INTEGRATED DATABASE

OCHRE DATA SERVICE

Miller C. Prosser

We all like to think we are going places, but the OCHRE Data Service (ODS) may have taken that notion too literally this year. In addition to participating as exhibitors at the 2014 Archaeological Institute of America annual meeting in Chicago, Sandra Schloen and Miller Prosser presented at conferences, workshops, training sessions, and meetings in Toronto, Paris, Basel, Durham (U.K.), and Tübingen. A list of presentations delivered this year can be found at ochre.uchicago.edu/page/past-events.

The OCHRE Data Service supports Oriental Institute research projects using the On-line Cultural and Historical Research Environment (OCHRE). For the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, we completed a reorganization and migration of more than three million images. The electronic Chicago Hittite Dictionary is currently being enhanced to track edits and additions to project data so that all significant updates to a given volume can be released together as a new edition. This type of electronic versioning will allow the online volumes to be updated as editions similar to the publication of new printed editions. For the electronic Demotic Dictionary Project, strides were made in implementing font conversions for the many and complex existing dictionary documents. Once converted to the Unicode standard, these documents will become the basis for the electronic edition of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary. For the Ras Shamra Tablet Inventory, work continues integrating textual, photographic, prosopographical, and lexicographic data for the alphabetic Ugaritic and syllabic Akkadian tablets from Ras Shamra-Ugarit. ODS staff and student workers devoted a great deal of time digitizing legacy data for the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, including entering data from locus description sheets and creating GIS shapefiles for loci.

In addition to projects at the Oriental Institute, OCHRE Data Service staff worked with a number of other research projects. The CRANE project is starting its third year (www.crane. utoronto.ca). CRANE members from the University of Durham and Université Laval have added their data to the expanding set of archaeological data from the Orontes watershed region. Also, the expedition to Ashkelon continues to push OCHRE in new directions, one of which is the ability to use OCHRE without an Internet connection. This new functionality allows archaeologists to take OCHRE with them right into the excavation square and use it offline. A quick synchronization process uploads all data collected and edited in the field.

This year, OCHRE Data Service staff developed some powerful new wizards to help our philology projects analyze texts more efficiently. One wizard provides a simple workflow for parsing words and populating a project lexicon. A second wizard allows users to easily

identify and describe geographic places in texts, providing the basis for a project gazetteer. A third wizard helps users identify personal names and describe people mentioned in the texts, laying the foundation for prosopographical study.

This was also a year of reaching out in new directions and making new connections. ODS partnered with the Federated Archaeological Information Management Systems Project, an international collaboration led by the University of New South Wales. We also piloted a project with Martin Mueller, Northwestern University professor emeritus of English and Classics, to present the works of Homer in OCHRE. Closer to home, ODS began working more closely with University of Chicago colleagues, such as the Research Computer Center (rcc.uchicago. edu), the Computation Institute (www.ci.uchicago.edu), and Argonne National Laboratory (www.anl.gov).

Read more about ODS, OCHRE, and our activities at ochre.uchicago.edu.

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