Comparing artefact catalogues in Historical Archaeology

Penny Crook

La Trobe University

The EAMC
Archaeology
Database

Artefacts

Search Artefacts

Contexts

Images

Type Series

Add new artefacts

Print-outs

>> **Administration**

A database created by the ARC Linkage project:

ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE MODERN CITY 1788-1900

LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

Heritage
VICTORIA

Harbour Foreshore Authority

NSW
Heritage
Office

Godden Mackay Logan
Heritage Consultants

CITY OF SYDNEY

Exploring the Archaeology of Modern City (EAMC)

www.latrobe.edu.au/amc

- ARC Linkage project (2001–2004…6)

- Two customised MS Access databases

- 700K artefacts, 7K contexts, 5K images

- Designed in-house for project use

- By-products of research process

- Released in 2006

- Data entry at your own risk

- Data structure is as a 'standard' even though it wasn't developed as one

Assessment Report

- Assessed research potential of 7 sites

- Quality audit of 3% assemblage

- Found high degree of suspected and surprising

- Data entry 'errors', misused categories and systemic 'differences'

- Result: data upgrade at 3 sites (www.latrobe.edu.au/amc)

Post EAMC

- Commonwealth Block project (Modern City 2)
- Doctoral Research (quality)
- Contract work
- Other users
- Some people use it as (confuse it with) a 'standard'
- Australian Historical Archaeological Database (www.ahad.edu.au)

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Comparing data structures

- No two artefacts are the same
- But some are very similar…

System	Year	IDNumber	CatalogueNumber	Site	...
EAMC (Un)	1989	##	LV	LV	
EAMC (Un)	1993	##	P	P	
EAMC	1994	##	CU	CU	
EAMC	1994	##	FG	FG	
EAMC	1994	##	YR	FG	
EAMC (Q)	2005	11	LA	LA	
EAMC	2005	##	N	N	
EAMC	2009	2	CU	CU	
EAMC (GM	2010	21	HP	PL	
EAMC (GM	2012	3	PH	PH	
EAMC (GM	2012	4	HP		
EAMC	2003		CU		
EAMC (AM	2010		P		
EAMC (AH	2011	1	GL	GL	
Port Arthur	2008	##	O6	Co	
Port Arthur	2007	##	O2	Co	
Port Arthur	2008	##	O4	Do	
Menzies	2008	85		HO	
KGV	2009		##		

Year	IDNumber	CatalogueNumber	Site	Activity	ActivityQ	Function	FunctionQ	Subfunction	SubfunctionQ	Arteclass	Glaze Type	BodyColour	Integrity	Percentage	Quantity	Shape	Portion	Decoration	DecorationPlacement	Colour	Pattern	PatternCategory	TechniqueManuf	QualityNotes	Modifictns	IDMarks	MakerID	DistributorID	Tilestrike	TSName	TSNo	TSDetails	DateFrom	DateTo	DateNote	Provenance	WeightGrms
1989	##	LV	LV	Food Service		Plate		Medium	No	Ce				0.2	2			BlueTPW			'Willow'									BlueTPW							
1993	##	P	P	Food Service		Plate		Large	No	Ce			SI	~	1		Rim	TRANSFER		BLUE 11	WILLOW									TP BLUE	41 R						
1994	##	CU	CU	Food Service		Plate?	Unidentified			Ce			IE	Un	4	Round	Base, Body	Transfer-print	One-sided	Blue	"WILLOW"		unid							TP	2 R		1790	1994	Plus		14.2
1994	##	FG	FG	Food Service		Plate				Ce			Fra		##		Multiple	Transfer-print		Blue	Willow									Blue transfer	100 R						
1994	##	YR	FG	Food Service		Plate			No	Ce			Fra	<1	1		Base	Transfer Print		Blue	Willow									Blue transfer	7 R						
2005	11	LA	LA	Food Service	No	Plate	No	Dinner	No	Ce			SE	50	1	Round	Rim to	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	'Willow'		Moulded			Us	Bas			TP	3 R		1790				185.2
2005	##	N	N	Food Service	No	Plate	No	Supper	No	Ce			SV	60	13	Round,	Rim to	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	'Willow'		Moulded							TP	10 R		1790				148.05
2009	2	CU	CU	Food Service	No	Plate	No	Dinner	No	Ce			SE	20	2	Round,	Full profile	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	'Willow'		Moulded							Transfer	2 R		1790			United Kingdom	82.93
2010	21	HP	PL	Food Service	No	Plate	Ye	Small	Ye	Ce			SE	5%	1	Round	Marly	Transfer-	Concave	Blue	Willow		Unidentified							Transfer-	2 R						0.7
2012	3	PH	PH	Food service	No	Plate	Ye	Twiffler	No	Ce			SE	5%	1	Round,	Rim to	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	'Willow'		Moulded	Pro						Transfer	2 R		1790			United Kingdom	18.5
2012	##	HP	PL	Food Service	No	Plate	Ye		Un	No		W	SE	5%		Round	Rim	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	Willow	Chinoiserie	Moulded			0		Tra			2 R	1783				United Kingdom	2.29
2003	##	CU	CU	Food Service	No	Plate	Ye		Un	No			IE	Un		Unidentifie	Body; Rim;	Transfer-	Concave	Blue	Willow		Unidentified							TP	2 R						28.1
2010	##	P	P	Food Service	Ye	Plate	No		Di	Ye			IE	10			Rim, marly	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	Willow		Moulded							Transfer	2 R		1790				69.32
2011	1	GL	GL	Food Service	No	Plate	Ye		Un	No			SE	5%		Round	Rim to	Transfer-print	Concave	Blue	Willow		Moulded			0		Tra			2 R	1790					25.81
2008	##	06		Kitchen		consumption				pla	W	Clea	Sin	0-		Double-	Base	Transfer		Blue	Willow	Scenic	Industrial mass-				0										
2007	##	02		Kitchen		consumption				pla	W	Lea	Sin	0-			Base	Transfer		Blue	Willow	Animal	Industrial mass-	No			0	C1									
2008	##	04		Kitchen		consumption				pla	W	Clea	Sin	0-			Fragment	Transfer		Blue	Willow	Vegetation	Industrial mass-	No			0					1790					
2008	86	HO		DOMESTIC		CONTAINERS				PL			IE	5			RIM	TRANSFER		BLUE			MOULDING						CER	WILLOW							
2009		##		food		tblw							IE		2	plate	rim/bd/bs	bltp			W3											1840				UK	276

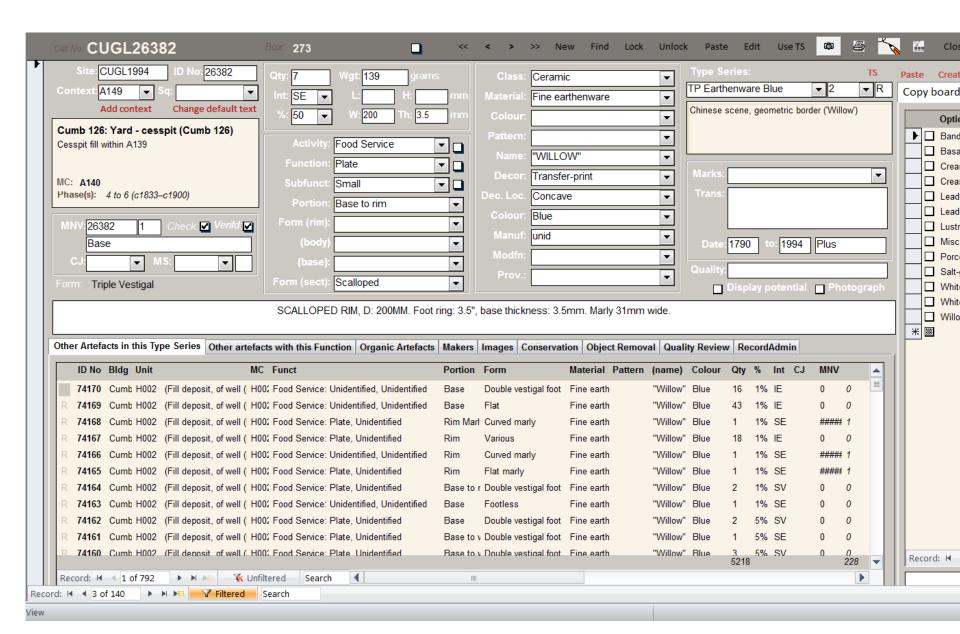| Year	Pattern	TSName	
1989	'Willow'	BlueTPW	
1993	WILLOW	TP BLUE WILLOW	
1994	"WILLOW"	TP Earthenware Blue	
1994	Willow	Blue transfer print	
1994	Willow Pattern	Blue transfer print	
2005	'Willow'	TP Earthenware	
2005	'Willow'	TP Earthenware	
2009	'Willow'	Transfer printed	
2010	Willow	Transfer-printed ware	
2012	'Willow'	Transfer printed	
2012	Willow		2
2003	Willow		2
2010	Willow	Transfer printed	
2011	Willow		2
2008	Willow		
2007	Willow		
2008	Willow		
2008		WILLOW	
2009	W3		

Bugbears

- Quantification/Measurement as text
- CAPITALS!
- Structure data in the Notes field
- Codes without coding lists

Other issues

- Splitting vs lumping
- Questionable, ambiguous and tentative data

- Sharing vs Standards

Cat No: **CUGL26382**   Box: 273   □   << < > >>   New   Find   Lock   Unlock   Paste   Edit   Use TS   📷 🖨 ✎ 📇   Clo

Site: CUGL1994   ID No: 26382   Qty: 7   Wgt: 139   grams   Class: Ceramic ▼   Type Series: TS   Paste   Creat

Context: A149 ▼   Sq: ▼   Int: SE ▼   L: ___   H: ___ mm   Material: Fine earthenware ▼   TP Earthenware Blue ▼ 2 ▼ R   Copy board

Add context   Change default text   %: 50 ▼   W: 200   Th: 3.5 mm   Colour: ▼

Chinese scene, geometric border ('Willow')

Cumb 126: Yard - cesspit (Cumb 126)
Cesspit fill within A139   Activity: Food Service ▼ □   Pattern: ▼

MC: **A140**   Function: Plate ▼ □   Name: "WILLOW" ▼   Marks: ▼
Phase(s): *4 to 6 (c1833–c1900)*   Subfunct: Small ▼ □   Decor: Transfer-print ▼   Trans:

MNV: 26382 1   Check ☑ Verifd ☑   Portion: Base to rim ▼   Dec. Loc.: Concave ▼

Base   Form (rim): ▼   Colour: Blue ▼

CJ: ▼   MS: ▼   ___   (body): ▼   Manuf: unid ▼   Date: 1790 to 1994 Plus
Form: Triple Vestigal   (base): ▼   Modfn: ▼
    Form (sect): Scalloped ▼   Prov.: ▼   Quality:

☐ Display potential   ☐ Photograph

SCALLOPED RIM, D: 200MM. Foot ring: 3.5", base thickness: 3.5mm. Marly 31mm wide.

	Optio
▶	☐ Band
	☐ Basa
	☐ Crea
	☐ Crea
	☐ Lead
	☐ Lead
	☐ Lustr
	☐ Misc
	☐ Porc
	☐ Salt-
	☐ White
	☐ White
	☐ Willo

Other Artefacts in this Type Series | Other artefacts with this Function | Organic Artefacts | Makers | Images | Conservation | Object Removal | Quality Review | RecordAdmin

	ID No	Bldg	Unit	MC	Funct	Portion	Form	Material	Pattern	(name)	Colour	Qty	%	Int	CJ	MNV
	74170	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Unidentified, Unidentified	Base	Double vestigal foot	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	16	1%	IE		0	0
R	74169	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Unidentified, Unidentified	Base	Flat	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	43	1%	IE		0	0
R	74168	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Rim Marl	Curved marly	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	1	1%	SE		####	1
R	74167	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Rim	Various	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	18	1%	IE		0	0
R	74166	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Unidentified, Unidentified	Rim	Curved marly	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	1	1%	SE		####	1
R	74165	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Rim	Flat marly	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	1	1%	SE		####	1
R	74164	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Base to r	Double vestigal foot	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	2	1%	SV		0	0
R	74163	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Unidentified, Unidentified	Base	Footless	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	1	1%	SE		0	0
R	74162	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Base	Double vestigal foot	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	2	5%	SV		0	0
R	74161	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Base to v	Double vestigal foot	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	1	5%	SE		0	0
R	74160	Cumb	H002	(Fill deposit, of well (	H00:	Food Service: Plate, Unidentified	Base to v	Double vestigal foot	Fine earth		"Willow"	Blue	3	5%	SV		0	0
												5218				228

Record: I◀ ◀ 1 of 792 ▶ ▶I ▶*   🔻 Unfiltered   Search ◀ |||| ▶   Record: I◀

Record: I◀ ◀ 3 of 140 ▶ ▶I ▶*   🔽 Filtered   Search

View

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