



4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1K 3M4
TEL: (403) 329-2225
FAX: (403) 329-2016

Department of Geography & Environment

April 15, 2021

Dear Dr. Herbert and members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing to you in my capacity as chair of ASOR's Publications Committee regarding the "five-year review" of the relationship between the Levantine Ceramics Project (LCP) and ASOR. I believe that a continued relationship between the LCP and ASOR is justified and that the LCP makes an important contribution to ASOR and our field more generally.

Last year, the Publications Committee passed a policy on digital publication. In this policy, we asserted the importance of digital publication and that one of the most important shifts in archaeological publication has been the presentation of raw data in open access digital databases. There are a number of benefits, and not all need to be noted here, but they include the preservation of archaeological information, increased access to those materials by researchers worldwide, and an improvement in the utility of different kinds of computational analytical tools. This kind of venue is the future of archaeological publication. The days of including vast volumes of excavation data in a CD-ROM in an envelope in the back of a site report are over.

The LCP also allows ASOR members to meet obligations to publish data in open access forms. For example, as a Canadian, my federally funded work could not be published just in BASOR because the funding agency demands open access publication. However, by publishing materials in LCP, this would allow me, according to the rules of that granting agency, to publish articles in one of our more traditional print venues.

As Dr. Berlin indicates in her report, the Publications Committee desires to increase the interoperability between the LCP and ASOR's other publications. While this has not yet happened, for various reasons, I believe that the next step will be to publish an *Archaeological Report Series* volume that is integrated with the LCP. The next time a suitable volume is accepted beyond the proposal stage, I will be putting Dr. Berlin in touch with the series editor of *ARS*, Dr. Jennie Ebeling, to work with the author on such an integration.

Regardless of the success of such efforts to integrate the LCP with other ASOR publications, the LCP stands on its own as an important publication and its support by ASOR demonstrates ASOR's commitment to innovative publication strategies.

Sincerely,

Kevin McGeough
Chair, ASOR's Publications Committee