In the summer of 2013 Dr. Joshua J. Wells received an Indiana University South Bend Faculty Research Grant in the amount of $5,992 for materials and expenses to conduct a research project.

The grant-supported activities involved the authorship of an article manuscript for submission to a top-tier, peer-reviewed publication, and to begin manuscript preparation for a second article, all related to the Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA), a multi-institutional collaborative effort with which Dr. Wells serves as a principal investigator. The National Science Foundation (NSF) funded the applicant for the first half of the summer, to conduct the research communicated in the articles. Both manuscripts are designed to address the question of how archaeology can adapt as a discipline to an era of networked cyberinfrastructure, which is a very current issue in global and American archaeology.

Dr. Wells was able complete the project with little difficulty. Having used previous NSF funding to acquire and publish the necessary archaeological database information from fifteen State Historic Preservation Offices (government offices that maintain comprehensive data sets about US archaeological sites, pursuant to a variety of federal and state statutes). Dr. Wells and his collaborative team were able to describe and publish their data interoperability models for the archaeological information they contained, and generate regional maps of archaeological patterns stretching across much of the Midwest and Southeast regions of the United States. The committee may notice that the journals in which the materials were published differ from those initially proposed; this is because the editors of both of the chosen journals (both of which are peer-reviewed and well-ranked) solicited these manuscripts on digital technologies in archaeological anthropology because of intense professional interest; because of these invitations, these journals were chosen to expedite the process. Furthermore, the IUSB grants support staff were very helpful and efficient at distributing funds, and with other logistical considerations.

The work on the article manuscripts has prompted a number of derivative efforts and opportunities for Dr. Wells, his colleagues, and IUSB students. These include professional conference presentations, publications in progress, new grant proposal initiatives, international professional collaborations, enhanced teaching in the classroom, and increased visibility of Indiana University South Bend in the archaeological and anthropological scientific community. All of the supported activities and dividends include:


• Classroom examples (2013-2014) of project work in ANTH-N 190, courses in introductory archaeology; project maps used as visual aids to explain the density of archaeological sites in Indiana and surrounding states.

• Classroom examples (2014) of project work in ANTH-B399, course in the study of scientific networks of knowledge sharing and the place of national and global scientific initiatives in public discourse; the project was used to demonstrate the activities of a distributed research group.

• Classroom examples (2013-2014) of project work in INFO-I 202 / SOC-S 240, social informatics; project datasets and management strategies used to explain differences in data management strategies related to the missions of institutional government contexts.

• Classroom examples (2013) of project work in ANTH-P 304, prehistoric archaeology; project maps and datasets used to explain how information systems are used to facilitate preservation of archaeological data after excavation and laboratory analyses.

The Indiana University South Bend Faculty Research Grant has been exceedingly important in the development of Dr. Wells’ professional career in research and teaching. This funding provided Dr. Wells with time and materials that were used to create numerous professional products and collaborative relationships that should facilitate at least several more years of externally grant-funded research activities and publications. Students at IUSB have been direct beneficiaries of Dr. Wells’ research experience on this project, which has provided them with numerous examples of archaeological digital data management practices that have been scaled and tailored to meet the needs of ten courses at IUSB since the award.