

6-2006

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Publication Info

Published in *Legacy*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2006, pages 18-18.

<http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/>

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SCIAA GIS Site File Digitization Project Update

By Jonathan Leader

The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) at SCIAA continues to implement the joint SC Department of Transportation and SCIAA GIS Site File Digitization project. This project is designed to provide a fully interactive GIS enhanced site file database for researchers and other clients. Every section of the current site form will be independently targetable once completed. The acquisition of state trinomials will be facilitated as well.

Most recently OSA has purchased and placed the two servers that will carry GIS data layers and ESRI software with the College of Arts and Sciences computer services division at the University.

This equipment will cover the needs of both the SC Department of Archives and History and the SCIAA. Additional funding through the Robert L Stephenson Fund is allowing Christopher Gillam, with the assistance of an intern, to update the basic location polygons for the state. This will facilitate the final

implementation and upload of attribute data.

A partial reorganization of the Institute has resulted in the freeing of a staff position. This position will become the new permanently funded Site Files GIS position. The job announcement is going through the university and will be posted shortly. It is intended that the individual who is hired for this position will have a solid background in both GIS/IT and in archaeology, thus permitting them to act as a colleague in research, not simply a servant to technology.

Several meetings have been held with ESRI in Charlotte, North Carolina, to ensure that the final product will meet the expectations of

both the SCIAA and the client base. Meetings will be scheduled with staff and select client representatives to ensure that ESRI has the most accurate and complete input as to needs.

Graduate students are already being solicited and identified to act as data uploaders in what will undoubtedly be an intense final phase of the project. It is expected that two shifts will be necessary to put the attributes into the matrix in a timely fashion. Once this is done, the SCIAA GIS Site File Digitization Database will be online and available to subscribers. There will be more on subscription and use in the next *Legacy*.

