

Data Access Committee Report

In 2016, AAPA President Susan Anton convened the Ad Hoc committee on Data Access. The aim and scope of the committee was as follows: The sharing and archiving of original data is being increasingly mandated both by funding agencies and by changing standards of practice in our discipline. Some subareas of biological anthropology have requirements for depositing data related to published work (e.g., molecular anthropology and GenBank), and a number of independent archiving systems of individual datasets have been established by various research groups. A variety of new technologies have expanded the technical capabilities to archive large digital databases, including 3d digital databases. Technological advances notwithstanding, a number of non-trivial issues surround how and whether to have standardized data depositories, what constitutes 'raw' data, and what the role of the AAPA and its journals should be in those requirements. This committee's charge is to consider these questions and to report to the AAPA executive committee on current conditions, considerations to be viewed, and next steps to be taken.

The Committee is Chaired by Trudy Turner and Connie Mulligan. Other committee members include Doug Boyer, Eric Delson and William Leonard. The committee met via Skype in 2017. The committee agreed that a workshop on data sharing and archiving would be useful. Turner and Mulligan prepared an NSF proposal for a workshop which was funded. The committee met at the 2018 meetings to prepare for the workshop.

The workshop was held in Milwaukee, WI February 8-9, 2019. There were 41 participants representing all subfields of biological anthropology. In addition, a representative of the AJPA publisher, Wiley, was present as was the Program Director for biological anthropology at NSF. Other workshop participants included representative of major data sharing and data archiving websites including Dryad and IDigBio. Workshop participants drafted guiding principles for data sharing in biological anthropology and discussed ways in which the AAPA and the AJPA can facilitate data sharing. These will be published in the journal and will be available on the website.