



Towards a comprehensive project webpage for IGCP-442

KATALIN T. BIRÓ

Hungarian National Museum, H-1088 Bp. Múzeum krt. 14-16, Budapest, Hungary

IGCP-442, as you all know, was put forward by D. Hovorka on the Budapest Archaeometry meeting in 1998. Soon after the idea raised, the project was accepted by UNESCO as a Europe-wide international collaboration project between geologists, archaeologists, mineralogists etc. After launching the project in June 1999, a dedicated web-page was set and by the time of the 2nd workshop at Veszprém, the web-paged (<http://www.ace.hu/igcp442>) was functioning.

It is difficult to get an estimate how much a project web page is used by members and non-members, and how much impact it has on the subject in general.

At the same time I am convinced that we are far beyond the potentials for using a project web page to the advantage of the subject.

This opinion was corroborated when, doing some research on the special subject of radiolarite research I hit against some other most informative and useful web-pages that can serve as models. I was, in fact, trying to locate Jurassic Thetian sediments which, as generally known have abundant radiolarite excessively used for the production of chipped stone tools is prehistory. It may be noted that some polished stone tools were also made of this material though more an exception than a rule (e.g., Mecsek radiolarite – Zengővárkony, Transdanubian radiolarite, porcelanite phase – Városlőd, Szentgál Lengyel sites). This way I came across http://www.sst.unil.ch/igcp_369/igcp_369_areas.htm, where I could get direct and on-line help on the subject¹.

In preparing the text of this paper, I did some web-surfing to find out about IGCP project related web pages, their availability and contents. For a fast reference, the main titles are enclosed here (Table 1.) and also available as „links” on our project web page.

It was also raised on the Eggenburg meeting that our project could also produce a fast reference material for all participants and people interested in general in polished stone artefact research. To tell the truth, I did not receive so far any applicable material from project participants, so I decided to go ahead with an example, to be criticised and completed by all of us.

I am aware of certain aversions to electronical publication which may be founded to some extent:

- IPR problems
- ephemeral character
- „impact factor”- central judgement on project output evaluation

At the same time, my conviction is that arguments *for* a good and informative project web page are more strong than the ones against it and most problems can be easily solved.

IPR problems can be best overcome by using published data with consent of author clearly indicated. That is why I started our new test-web pages with data where I am personally among the authors and I could get (naturally) the consent of my colleagues to use the published evidence.

The ephemeral character of publication on the web can be best surpassed by quality: once a source of information is really useful and wanted, it can be mirrored, printed on CD's or published in traditional printed format. These solutions also help to overcome difficulties marked by the „impact factor” centred approach.

New additions to IGCP-442 project web page

As most of these novelties are under construction in the time of writing up the text of the paper, the completed new webpage will be functioning by the time of the Udine meeting.

The project webpage was naturally complemented with organisation information.

The database application frame of Lithotheca, presented in Eggenburg will be put on the website in a download version (bilingual and english versions). On the basis of last year experience, protection/menu system was disengaged. If protection is needed, individual users could supply it for themselves.

The most important new development is a map based interactive database. This enterprise is part of a major project by Hungarian National Science Foundation theme T-025086 „Prehistoric raw material atlas of the Carpathian Basin”. When completed, the Atlas will have layers on various kinds of raw materials (sources, mines/quarries, workshops, distribution) used in prehistoric Hungary, with a view on the Carpathian Basin. Whereas the parent project aims at presenting a series of maps non-metallic raw materials used in prehistoric Hungary, the IGCP-442 webpage goes further in depth and geo-

¹ IGCP 369 PeriTethyan Rift Basins - Maps - Plate Tectonic Reconstruction



graphical scope: the region of interest extending over Europe and the data depth including the presentation of the individual raw materials as well.

As a basis for information, existing Hungarian publications were used. The information is organised into an easily retrievable form. I hope by the time of our Udine meeting we can already use a quick reference of existing Hungarian polished stone raw materials.

Conclusion

What I need on your part to develop our project webpage into a useful, informative platform of related research on the subject?

In fact, not too much. List of publications (completed), list of sources with raw materials suitable for the production of chipped stone tools with good macro- and microphotos, same from stone tools actually investigated.

The preferred format would be a table/sheet with reference on literature and image files (example).

With your consent, existing published information can be also turned into a similar electronic reference material. One of the project outcomes can be, if complete enough to be published, a CD showing all related information.