DIGGING I95

A "Smart" Report

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The Digging I-95 interactive report is a web-based application, created by AECOM, which aims to expand the capabilities of traditional printed technical reports. Through its online format, the Digging I-95 website offers the public greater access to previously hard-to-find information and encourages customization and unique levels of interaction. It also affords report authors and editors the ability to make edits and comments in real time while communicating directly with one another. This real-time collaboration allows for a faster system of editing and approval, using technology to streamline the original process. For the discerning public, each digital report on the website is accompanied by a bevy of multimedia capabilities—from image galleries of artifacts, excavations, historic maps, and figures to interactive 3D artifacts, explorable maps, tangential information, sortable databases, and expanded multi-tiered levels of information. Each report is universally accessible for desktop and mobile devices, with the content conforming to fit the particular platform being used.

Within Digging I-95, there are a number of interactive maps that show ongoing and completed archaeological excavations along Philadelphia's Delaware River waterfront as part of PennDOT's I-95 expansion project. Interactive maps show current topographical and satellite-based imagery, and can also be used to show georeferenced historical maps to demonstrate changes in pattern and structure over time.

Typical users might easily peruse a report and explore related information in the form of an interactive map that leads into an image gallery. From there, they might read about the history of a specific artifact and then explore a 3D interactive version of that artifact. They might then expand their exploration to a history of the technologies and processes used to originally create the artifact, and then finish up by exploring a list of upcoming events and exhibitions where they can interact with the archaeologists who excavated the original artifact.

The Digging I-95 platform is built on open-source technology that can easily disseminate varying forms of information. The platform can be modified to display a variety of other pieces of information and is not restricted to archaeological or technical reports. The Digging I-95 system is intended to provide an interactive experience in which visitors can explore cultural heritage artifacts and information of their own choosing. In the creation of this platform, AECOM hopes to create a new standard for public accessibility and new avenues of presentation for public archaeology projects.

Chester Cunanan and **Mark E. Petrovich** are interactive media specialists focused on bringing new technologies to the forefront of the archaelogical experience.