

Now to move on to discussing the Arches project. One gap in the heritage field that we have heard about over and over is that heritage agencies worldwide often lack fundamental facts needed to protect their heritage—namely, they are often challenged to maintain up-to-date inventories that identify essential information about their heritage such as a site's exact location and extent.

We decided in 2011 to join with our partner World Monuments Fund to develop a modern software system to address a basic need.

As you know very well, inventories are an essential tool for providing for heritage protection in day-to-day planning with respect to:

- -- development
- -- for resource management like what State Parks does
- -- For disaster preparedness and response

--and for promoting public awareness and appreciation of cultural resources



So, what is Arches?

a comprehensive platform purpose-built for organizations to manage inventories of cultural heritage places





SHARING TO CREATE ONE THING THAT'S BETTER FOR ALL



The Harwell Dekatron computer, later known as the Wolverhampton Instrument for Teaching Computing from Harwell (WITCH), and Steve Jobs at launch of MacBook Air.



Here are some of the conservation-related activities I'm talking about... all of these people have clipboards because they're collecting data in the field. And all too often...



ONE DESIGN PRINCIPLE TO EMPHASIZE:

The use of proprietary and nonstandard data formats often leads to the inability to combine or compare datasets or share data with other systems, frequently because of obsolescence. As the railroad industry figured out more than 150 years ago, the key to widespread transmission of goods and passengers is standardization. The same is true today for combining and sharing heritage data.

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Purpose-built to manage heritage inventory data over the long term

Four QUALITIES.... ONE SENTENCE ABOUT EACH...

Let me briefly to into each of these 4 important features....



- open-source license with improvements to be shared by all
- robust geospatial mapping and processing
- highly customizable options for opening and limiting access to the inventory
- standards- and semantic-based to promote data exchange and to ensure data longevity
- module to manage vocabularies



Arches uses semantic technologies — data structured to support relationships and a module to manage terminologies. Arches was built specifically for the cultural heritage field and designed by heritage professionals. The code is open source and ca downloaded, customized and exte individual needs.

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Add numbers...



Goals and aspirations:

- ▶ To end unnecessary spending for similar systems
- Pool resources in heritage field to share benefits
- Preserve heritage and the information describing it



Aspirations...



So now here's an update on Arches: as of January 2016, Arches has had about 9 organization launch their own implementations and many more are in progress. We say "known" because we've released the Arches software under an open source license and made it free to download, so others can use it, really for any purpose, without our knowledge. Our only stipulation is that any improvements to the software code be shared with the Arches open source community.

