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## **Fit for purpose? Archaeological data in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

*Clive Orton*

*UCL Institute of Archaeology*

[tcfa002@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:tcfa002@ucl.ac.uk), [C.orton@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:C.orton@ucl.ac.uk)

### ***Abstract***

Archaeology continues to generate large amounts of data, in a growing range of formats and media. Old datasets are being digitised, and there is increasing emphasis on the re-use of datasets, and on preparing datasets with re-use in mind. That being so, surprisingly little attention has been paid to the prevention and detection of errors in archaeological data, and in acquiring or developing robust methods of analysis. The sorts of errors that can be encountered in different types of data are approached and discussed through a series of case studies, linking them to another obstacle to the re-use of data: the lack of standardised terminology between different originators. Strategies for mitigating these problems (which cannot be totally overcome) are presented.