

Introduction

The proceedings represent a cross-section of the papers and posters presented at the 46th Annual Conference of Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) in Tübingen. With over 450 attendees and 420 papers in 40 sessions, it was one of the CAA's largest conferences.

The topic of CAA 2018 is “Human History and Digital Future”, which we represent with the famous Ice Age wild horse from the Vogelherd Cave, not far from Tübingen. The small ivory carving is one of a whole series of ice-age sculptures, which belong to the oldest works of art of mankind. With this topic and logo, we hope to capture the essence of the rich archaeological landscape of southwestern Germany, while at the same time highlighting our responsibility in preserving the cultural heritage of humankind for future generations using pioneering digital methods and tools.

The conference began with thirteen workshops covering the full spectrum of digital archaeology. The traditional icebreaker party took place in the old auditorium of the university and was an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

The first day of the conference proper began with a keynote address by Gunter Schreier, the deputy director of the German Remote Sensing Data Center, who presented the European Copernicus program and outlined how freely available remote sensing data can help protect tangible cultural heritage.

Afterwards, the participants presented and discussed the results of their research on almost all relevant topics of digital archaeology in eight parallel sessions. The first full day concluded with a reception at Hohentübingen Palace, home to the archaeological collections of the University of Tübingen. All rooms were open to the participants and drinks and snacks were served.

On the second day of the conference, the CAA traditionally held its annual meeting, which was followed by the conference dinner. We decided against a formal dinner and instead had a Bierfest with traditional German food, drinks and live music.

Like the previous days, Thursday was filled with eight simultaneous sessions and ended although no social program was planned for the evening, countless participants found themselves in a traditional pub in Tübingen's old town that has probably rarely sold such quantities of beer in one evening.

The excursion after the conference took the participants to some of the most exiting archaeological sites of Europe including the Swabian Ice Age caves, the Neolithic lake dwellings on Lake Constance, and to the Celtic hillforts on the Swabian Jura.

For us it was a great honor to welcome so many guests from all over the world in our small town and hope that everyone took home new ideas and new friends.

Matthias Lang, Volker Hochschild



Acknowledgements

From the first plans to host the conference in Tübingen to the completion of the proceedings it has been a long way, and so it is difficult to remember all those who made the success possible. Nevertheless, we would like to express our gratitude to all those who have supported us tirelessly.

A first thank you must go to the Scientific Committee. Paul Reilly supported us in endless Skype conversations and was an immense help in planning the event. No less appreciation goes to the Steering Committee, which was always available for us and helped to identify and solve many problems at an early stage.

We would like to thank Hembo Pagi for the maintenance of the homepage and the quick solution of problems related with it.

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Editing the volume was not an easy task and was repeatedly set back by the Corona pandemic as well as by personal challenges. Therefore, we are more than happy to finally have the volume see the light of day.