

D. Tsiafakis, V. Evangelidis, N. Tsirliganis, G. Pavlidis, C. Chamzas,  
"Karabournaki - Recording the past: The digitization of an Archaeological Site",  
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March - 2 April 2004, Florence, Italy, eds. V. Cappellini, J. Hemsley, Bologna  
2004, 232-237.

### **Abstract**

Digitisation, documentation, preservation and presentation of Cultural Heritage is a universal issue that has been of essential importance during the past decades. The evolution and maturation of new digital technologies with powerful recording, retrieval and presentation capabilities come today to complement and extend the possibilities offered by the traditional methods. A particular area where these technologies are called to play a significant role in the general field of Cultural Heritage is the preservation and the presentation of the Archaeological sites.

“Karabournaki-Recording the Past” is a project regarding the digital documentation of an archaeological site located in North Aegean, in the area of Thessaloniki. The site preserves the architectural remains of a settlement including a harbour and its cemeteries. The occupation of the site dates from the Late Bronze Age down to the Roman times, with a flourishing period during the Archaic times (7<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.).

Focus of the project is to design, develop, and implement a multimedia cultural database system capturing the full amount of the available information regarding the site, including extended search and visualization capabilities that can deliver its multilingual content over the Internet. Texts, photos, architectural drawings and archaeological information as well as information coming from the fields of conservation and archaeometry are used as primary sources for the digitisation and documentation of the site. Extensive use of 3D reconstructions (objects) and GIS (site) introduced a 3D-GIS segment of the project combining both objects and architectural remains into a rich and meaningful way of interaction both with objects and the excavation site itself.

The meta-data that will be produced after the completion of the project will contribute significantly to the study and publication of the site as well as its preservation, succeeding the final goal of making it universally accessible.