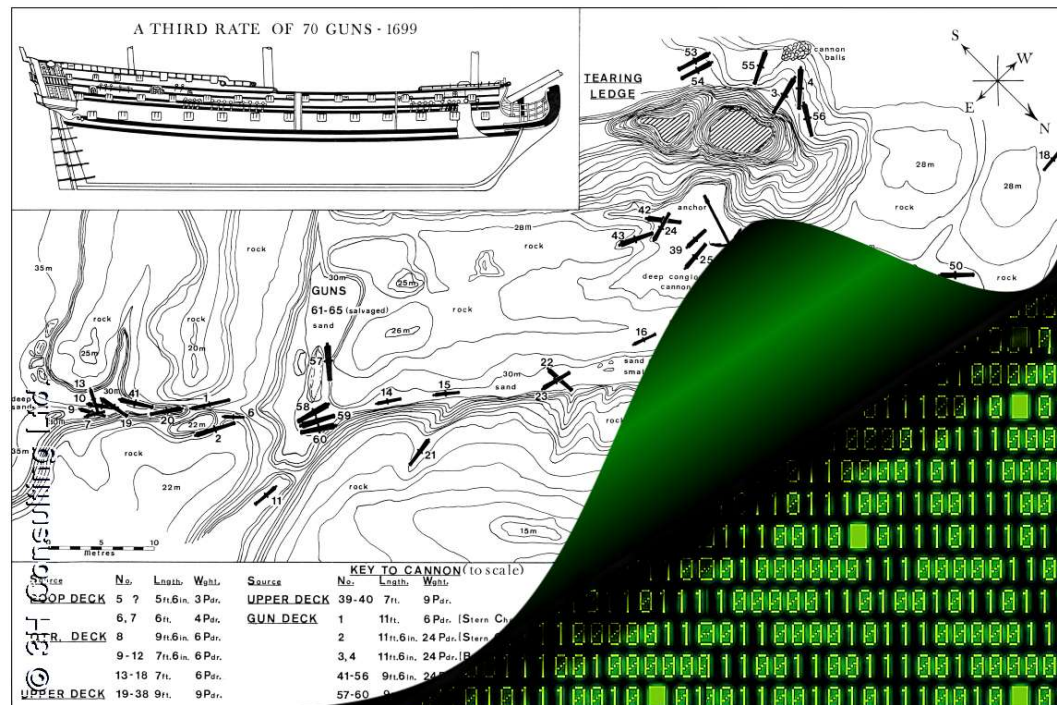# Towards A Standard Recording Schema
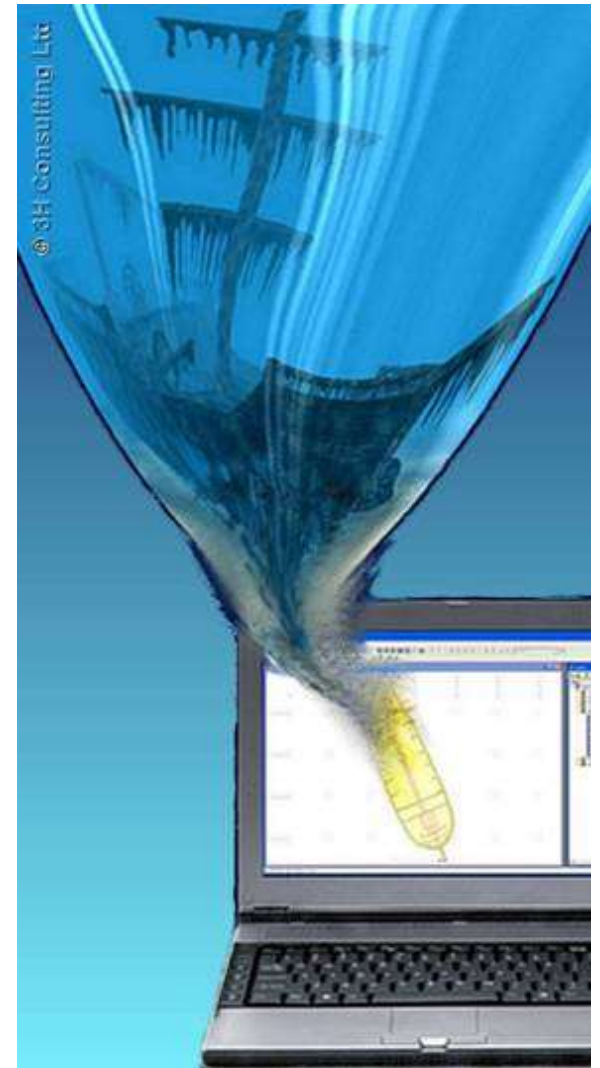# for Maritime Archaeology

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

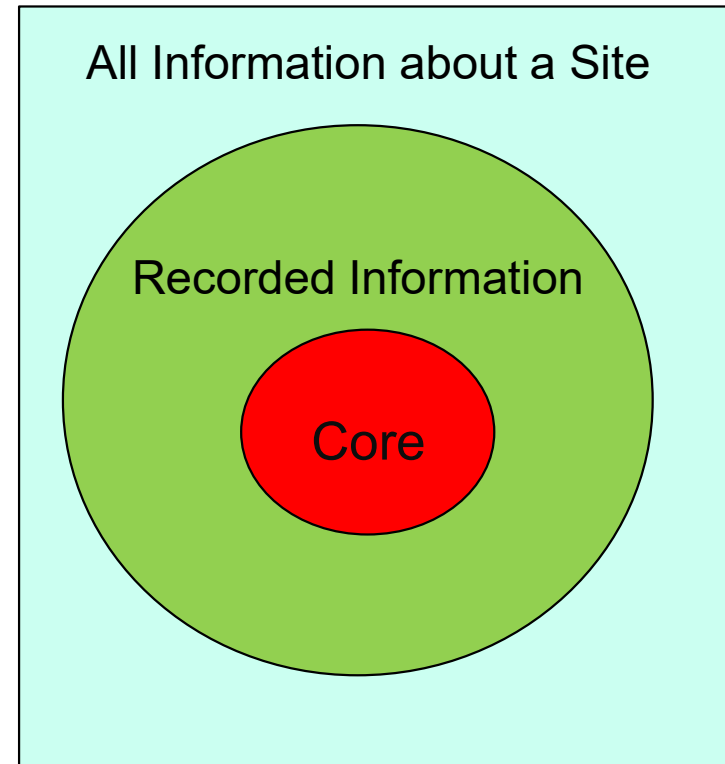Reuse is hampered by diversity so standards are required

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

All Information about a Site

Recorded Information

Core

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'
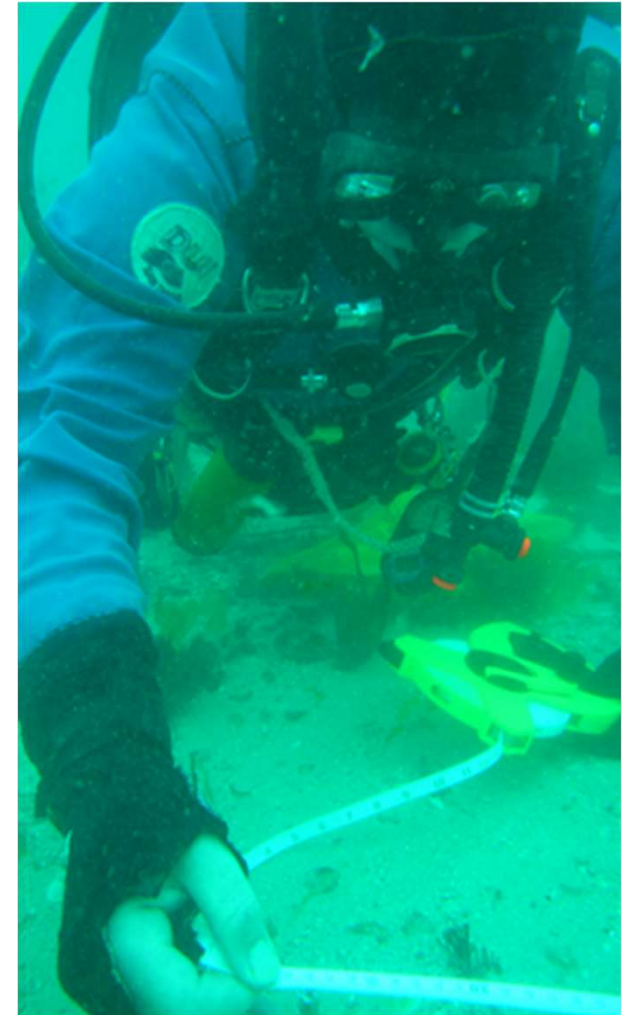
Benefits to Providers and Users

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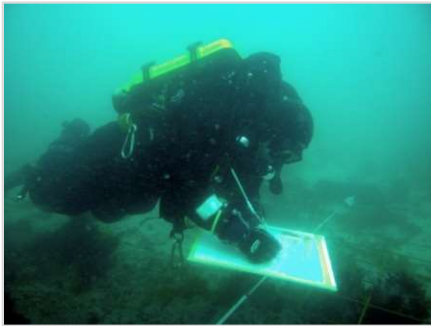
Mary Rose
USS Monitor
HMS Coronation
Cattewater Wreck
Resurgam Submarine
Alum Bay Wreck
Catharina von Flensburg
HMS Colossus
HMS Firebrand
HMS Eagle
Chuuk Lagoon
Diamond
Erme Estuary
Hazardous Prize
Vliegent Hart
Kizilburun Roman Wreck
The Bell Wreck
HMS Nymph
Formiche Roman Wrecks
Salcombe Cannon Site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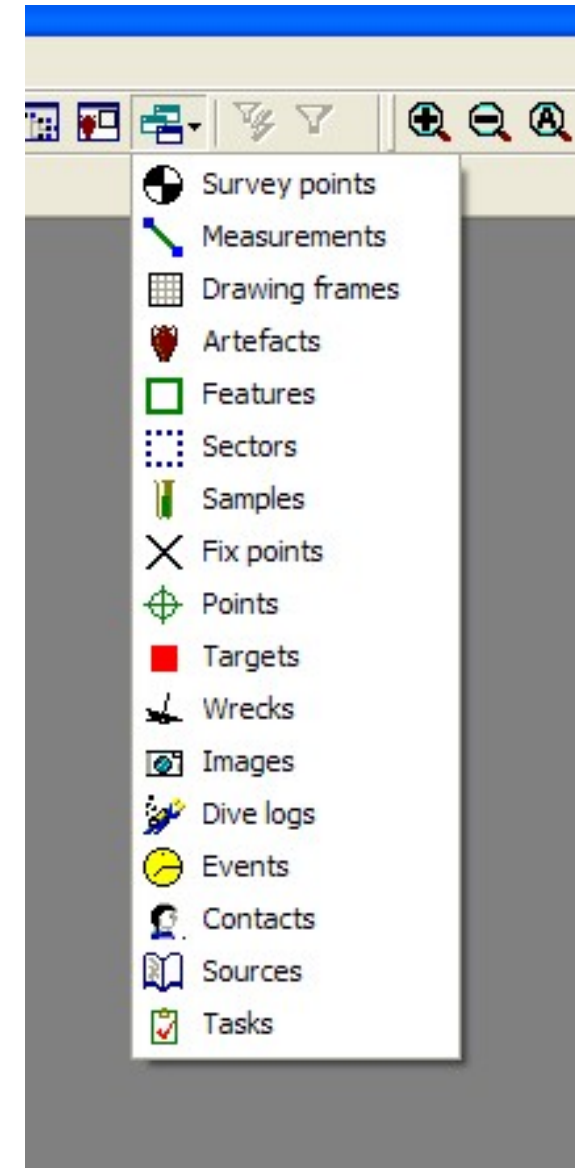NAS Training
Plymouth Sound

plus many others ...

The Site Recorder Schema

USS Monitor in Site Recorder 4

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

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
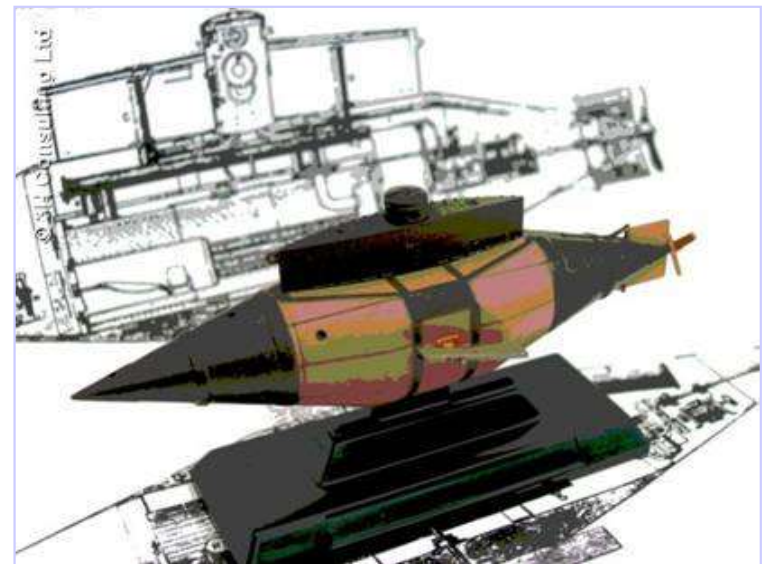

- A list of approved words
- Used for data validation

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
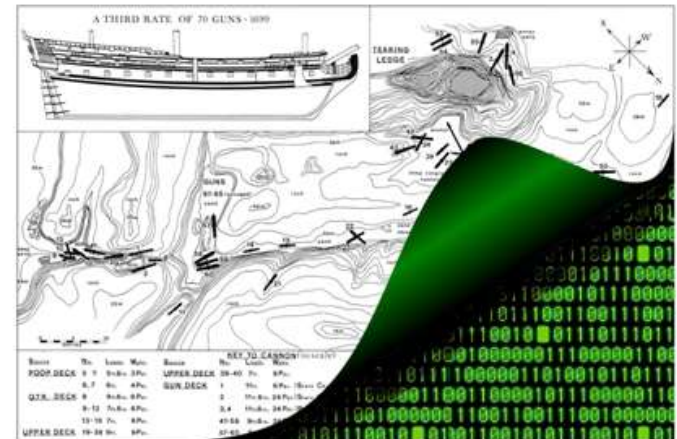
- Includes metadata based on Dublin Core

Available at:

www.3HConsulting.com/Research

Thank You

Schema specification available at

www.3HConsulting.com/Research