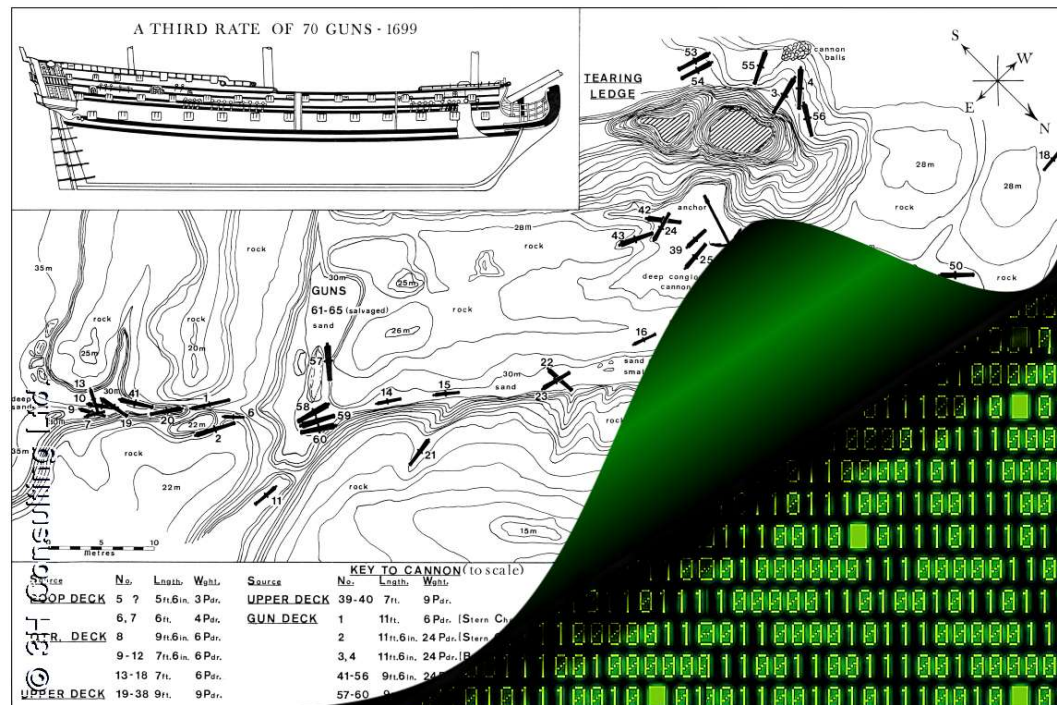


# Towards A Standard Recording Schema for Maritime Archaeology

Peter Holt, 3H Consulting Ltd.

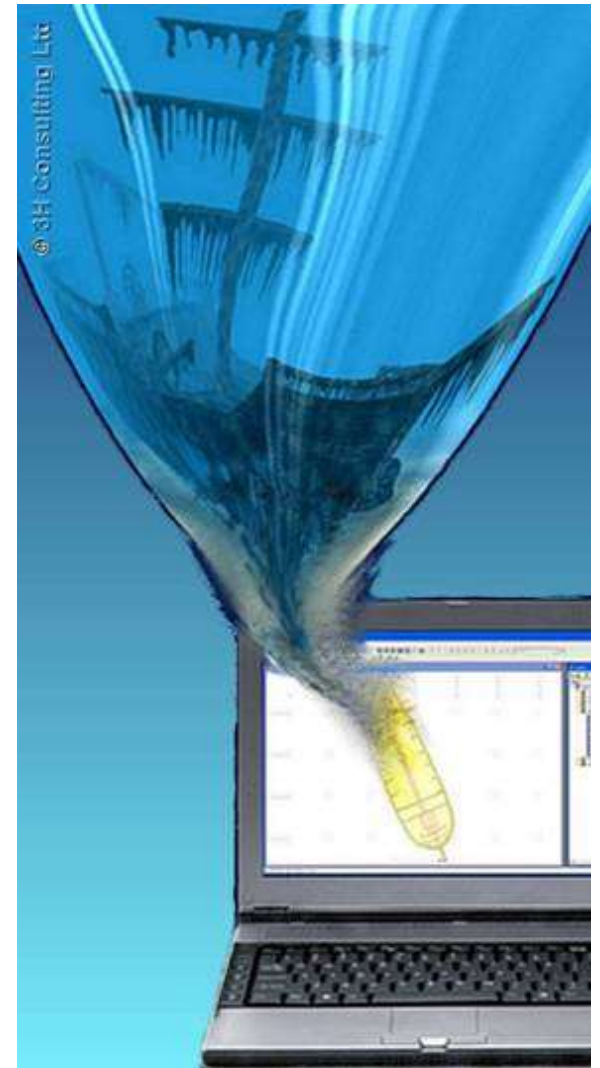




## The Requirement to Publish

- UNESCO Convention Annex requires professional and public access to archives
- Requirement to publish as widely as possible
- Requirement to publish more information
- Publication can be expensive

Lack of available funds requires efficiency





## The Importance of Archives

- Sites often degrade rapidly and may only be seen and recorded once
- Excavation is controlled destruction and cannot be repeated
- The site may then only exist as an archive
- The archive must be used for it to be useful



This form of 'preservation by record' demands high quality recording and long term preservation



## Problems with Archives

- Traditional paper archives are:
  - Expensive to publish
  - Hard to copy
  - Hard to search
  - Limited in scope and size
  - Expensive to update
- Digital archives are not
- The Web provides a good medium for the dissemination of entire datasets
- Using information is difficult if the datasets have different structures, use different words



Reuse is hampered by diversity so standards are required

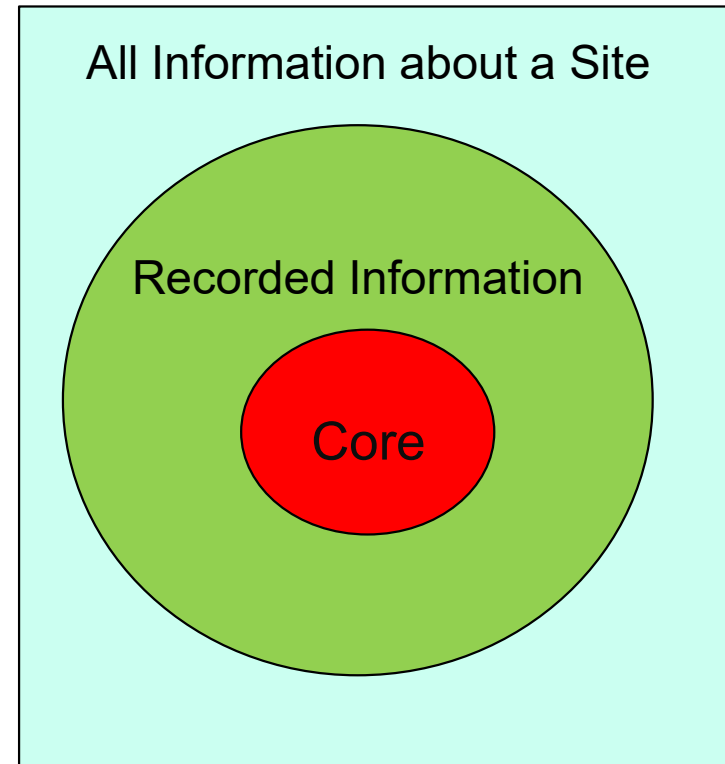


## What is a Standard Recording Schema?

- 'Template' for recording any site
- 'Core' information plus additional data
- The minimum requirement

Must be:

- Simple to understand
- Easy to implement
- Low cost
- Can be applied to any site

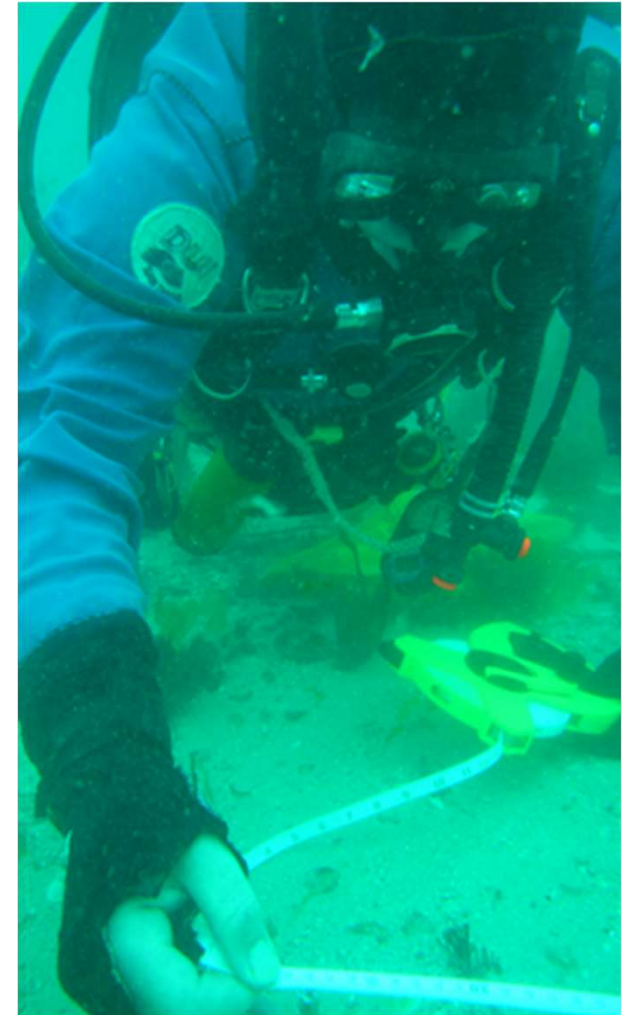






## Benefits to Creators and Authorities

- Promotes information use
  - Avoids replicating development work
  - Distils collective experience
  - Reduces training requirements
  - Defines a minimum scope of work for cost estimation
- 
- Archives can be assessed for value or potential
  - Contract work can be verified more easily
  - Increases efficiency and reduces costs
  - Helps ensure quality standards, defines 'Good Practice'





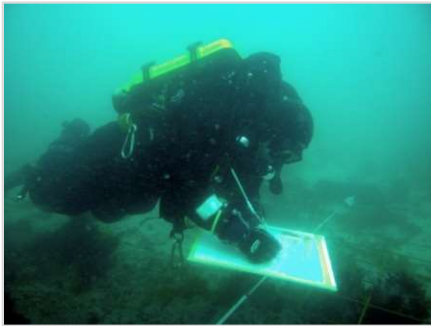
## Benefits to Providers and Users

- Maintains a core standard for datasets
  - Minimises differences between datasets
  - Maintains internal consistency
  - Exchange of data becomes simplified
  - Providing access to information is easier allowing use of 'portals'
  - Can create common analysis and presentation tools
- 
- Helps provide timely, low-cost access to information
  - Enables access to entire datasets for reprocessing
  - Makes finding information considerably easier





## Designing a Schema



Mary Rose  
USS Monitor  
HMS Coronation  
Cattewater Wreck  
Resurgam Submarine  
Alum Bay Wreck  
Catharina von Flensburg  
HMS Colossus  
HMS Firebrand  
HMS Eagle  
Chuuk Lagoon  
Diamond  
Erme Estuary  
Hazardous Prize  
Vliegende Hart  
Kizilburun Roman Wreck  
The Bell Wreck  
HMS Nymph  
Formiche Roman Wrecks  
Salcombe Cannon Site  
Stirling Castle  
Rooswijk  
Mardi Gras  
Purton hulks  
Reward  
NAS Training  
Plymouth Sound  
plus many others ...

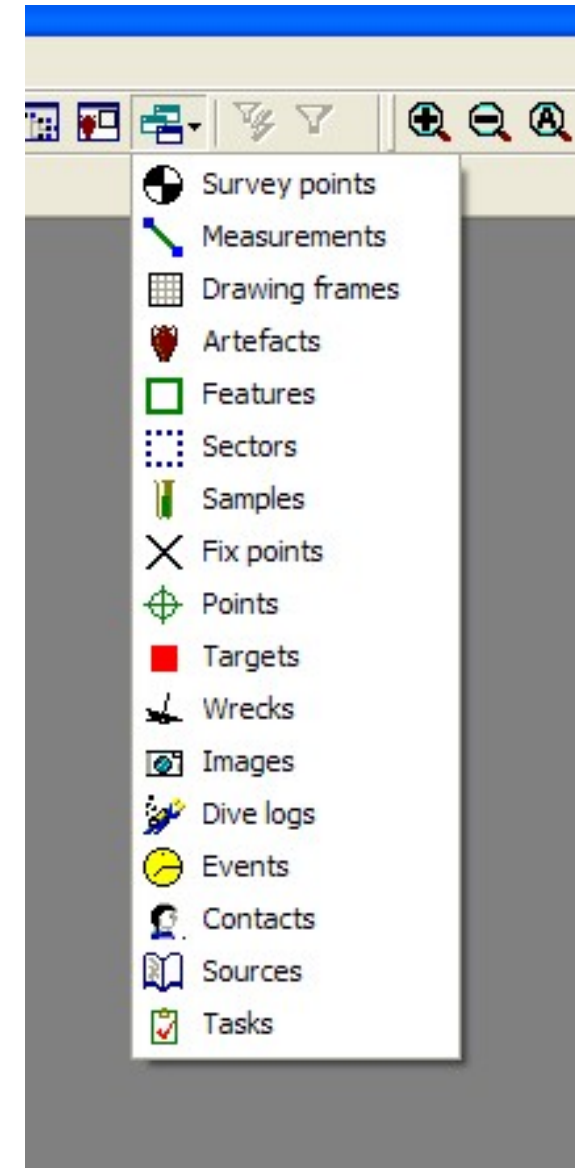






## A Proposed Recording Schema

- Site plans
- Artefacts (finds)
- Features (contexts)
- Sectors (trenches, areas)
- Survey points & measurements
- Images, Video & Image Basemaps (raster)
- Events & Dive Logs
- Contacts (people & organisations)
- Samples & Sources (documents)
- Drawing frames
- Targets & Wrecks
- Tasks & Logbooks
- Sites, Projects & Layers





## Schema - Recording an Object

Artefact - POMR- 05T0052

Recording | Properties | Notes | Position | Images | Sources | Samples | Links


**Recording**

Name	05T0052
Previous name(s)	T0052
Object Class	Ship Structure
Object Type	Hull : Floor
Material	Organic : Wood U shaped piece of ships timber
Description	
Dive Found	
Date Found	1 Oct 2005
Dive Recovered	
Date Recovered	6 Oct 2005

**Description**  
A description of the source

Record:

OK Cancel Help



Preview Print



Property	Type
Name	Text (verified)
Previous name(s)	Text
Object Class	Wordlist
Object Type	Wordlist
Material	Wordlist
Description	Text
Dive Found	Object Link
Date Found	Date
Dive Recovered	Object Link
etc...	

## Schema - Wordlists and Thesauri

- A list of approved words
- Used for data validation

Artefact - MRT- 05A0034

Recording | Properties | Notes | Position | Images | Sources | Samples | Links

**Recording**

Name	05A0034
Previous name(s)	A0034
Object Class	Ship Stores
Object Type	Glass
Material	Glass: Bottle
Description	Glass: Bottle Ceramic : Brick Ceramic : China Ceramic : Earthenware Ceramic : Other Ceramic : Stoneware Ceramic : Tile
Dive Found	
Date Found	1 October 2005
Dive Recovered	
Date Recovered	1 October 2005

**Material**  
The primary material the object is made of

Record: [ ]

OK Cancel Help

Table : Arch Material

Value
Ceramic : Brick
Ceramic : China
Ceramic : Earthenware
Ceramic : Other
Ceramic : Stoneware
Ceramic : Tile
Glass : Vessel
<b>Glass : Bottle</b>
Glass : Flat
Glass : Other
Metal : Copper
Metal : Copper Alloy
Metal : Gold
Metal : Iron
Metal : Iron : Cast
Metal : Iron : Wrought
Metal : Lead
Metal : Pewter
Metal : Silver
Metal : Tin
Metal : Other

Add Word  
 Delete Word  
 Sort Words  
 Import CSV  
 Export CSV  
 Set Defaults

OK Cancel Help

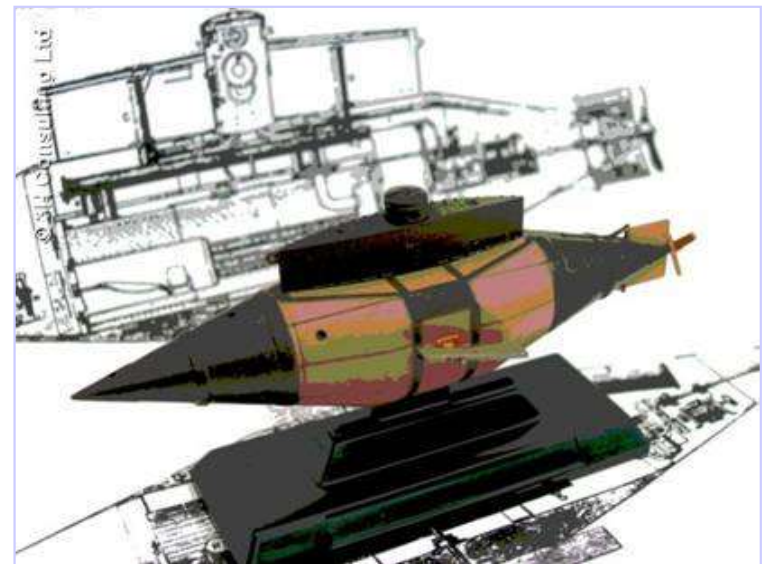




## Schema - Metadata

- Metadata is used to describe the archive
  - Allows others to see a summary of the contents
  - Identifies scope and relevance
  - Identifies versions
- 
- Standards defined by the Dublin Core

‘Metadata is data about data’





## Recording Schema Specification

- Simple
- Easy to implement
- Easy to use
- Can be applied to any maritime site
- Can be applied to all phases of a project
- Can be implemented in a database or GIS
- Free 'Open' design
- Includes recommended wordlists
- Includes metadata based on Dublin Core

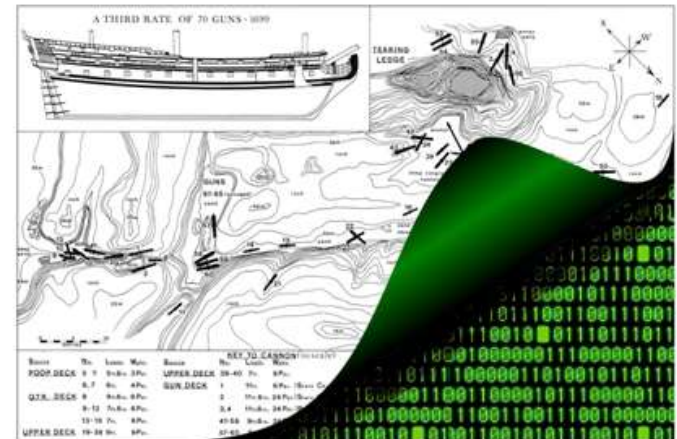
Available at:

[www.3HConsulting.com/Research](http://www.3HConsulting.com/Research)



**3H Consulting Ltd**

### Site Recorder Database Schema





Thank You

Schema specification available at  
[www.3HConsulting.com/Research](http://www.3HConsulting.com/Research)



Photos courtesy of:

