

INTEGRATED DATABASE PROJECT

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For eight years (2010–18), the Integrated Database Project (IDB) was supported by four consecutive grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. These grants enabled the OI to set up a state-of-the-art collections management system as the institutional repository for the institute’s core data needs. This past academic year, our grant application for the capstone project mentioned in last year’s annual report was not successful, but we continue to look for new resources to implement the many exciting ideas and transformational designs we have developed with the help of focus group feedback over the last eight years. As the IDB is now integral to the successful management of the institute’s collections (museum, archives, library, digital assets, public GIS, and conservation), work on the project inevitably continues every day through the hard work of institute staff and volunteers. Details of individual departmental work can be found in their respective annual reports; here I will try to attempt a broader view of the past year’s accomplishments, the present state of the project, and its future.

There are now well over one million records in the Oriental Institute’s integrated database, which is organized through Axiell’s EMu client software (including the records for audits and statistics, there are many millions of records in the database!). Of these records, 560,000 are for the Research Archives catalog; 278,000 for registered objects in the museum; 84,000 for the museum archives; 21,000 for the CAMEL maps and satellite images; 22,000 for the Epigraphic Survey negatives; and 11,000 for museum conservation (with condition assessment photos). There are over 406,000 records for multimedia items, including 215,335 JPGs; 129,814 PDFs; and 9,863 PNG files. This digital collection is truly massive and growing every day as new objects are imaged, paper archives are scanned, books are digitized, image permission letters created, and permits for publication cataloged, among many other tasks. A total of 32,539 inventory cards for physical negatives in the museum archives have been scanned and transcribed. Of the 140,000 digitized museum registration cards, over 13,000 have now been transcribed. These digitization and transcription projects provide the institute as well as its staff, faculty, students, and researchers with a detailed catalog of its holdings that makes available searching and data retrieval methods that were impossible with analogue paper files.

Table 1. Approximate Total Records in the Integrated Database

<i>Department</i>	<i>Records in EMu</i>	<i>Records on Website</i>
Research Archives	560,000	556,257
Museum Registration	278,163	235,651
Photographic Archives	225,000	164,960
Museum Archives	83,642	83,725
Epigraphic Survey	22,026	21,502
CAMEL	20,889	8,869
Museum Conservation	11,250	—

Catalogue		Classification		Description (Summary)	Court	Region (Place)	Locus	Star/Lc	Alternate Name	Period (Period)	Dynasty (Dynasty)	Ring/Ruler	Script (Ins.)	Insc. Lc.	Reference (Bibliography)	Page/Figure/Plate	Notes (Bibliography)	Fully	Test	Dimensions (mm?)
1	A 5732	Tablet	Iraq	Cuneiform tablet inscribed on both sides with a memo about an expedition to year 5, month 6 of king A. A 5732	Iraq	Al Qadisiyah governorate	Drehem	Puzhish-Dagah	Ur III	Third Dynasty of Ur	Shulgi	Sumerian	Sumterian	pp. 163, no. 212	Transliteration only	No	Yes	21 x 20 x 12 mm		
2	A 5733	Tablet	Iraq	Cuneiform tablet inscribed on both sides with a memo about a goat, dated to month 1 of an unknown Y. A 5733	Iraq	Al Qadisiyah governorate	Drehem	Puzhish-Dagah	Ur III	Third Dynasty of Ur	Anar-Sin Year 4	Sumerian	Sumterian	pp. 315, no. 468	Transliteration only	No	Yes	23 x 21 x 12 mm		
3	A 5734	Tablet	Iraq	Cuneiform tablet inscribed on both sides with a memo about sheep, dated to year 4, month 9 of king Anar-S. A 5734	Iraq	Al Qadisiyah governorate	Drehem	Puzhish-Dagah	Ur III	Third Dynasty of Ur	Anar-Sin Year 2	Sumerian	Sumterian	pp. 131, no. 6	Transliteration only	No	Yes	35 x 31 x 16 mm		
4	A 5745	Tablet	Iraq	Cuneiform tablet inscribed on both sides with a memo about corn, sheep, and a goat, dated to year 2, mo... ROUND FLAT HEAD INSCRIBED AROUND SHANK, SINGAPORE, SEE A 4126	Iraq	Al Muhanna governorate	Wasika				ISIN-LARSA									58LX37410 MM
5	A 709	Tablet	Iraq	Two-column tablet inscribed on the obverse with Puzur-Inshara's record of the land of the sabbat A 709	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Mound II, Level 1	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 312-313, no. A 709, no. 176	Hand copy only	No	Yes	88 x 65 x 21 mm		
6	A 728	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a list of deors and their dimensions. A 728	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 177, no. 319-320, no. A 728	Hand copy and transliteration only	No	Yes	64 x 45 x 20 mm			
7	A 730	Tablet	Iraq	Two-column tablet inscribed on both sides with a summary of expenditures on the regular offerings kenziz. A 730	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 320-321, no. A 730	Hanc copy and transliteration only	No	Yes	60 x 57 x 24 mm			
8	A 733	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed to observe with a grain amounts and personal names. A 733	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 178, no. 321, no. A 733	Transliteration only	No	Yes	61 x 40 x 19 mm			
9	A 736	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a grain amount and silver. A 736	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	Old Akkadian pp. 178, no. 321, no. A 736 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Transliteration only	No	Yes	60 x 41 x 17 mm			
10	A 739	Tablet	Iraq	Two-column tablet inscribed on both sides with a list of assorted commodities received from named individuals. A 739	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	Old Akkadian pp. 178, no. 322, no. A 739 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Hand copy and transliteration only	No	Yes	80 x 71 x 24 mm			
11	A 745	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a list of grain received from farmers via scoles. A 745	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	Old Akkadian pp. 322-323, no. A 745 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Hand copy and transliteration only	No	Yes	52 x 45 x 18 mm			
12	A 746	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a list of copper objects and their weights. A 746	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 178, no. 323, no. A 746 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Hand copy only	No	Yes	48 x 38 x 16 mm			
13	A 749	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a second about grain transaction. A 749	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Mound II, Level not determ.	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 18, not illustrated p. 323, no. A 749 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Transliteration only	No	Yes	42 x 38 x 14 mm		
14	A 751	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a list of shipments and taxes imposed on them. A 751	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 178, no. 324, no. A 751 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Transliteration only	No	Yes	44 x 36 x 14 mm			
15	A 756	Tablet	Iraq	Tablet inscribed on both sides with a list of bronze objects and their weights. A 756	Iraq	Wasit governorate	Bamnaya	Adab	Akkadian	Dynasty of Akkad	Cunefum	Sumterian	pp. 178, no. 325, no. A 756 ka Oriental Institute Publications 138 (2012)	Transliteration only	No	Yes	40 x 31 x 15 mm			

Figure 1. The EMu client software with modules and records for cuneiform tablets.

In terms of public users, the IDB website (oi-idb.uchicago.edu) had over 218,000 page views in the last year. Over 160,000 views were unique. The average time spent on a page was one minute and five seconds. Usage peaked in March 18, 2019, with over 1,400 views on that day. Average daily page views hovered at approximately 725. There were 14,460 total users who participated in 32,854 sessions (2.27 sessions per user) with an average session duration of over six minutes and with each user viewing an average of 6.65 pages per session. Approximately 20% of users were returning users and 80% were new users (although this metric counts IP addresses, not physical users). More than 50% of our users were from the US, with 300–700 users each from the UK, Germany, France, Turkey, Italy, Canada, Spain, Egypt, and Australia. Top cities were, in descending order, Chicago, New York, London, Istanbul, Paris, Los Angeles, Cedar Rapids, Ankara, and Sydney. Nearly 50% of users accessed with a computer using the Windows operating system, 25% used Macintosh, and over 23% used a mobile device with iOS or Android.











	Country	Users	% Users
1.	 United States	8,345	<div><div></div></div> 57.10%
2.	 United Kingdom	686	<div><div></div></div> 4.69%
3.	 Germany	515	<div><div></div></div> 3.52%
4.	 France	490	<div><div></div></div> 3.35%
5.	 Turkey	452	<div><div></div></div> 3.09%
6.	 Italy	360	<div><div></div></div> 2.46%
7.	 Canada	340	<div><div></div></div> 2.33%
8.	 Spain	295	<div><div></div></div> 2.02%
9.	 Egypt	273	<div><div></div></div> 1.87%
10.	 Australia	252	<div><div></div></div> 1.72%

Figure 2. Country profile for users of the Search Our Collections website.

Over 43,070 new searches were conducted; 23,760 individual detail records were viewed; and 10,191 users revised their search. The most popular record remained the lamassu (A7369) with over 2,200 views, but the Persian roundel (inspiration for the former OI logo) was also popular with nearly 200 views. Records for Jim Allen's *A New Concordance of the Pyramid Texts*, which includes links to download PDFs directly from the IDB were accessed nearly 300 times. It is clear that individuals are making use of the "Browse the Galleries" feature on the homepage, as over 1,600 actions consisted of users looking for objects on display from either the Egyptian, Assyrian, or Mesopotamian galleries (in descending order of popularity). Rounding out the top ten records that received the most page views was the library catalog record for SAOC 69, *Creativity and Innovation in the Reign of Hatshepsut*. The most popular search was a photo archives tab search for "Egin" and a library catalog search for the author "Alexander Ahrens." For keywords, the most popular searches were for "Egypt," "Persepolis," "lamassu," "mummy," and "Mesopotamia." The saved records page was accessed over 2,200 times, which means visitors are making good use of the feature that allows records to be saved and downloaded for further research.

The primary takeaways from these analytics are as follows: The IDB has become an absolutely integral part of how the OI manages its collections and presents those collections to the public. It is an ever-expanding project that will require institutional support to ensure its sustainability for the foreseeable future. Internally, the database is allowing us to more efficiently and effectively manage the collection. In certain cases, we are only now getting a real grasp on the scope and content of these vast collections. Externally, more information about these collections is available to the public than ever before, with more released each week as the public database gets updated. Members of the public, an audience far more numerous than those who have the opportunity to visit the institute in person, are putting the database to good use. The analytics show clearly that it is not only researchers and library patrons hitting the database, but a quickly growing body of students, educators, and lifelong learners. When we study the early years of the institute today, we look at the paper record it left behind: its posters, advertisements, letters, newspaper articles, photographs, publications, and other ephemera. In fifty to one hundred years, when future scholars want to study the public ideology and collection management methodologies of the institute in the twenty-first century, they will be looking at our websites, social media pages, and the IDB. We will continue striving to build and develop a robust information network about the Oriental Institute and its collections, share that information with its global audiences, and preserve it for the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Integrated Database Project would not be possible without its generous funders: the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and Aimee Drolet Rossi. Dozens of OI staff and volunteers have worked diligently on data entry, digitization, updates, linking, and countless other projects in the IDB, using the EMu software to manage their workflows and store information about the institute's invaluable collections. This data is the foundation upon which future discoveries will be made. We owe a debt of gratitude to everyone involved, both paid and unpaid, that have made the IDB the incredible resource it is today, and who have helped maintain the OI's high standards of information storage for future generations.