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Current Research: Index of Texas Archaeology Ceramic Comparative Collection

Robert Z. Selden Jr.
Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University

Timothy K. Perttula
Archeological & Environmental Consultants, LLC

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Robert Z. Selden Jr.[1] and Timothy K. Perttula[2]
[1]Stephen F. Austin State University, [2]Archeological & Environmental Consultants, LLC

The Index of Texas Archaeology (ITA) (https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/) was developed by the Heritage Research Center at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) (Figure 1) (Bousman and Selden 2018; Selden and Bousman 2017). ITA was built using the Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) platform, is part of SFASU's institutional repository, and is a digital repository that aggregates, distributes, and indexes scarce, limited-production, and digital archaeological works related to the State of Texas and adjacent regions, much of which was produced through publicly-funded projects. ITA also includes full runs of the *Journal of Texas Archeology and History*, *Journal of Northeast Texas Archaeology*, and the *Caddo Archeology Journal*. Volumes are organized by year, currently ranging from 1967 to 2020, and are indexed by Google, Google Scholar, Altmetric, Dimensions, Creative Commons, PlumX, and Crossref. The bepress platform also allows users to set up personalized email notices based upon their interests, which will generate an email when a new publication is added to ITA that meets with the users' notification criteria (we recommend Caddo and Caddoan to readers of this journal).

Figure 1. Index of Texas Archaeology.

In addition to publications and reports, new ceramic comparative collections were recently added (https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/ceramic.html), and are currently being expanded. These collections include images of vessels assigned to those types initially defined by Suhm and Krieger (1954) and Suhm and Jelks (1962), and were documented in museums, repositories, personal and private collections, as well as from professional archaeological investigations across the state, most from within the southern Caddo area of East Texas (Figure 2). Metadata are included with each entry, and provide additional information related to vessel form and size, temper, surface treatment, firing conditions, vessel wall thickness, and decorative motifs and elements. Both the images and metadata can be harvested using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH), which will return Dublin Core metadata records for each entry.

Updated type descriptions for each of the type galleries are forthcoming, and will include thick descriptions (beginning from those provided in Suhm and Krieger [1954] and Suhm and Jelks [1962]), links to citations of relevant vessel documentation and typological research, as well as additional resources. A spatial distribution for each vessel types is included in each collection, and enlists the centroid for each county rather than site locations, to comply with legislation that protects the location of archaeological

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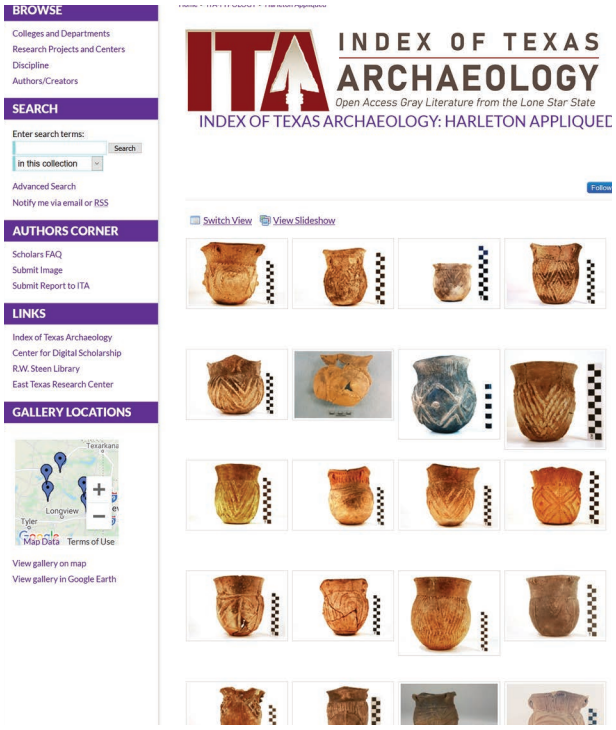

Figure 2. Ceramic comparative collection for Harleton Appliqued vessels (partial).

resources. Eventually, new age estimates will be added/updated for each of the types. Populating the collection is a significant undertaking, but one well worth the information given the significance of ancestral Caddo ceramic analysis in understanding the material culture and lifeways of Caddo groups and communities in the archaeological record (McKinnon et al. 2021). In addition to their value, these data have additional utility in developing and testing novel hypotheses (Selden 2021a), and within studies of shape, form, allometry, and asymmetry (Selden 2017, 2018a, 2018b, 2019, 2021b; Selden et al. 2014; Selden et al. 2018; Selden et al. 2020). Images of each vessel are provided at the highest resolution available, and can be downloaded at three different resolutions under a Creative Commons license (i.e., these images can be used in your own work). The largest (full-size) image is uploaded as an uncompressed TIFF, which conforms with best practices and digital curation guidelines.

Your Help is Needed

In February 2021, ITA will begin accepting submissions of vessel images and metadata to the ceramic comparative collections as one part of a large-scale citizen science project; however, the archaeological community is invited to make submissions to the collections as a beta test. In addition to 2D images, the ceramic comparative collection accommodates 3D data, and many 3D meshes have been uploaded where users can view and interact with them alongside the 2D images. Should there be an interest in uploading the 3D data only, that can be included as supplemental data (raw data + ascii STL). If uploading a photogrammetry model, OBJ and VRML files are required, and all images used to create the model should be uploaded as uncompressed TIFF images.

Acknowledgments

We express our gratitude to the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma for the requisite permissions and access needed to document these important collections. Per his (RZS) agreement with the Caddo, no texture (color) files associated with the 3D scans are included in the collections; however, all full-resolution color scan data were provided to the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma for their records. The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma also provided the necessary permissions to RZS and TKP to make the high-resolution color 2D images, as well as full-resolution color 2D screenshots of the 3D data available for all Caddo vessels that they have documented.

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