

*Metal-detecting, citizen science and the
protection of archaeological heritage in
Finland –
In the crossroads of different
practices*

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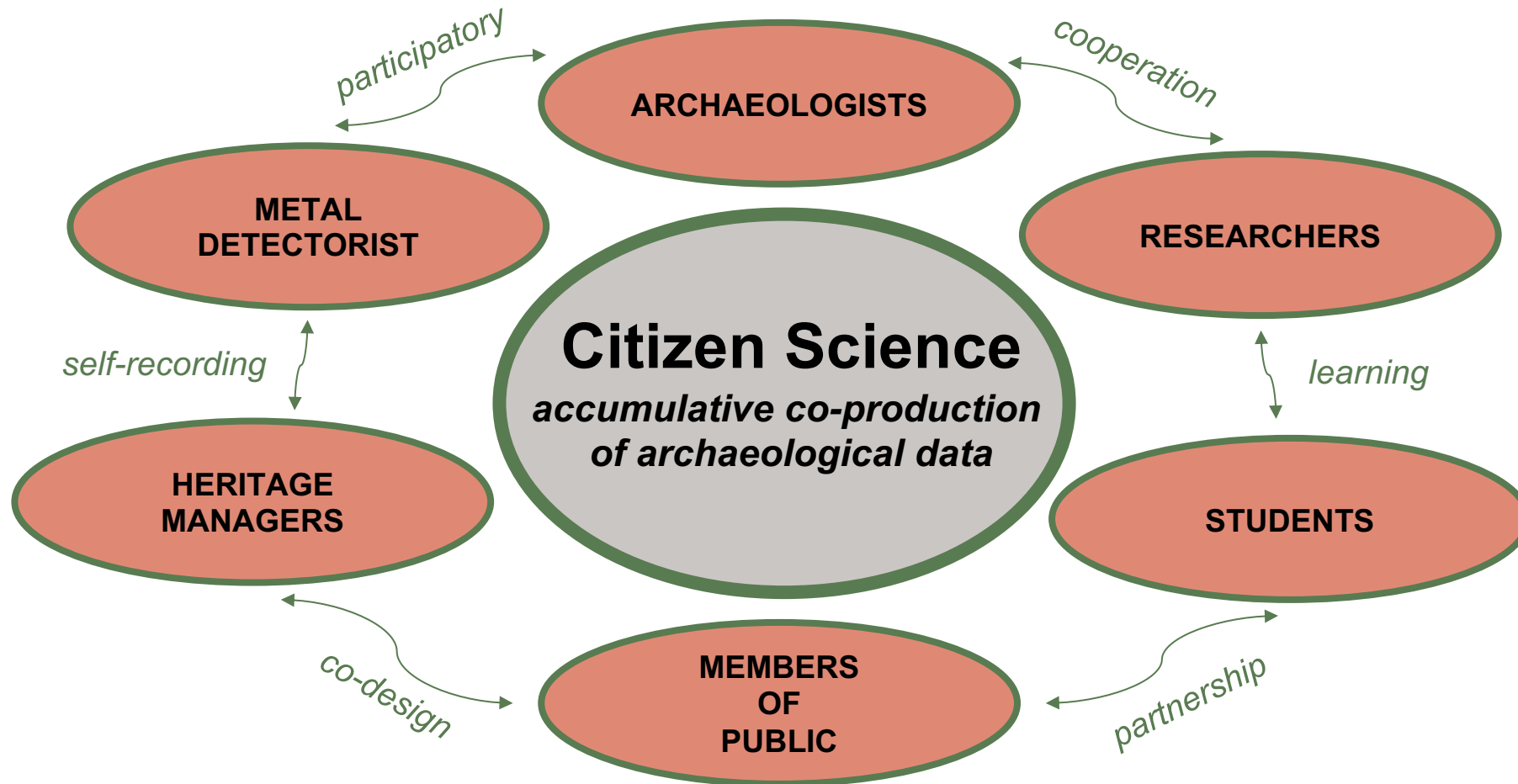
Helsinki Workshop: Future directions in audience engagement for heritage management organizations
3.6.2022 Helsinki

Agenda

1. Citizen Science and Metal Detecting
2. Ilppari and FindSampo
3. Advantages & Challenges of Citizen Science

Citizen Science

knowledge co-production



Democratisation of Archaeological Information

Metal Detecting in Finland

Metal Detecting permitted in Finland

Digging prohibited in places such as ancient monuments without permit

Finds older than 100 years old must be reported to the Finnish Heritage Agency (FHA)

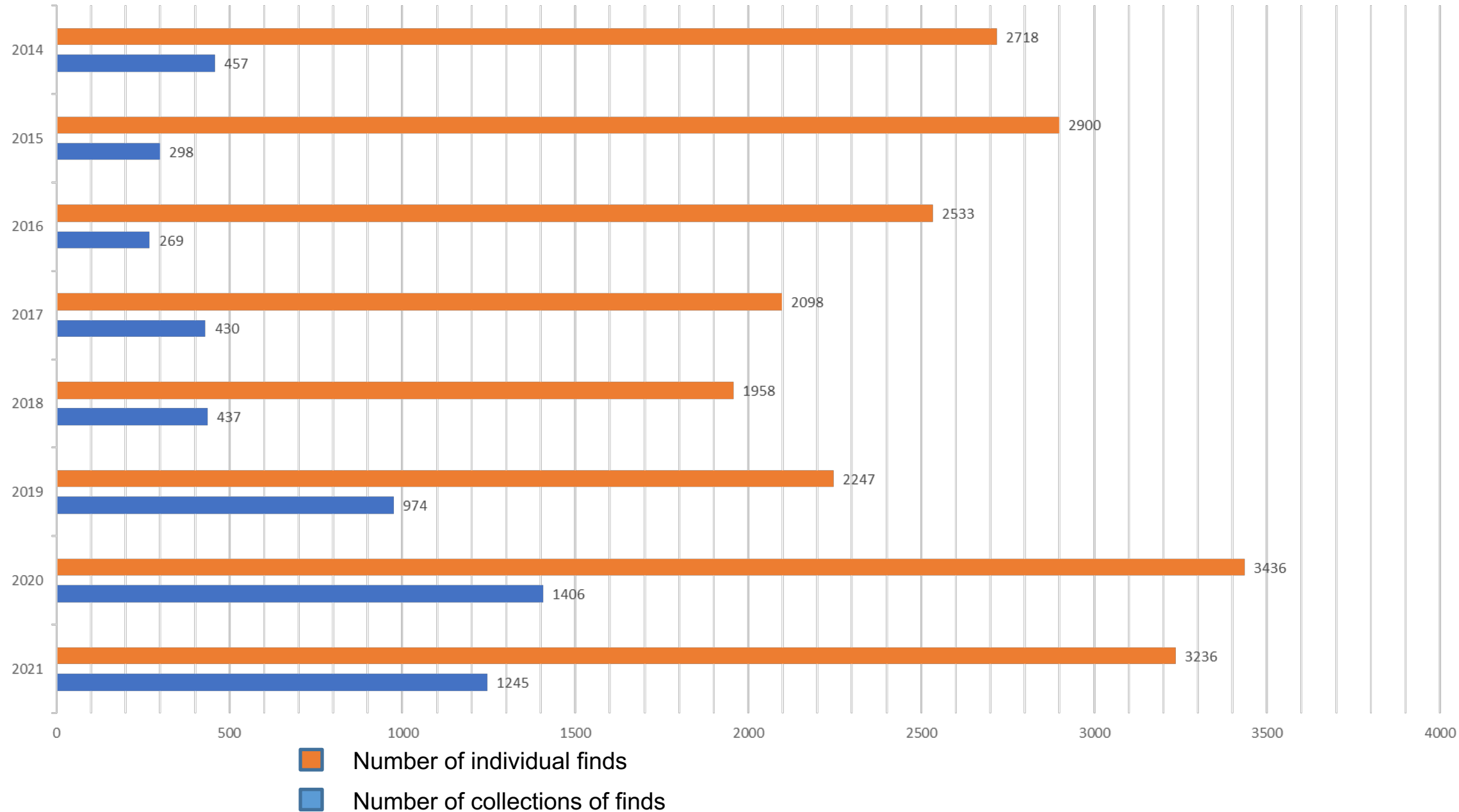
Considerable popularity from the 2010s onwards

→ ***Growing number of metal-detecting finds !***



Photo: Marianna Niukkanen, FHA

Finds made by the public delivered to the archaeological collections



Digital reporting service

ILPPARI

launched 2019 by the FHA

Web service to report archaeological finds
For metal detectorists and other e-citizen scientists

Processing Tool

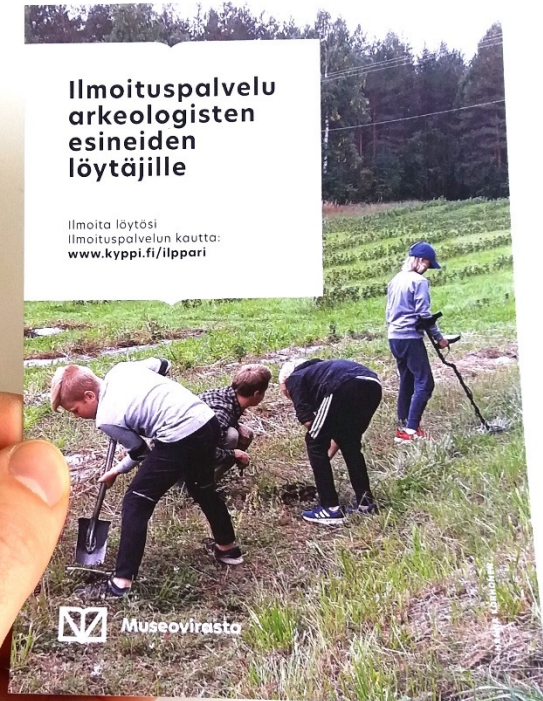
*for heritage managers documenting,
validating and curating the find reports*

Communication Tool

*for heritage managers
& public reporting finds*



***Need for a linked open database for
archaeological finds data***

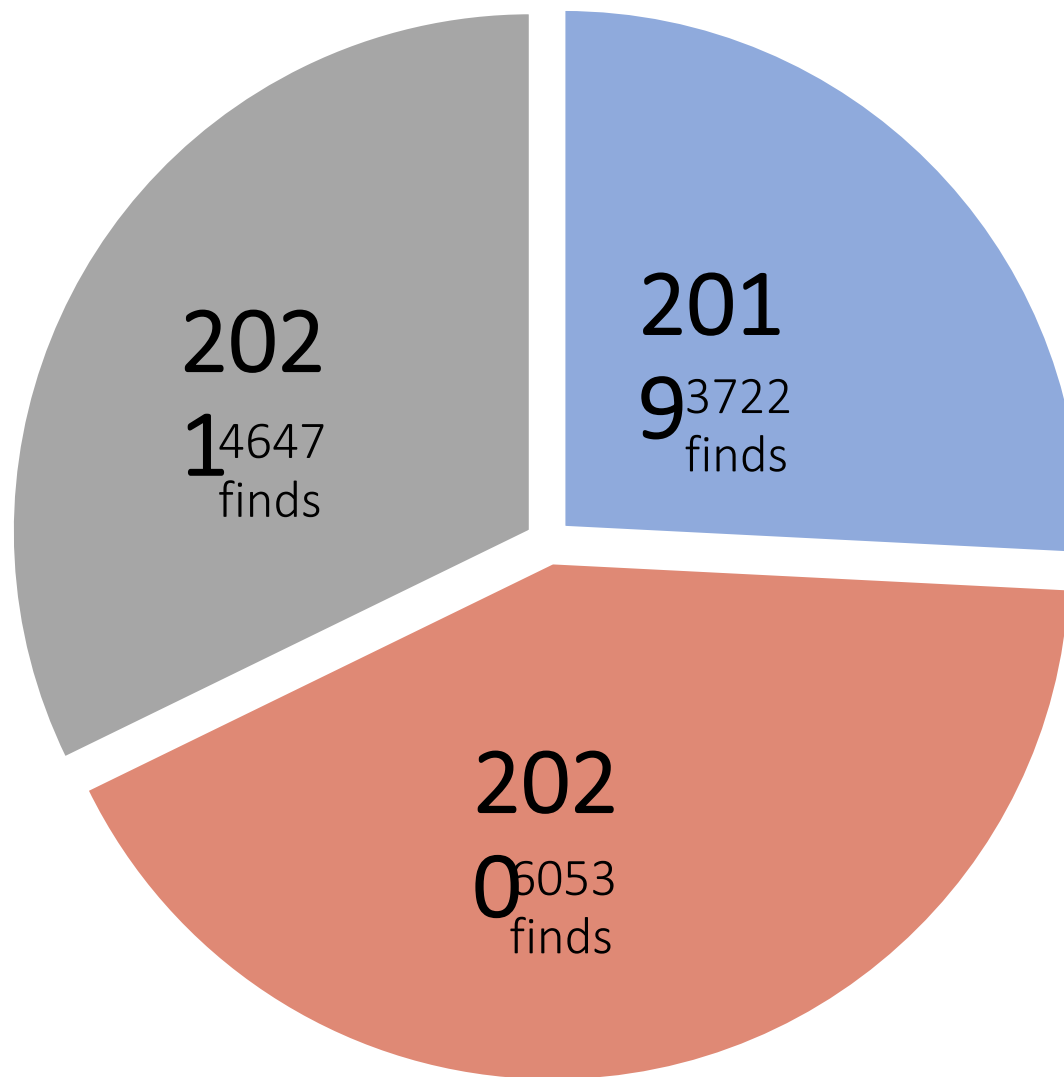


Digital reporting service

ILPPARI

Finds made by the public
reported to Ilppari

15.2.2019 – 31.12.2021



Total amount:

14 421 finds

8 180 reports



FindSampo

SuALT project

The Finnish Archaeological Finds Recording Linked Open Database

A consortium project (2017-2021)

with *University of Helsinki, Aalto University & Finnish Heritage Agency (FHA)*

+ International cooperation with EPFRN: *PAS, PAN, MEDEA & DIME*

→ FindSampo

A semantic, easy to use platform for finds made by the public

- A linked open database – *open source ideology!*
- An open access forum for different users – *democratisation!*
- An educational tool – *guidelines and information!*



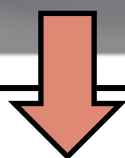
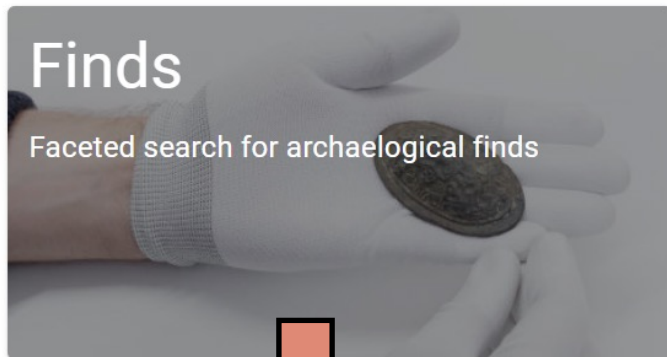
FindSampo

Finnish Archaeological Finds on the Semantic Web

Select an application perspective to search and browse the data:

Finds

Faceted search for archaeological finds

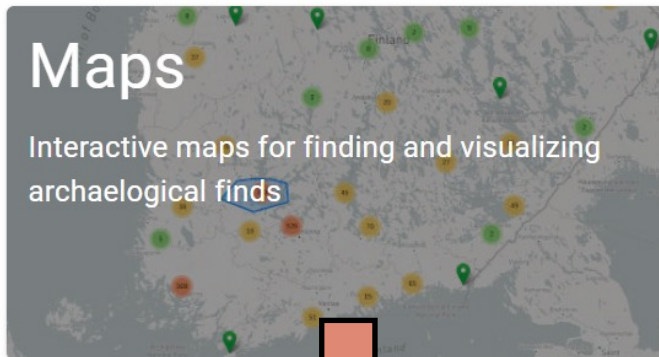


FACETED SEARCH:

Object names
Material
Place
Dating
Period
Measures

Maps

Interactive maps for finding and visualizing archaeological finds

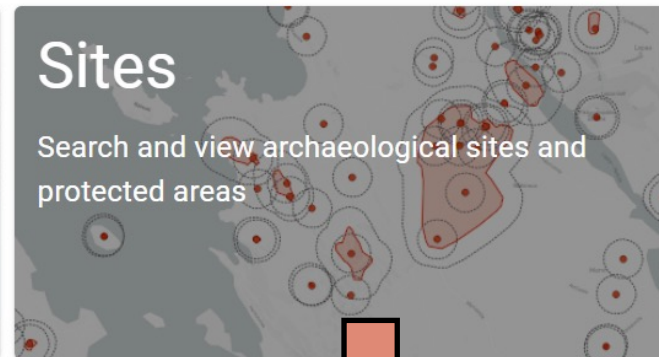


RESEARCH TOOLS

map layers
heatmap
tables
statistics

Sites

Search and view archaeological sites and protected areas



INFORMATION:

linked data
heritage sites
Protected areas
info boxes

Digital Citizen Science & Archaeological Collections

Advantages

Democratisation & Participation

Heritage belongs to everyone

Co-production

Effective knowledge co-production,
accumulative information

Co-cataloguing

The profits of digitally reported
information

Co-learning

Reciprocal change and educative
use of information

Challenges

Different User Needs

Difficulty of combining and prioritizing
different user needs

Ensuring Qualitative Data

“Easy and quick to use” does not always
mean sufficient & rich information

Democratic Conversation in Digital Platform

How to build up democratic
conversations on the Internet?

Uncertainty of Future Resources & Funding

Change in Curatorship of Archaeological Finds

Metal Detection and change of curatorial roles

- a) Which objects are discovered?
- b) Which objects are documented?
- c) Which objects are reported?

(see Robbins K. 2014. Portable Antiquities Scheme: A Guide for Researcher)

→ Important input for digital cultural heritage!

What kind of picture is created of archaeological heritage – is it objective?

Ethics & Rights of data generated by the citizen science:

Whose identification, whose definition, whose validation?

- How is the information presented and who is the author of it?
What are the ethics of citizen science based data?

Conclusions

1. Metal detecting has changed the perspective of the public regarding the archaeological collections
2. Democratisation of archaeological information is an important part of managing archaeological collections
3. Ensuring qualitative information production is a key element of citizen science co-production
4. Change in curatorship of archaeological heritage means increasing responsibility of citizen scientists

Thank you!

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