

# FULFILLING BREASTED'S VISION:

The Oriental Institute's Integrated Database Project



THE  
ORIENTAL  
INSTITUTE

MAY 1, 2014

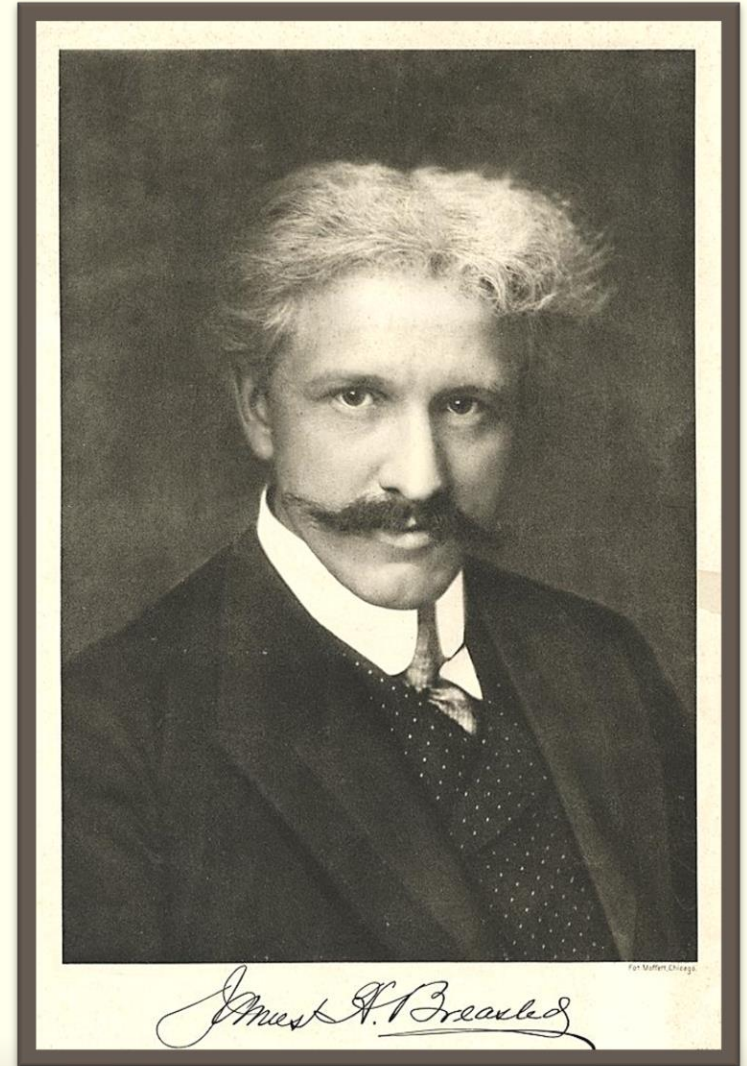


# Cataloging the Ancient Near East

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“The volume of evidence left us by ancient civilizations of the Near East is, however, so vast that it is impossible for any single brain to carry the details which would make possible instructive comparison of evidences from all the different civilizations and from various groups of sources. Some form of catalogue or index is therefore indispensable.”

- James Henry Breasted, *The Oriental Institute*, p. 406

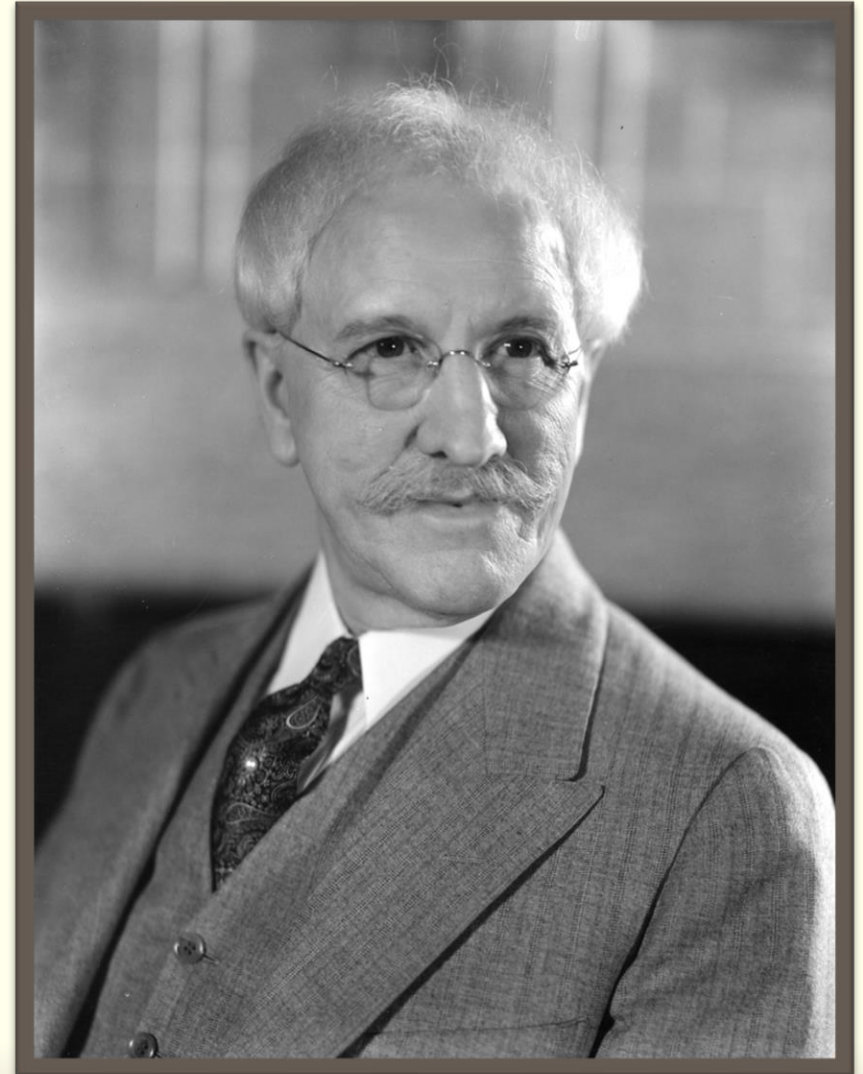


# Cataloging the Ancient Near East

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“What the Dictionary is doing for a *language* should likewise be done for the *whole range of evidence* surviving from the ancient oriental civilizations as a whole. ... *The project is one of the most important in the whole range of humanistic research.* It is an urgently needed tool. The Institute is the obvious agency to produce such an encyclopedic organization of the evidences revealing the life and history of ancient man. For financial reasons alone, however, the Institute cannot at present undertake it. ... Nevertheless, the writer cherishes the hope that the larger and more comprehensive plan ... envisaged may eventually be carried out by the Institute.”

- James Henry Breasted, *The Oriental Institute*, p. 406-407



# Integrated Database Project: Objectives

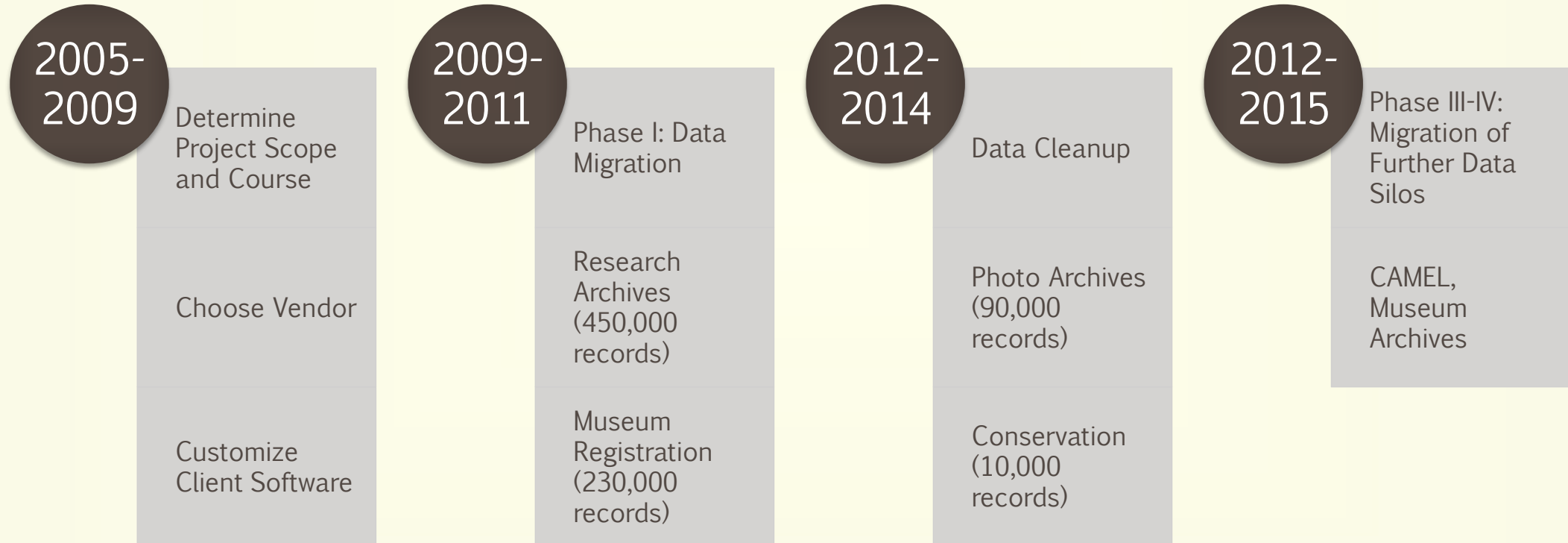
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1. Ensure sustainable software environment appropriate for cultural heritage requirements
2. Make data accessible to scholarly and public audiences
3. Integrate data between institutional departments in unprecedented ways
4. Expand the scope and utility of the data and data functionality with core users in mind including staff, scholars, and public
5. Explore possibilities for further integration between sister institutions and projects

# Integrated Database Project: History

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# Introduction



- Database and Accessibility
  - Internal: KE EMu Client Software
    - Field Museum, Cairo Museum, Smithsonian, University of Pennsylvania, *inter alia*

- Public: Browser Based Public Interface
  - Developed by University of Chicago Information Technology Services

- Data exported from EMu and managed separately for faster dynamic searching, sorting, and browsing


A screenshot of a web browser displaying a large table of digital collection records. The table has multiple columns including 'Type', 'Call Number', 'Author', 'Title', 'Series', 'Volume', 'Issue', 'Date', 'Location', and 'Accession'. The records are listed in a grid format, with each row representing a different item in the collection. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.oi.uchicago.edu'. The table contains numerous rows of data, providing a detailed view of the digital collection's contents.

# Collection Search: The Integrated Database

- Integrated Searching
- Build custom searches across multiple data silos
- Browse collections based on preselected criteria


**SEARCH OUR COLLECTIONS**

Welcome to the online home of the Oriental Institute's Integrated Database. This is an on-going project that aims to provide public access to information about the diverse research and object-based collections managed and cared for by the Oriental Institute.




**Museum Collection**

Explore over two hundred and seven thousand registered objects in the permanent collection and special exhibitions galleries.




**Research Archives**

Browse over four hundred and fifty thousand entries that represent complete analytics (volumes, manuscripts, essays, articles, and book reviews) for all cataloged Research Archives materials.



**Photographic Archives**

Search for high resolution images related to our collections, publications, archaeological expeditions, and historical milestones from the Institute's Photographic Archives collection.




**Museum Conservation**

Specialized training provides conservators with the knowledge to care for our collections. This includes conserving unstable objects, preparing them for display and monitoring their environment.


Search All  Keyword

[Search Tips and Instructions](#)

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INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**

**Aimee Drolet**

How can we make this a more valuable resource? Let us know what content and features you would like to see.

**Browse Galleries**

Museum Gallery:

Object Type/Description:

Materials:

Place Name:

Culture:


Dating:

# Online Collections Database

- Integrated Searching
- Build custom searches across two color coded data silos
- Integrated Museum Registration object data with Research Archives bibliographic records

## SEARCH OUR COLLECTIONS


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Search All  Demotic      Ostrakon      Muhs   [Search Tips and Instructions](#)



# Collection Search: The Integrated Database

- View color-coded and integrated results easily filtered through tab controls and facets

Research Archives Museum Collection Search All

Relevance 1 - 50 of 1008 Page 1 50 results per page

#	Result	Refine Results
1	<p><b>Tablet</b></p> <p>Description: Cuneiform tablet inscribed on both sides with a memo about a tablet-basket, dated to year 3, month 7 of king Amar-Sin, from Drehem.</p> <p>Material: Clay (Clay)</p> <p>Dimensions: 42 x 37 x 18 mm</p> <p>Media: 1 image</p> <p>Registration Number: A 3330</p>	<p><b>Object Type/Description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Classification Broad</li><li>+ Classification Specific</li><li>+ Description</li></ul> <p><b>Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Materials Broad</li><li>+ Materials Specific</li></ul>
2	<p><b>Tablet</b></p> <p>Description: Cuneiform tablet inscribed on both sides with a memo about a tablet-basket, dated to year 1, month 10 of king Amar-Sin, from Drehem.</p> <p>Material: Clay, Baked</p> <p>Dimensions: 38 x 35 x 19 mm</p> <p>Media: 1 image</p> <p>Registration Number: A 4574</p>	<p><b>Place Name</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Region</li><li>+ Country</li><li>+ Various Sites</li><li>No facets</li><li>+ Locus</li></ul> <p><b>Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Culture</li></ul>

# Collection Search: The Integrated Database

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1. Book with multiple PDFs  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/688696/H/1396966576853>
2. Object with 48 images  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/10788/H/1396966615023>
3. Object with 2 images  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/43383/H/1396966639289>
4. Object with 8 images  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/6693/H/1396966661933>
5. Book with image and PDF  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/672720/H/1396966685179>
6. Book with 1 image  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/304094/H/1396966713060>
7. Object with 226 images  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/47997/H/1396971274969>
8. Object with 2 images and 1 video  
<http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/#D/58893/H/1396971559292>

# Integrated Database Project: Summary

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1. Sustainable platform for data stewardship
2. Integrated bibliographic and object data searching, sorting, and browsing
3. Migration of further data silos and integration between bibliographic, object, conservation, archival, photographic, and GIS data
4. Expanded data entry to include archaeological field data, author's biographical data, links between volumes and volume reviews (and vice versa), and further thesaurus refinement for integration between silos
5. Eventual integration between fellow institutions