

Katarzyna Bronk-Zaborowska, Andrzej Prinke, Lidia Żuk

Aph_Max – database for archaeological aerial photographs

Summary

The article describes a computer application for management of large collections of aerial photographs, used in archaeological field reconnaissance. The programme was created at the Poznań Archaeological Museum in collaboration with the Institute of Prehistory, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. Each record of the database includes full description of the photographed location, elements facilitating site identification (according to archaeological, administrative and geographical criteria among others), as well as information about the film or digital source. As a result of linking all information, a record with unique identity label is created, containing the name of the location, AZP (i.e. Polish Sites and Monuments Record) zone and site number, film and frame number. The photo itself may be entered into the database as a graphic file suitable for further processing.

The application can be an efficient aid to different types of archaeological work: research projects, management of cultural heritage, preparation of field surveys and excavations, completing illustrations etc. Using the database by no means eliminates the traditional file index: APh_Max includes the option for creating the traditional paper photo files. Each file may be printed in a standard form, including the photo itself.

Captions:

Fig. 1. Copying data to the new record.

Fig. 2. Sorting of data by photo inventory number.

Fig. 3. Sorting of data by locality, site number and date of photography.

Fig. 4. Sorting of data by date of photography and locality name.

Fig. 5. Selection of criteria for a data analysis.

Fig. 6. Setting criteria for data search.

Fig. 7. Simple analysis of data (in a single database field).

Fig. 8. Complex analysis (correlation of data from several database fields).

Fig. 9. Search result.

Fig. 10. Saving the analysis results.

Fig. 11. Analysis results saved in a text file.

Plate I: A. Durham University Library (Great Britain). Workstation with database on aerial photographs from the Sudan.

Plate I: B. Aerial Photo Inventory File – text data.

Plate II: A. Aerial Photo Inventory File – photo reproduction and description.

Plate II: B. Printout of an Aerial Photo Inventory File.