The development of the Archaeological Data Export standard (ADeX) was initiated by the commission “Archaeology and Information Systems” of the Association of State Archaeologists of Germany (Verband der Landesarchäologen) and was implemented by its modeling team. The aim was to develop a simple standard for exchanging archaeological data between all relevant institutions throughout Germany and to export archaeological data to third parties. ADeX is a registered trademark and is listed as reference information on the INSPIRE website of the European Commission. The ADeX standard will be further enhanced. Next steps are to include linear and areal objects into the georeference module and to design and integrate a new module “type and period.”

This model combined with information on its technical realization constitutes the first version of the Archaeological Data export standard ADeX. This version is very easy to use and can be implemented without significant programming effort.

The ADeX standard format is introduced to describe archaeological areas, consisting of the modules “general,” “georeference” and “type and period.” The new model includes the most important fields present in all data models considered, but does not replace the existing data models. Instead it serves as an exchange format and supports a unique view across several modules.

The first version of ADeX is intentionally simple and contains only a small number of essential attributes. Its focus is on archaeological areas, and in version 1.1 and 1.2 the areas are represented by center points and bounding boxes. The standard consists of two tables in CSV format:

**Data table**

- **Type and dating**: general: georeference:
  - Georeference, e.g. coordinates, reference system, precision, municipality.
  - Type and dating: Broader terms from a list of approved terms are used to describe the type and the dating. Narrower terms are not standardized and depend on the different threats of the institution providing the data.

A standardization of the narrow terms is necessary for some investigations. Unfortunately this problem is not yet solved.

The development of the ADeX export standard is based on workshops of working groups of specialists. At the first workshop organized by the commission “Archaeology and Information Systems” in 2005 the necessity of a standard for archaeological information and a vision for an exchange system were discussed.

In 2006 the ADeX standard was presented to the Commission “Archaeology and Information Systems” and the European Commission. The ADeX standard was used in several projects for the exchange of archaeological information for archaeological heritage protection and for the exchange of archaeological data with third parties. The ADeX standard will be further enhanced. Next steps are to include linear and areal objects into the georeference module and to design and integrate a new module “type and period” for the exchange of information on protected areas (archaeological monuments).

- **Explanation Table**: This table contains a list of terms and their explanations. Each term used within a field of the data table can be annotated in the explanation table. To identify a term uniquely, the field institution, attribute name, and term are included in the explanation table.

**Data table**

- **Regions**: A, B, C, D, E, F
- **Georeference**: general: georeference:
  - Georeference, e.g. coordinates, reference system, precision, municipality.
  - Type and dating: Broader terms from a list of approved terms are used to describe the type and the dating. Narrower terms are not standardized and depend on the different threats of the institution providing the data.

As a test case data of the type “castle” from several archaeological institutions were assembled. The result is a map of castles supplied by the “ADeX pioneers”: Reiner Göldner, Michael Hörnig, Thomas Neudamm, Carl Kähler, and Peter Schütz. In 2007 the workshop “Data Exchange of the Heritage Service in Germany” was organized at the conference “Cultural Heritage and New Technologies” in Vienna. At the same time the internet site of the commission “Archaeology and Information Systems” went online (see URL below).

A harmonized view on archaeological data of overall Germany may be reality soon, if many archaeological institutions as possible support ADeX. That would be profitable to research as well as to heritage preservation.

**Explanation Table**

- **Explanation Table as CSV**: This table contains a list of terms and their explanations. Each term used within a field of the data table can be annotated in the explanation table. To identify a term uniquely, the field institution, attribute name, and term are included in the explanation table.

For more information about ADeX and about the commission “Archaeology and Information Systems” one can be obtained from the internet (in German only): [http://www.landesarchaeologen.de/ag/ag-informationssysteme/ag-informationssysteme.html](http://www.landesarchaeologen.de/ag/ag-informationssysteme/ag-informationssysteme.html).