIR and CARE data governance frameworks in archaeology. While the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) Data Principles focus on eliminating barriers to open data and encouraging access and reuse, the CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics) Principles for Indigenous Data Governance prioritize traditional knowledge and emphasize collaboration around data that document the histories, landscapes, and cultures of Indigenous and other descendant communities. The study argues that CARE is highly relevant to archaeology of the Middle East despite being less widely known than in other global contexts. By providing guidance for collaborative practice and models for ethical open data management, this study introduces ways to improve the quantity and quality of reusable data. It also aims to raise awareness of CARE while reducing risks of harm and encouraging meaningful participation and benefits-sharing with a range of descendant communities.

Keywords

Digital heritage, Ethics, Open Data, FAIR, CARE

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