



As a learned society devoted to research and publication on the Near East and wider Mediterranean, ASOR is a natural fit for the LCP. Below I offer some ideas for how an affiliation could work to mutual advantage. These ideas speak to a number of specific points in ASOR's strategic plan:

- 2B: Develop a Digital Publication Program
- 5A: Champion the Study of the Near East and Wider Mediterranean
- 5B: Secure the Success of the Next Generation
- 6: Increased International Identity
- 7: Outreach – engagement with the general public

With an open, crowd-sourced website and specialist workshops, the LCP already promotes all of the above. An affiliation with ASOR would allow both groups to pursue these goals jointly and systematically, as follows:

- Digital Publication: The LCP is already an acknowledged digital scholarly resource. A single click generates a scholarly citation for every page on the site; these citations have begun appearing in print publications and conference presentations.
- International Identity: The LCP has a broad and engaged international presence and organization via the website, periodic specialist workshops, and international institutional affiliations:
  - Website: To date 194 scholars from 21 countries have contributed to the website.
  - Workshops: since 2012 the LCP has organized [11 workshops](#) in the United States, Belgium, France, Greece, and Israel, in which over 300 scholars and students have participated. Under ASOR auspices, the LCP would continue to organize practitioner workshops for specific regions and periods at the Annual Meeting as well as at other times and places throughout the year.
  - International affiliations: In 2016, the LCP began an official collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority. In this agreement, IAA researchers review ongoing projects, choose material to submit to the LCP, and are allowed to use IAA work time to upload data. Also in 2016, the LCP partnered with the Austrian Archaeological Institute on a grant to the Austrian government for digital research, publication, and outreach, specifically in association with the Institute's long-term excavation project at Syene (Aswan), Egypt.
- Outreach. As a public, crowd-sourced website, the LCP is at the forefront of making scholarship accessible. Such outreach could be readily multiplied across all ASOR-affiliated excavation projects and data via API linkages. The LCP site is already built to be API-workable; for connections to be made, other project websites would also need to be API-friendly. Together, ASOR and the LCP could provide stimulus, guidance, and technological

know-how to make such connections possible. Such connections would allow any project to develop and maintain their own digital presence and record-keeping in whatever manner they choose.

- The Next Generation: Excavation and publication continues seemingly non-stop; future scholars will need help making sense of their own results as well as communicating them to others. The LCP was built to meet this challenge in several ways:
  - The LCP is both an archive of past scholarship and a tool for new analysis. The website accepts already published information as well as that newly discovered. Scholarly credibility and intellectual property are maintained via clearly positioned links to contributor(s) and publications. The LCP is unique in its ability to help people collate past and current research.
  - The LCP can help guide future research. The website simplifies the recognition of key gaps in information, thus offering ideas for what is needed in specific regions, periods, and subjects. The website and workshops bring together specialized as well as broad bodies of data, thus positioning researchers to achieve common understandings. Under ASOR auspices, such common gatherings could lead to periodic specialist print publications with digital updates, such as handbooks of wares and petro-fabrics by region, regional ceramic typologies by period, etc.
  - The LCP template can be a model for data other than ceramic, and for regions outside of the Levant.
- Champion the field: The LCP connects scholars to scholarship. It has been designed to meet practitioners where they are, to assist students, and to help move our field forward. In this it meshes seamlessly with ASOR's intentions to be a leader among scholarly organizations.

**An affiliation with ASOR would benefit the LCP in four significant ways:**

- provide a stable institutional home, which would allow the LCP to receive donations and more readily apply for outside grants;
- provide a institutional venue for an LCP student intern, preferably as an annual position;
- institutionalize the editorial/advisory board;
- regularize the budget.

**ASOR-LCP organization and funding.** With this affiliation, the LCP would come under the ASOR umbrella. An ASOR officer would join the LCP Board, which would continue to decide on the allocation of funds for workshops and website development.

The LCP was built with funds from two generous BU internal research seed grants (\$65k total), matching funds from an anonymous donor, and my own university research account (\$20k/year). The current budget relies on the last two alone. For the next five years, I will pledge \$15k/year to support LCP workshops. During that time, I will work to consolidate current relationships with foreign archaeological ministries and institutes, and to build new ones that would support LCP workshops.

In return, I would ask that ASOR commit \$10k/year to support the following: a part-time student intern (\$5000/year), ongoing hosting costs (\$2000/year), and occasional technical maintenance. In addition, I ask for a commitment to assist in securing funds for regular programing improvements. This would range between \$40k-90k/year.