

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS

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May 20, 2005

Dr. John Yellen
Director for Archaeology, Archaeometry, and Systematic Collections
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 995
Arlington, VA 22330

Dear Dr. Yellen:

On behalf of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA), I wish to endorse the recent report entitled "The Promise and Challenge of Archaeological Data Integration" that was produced by a workshop in Santa Barbara, California, sponsored by NSF to initiate a cyberinfrastructure for archaeological data.

The AAPA was founded in 1930 and is an international organization with over 1700 members, representing the largest single organization of professionals in the field of physical/biological anthropology. Our field by nature overlaps considerably with archaeology and archaeological interests. Archaeological data are critical to the analysis and understanding of research in paleoanthropology, bioarchaeology, paleopathology, and population genetics, to name but a few topics. In particular, our discipline is committed to the preservation and sharing of skeletal data that are useful in both archaeological and bioanthropological research.

An appropriate cyberinfrastructure is critical to the development and maintenance of such databases. AAPA endorses the findings of the Santa Barbara workshop and encourages further support of these efforts.

Yours truly,



John H. Relethford
President

cc: Mark Weiss, National Science Foundation
Keith Kintigh, Arizona State University
Dean Snow, Pennsylvania State University

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