

## **“Hidden Gems”: Reviving Accessibility in Discarded Mass Finds**

### **Subtitle of your contribution<Style CHNT\_Title\_Subtitle>**

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This paper aims to discuss our online database for contemporary archaeological mass finds that will be discarded from the museums collection. Due to them no longer being physically existent, the dataset and photos of the objects will remain on our server and be made accessible to researchers. The related workflow, which is still in progress, aims to introduce a possible way to handle and eliminate masses of archaeological finds, especially from a contemporary industrial context.

To discard objects from a collection, the gathering of descriptive data is recorded as thoroughly as possible. This contains measuring, describing, photographing the objects and storing the attached excavation data. For this purpose, a specific data sheet was created and is imbedded within our collections database (the so-called M-BOX). The M-BOX gives access to the collected data via a specific web interface and therefore, it is accessible to researchers. Due to the ongoing process, which includes the Federal Monuments Office (BDA), access is limited and not open to the public. The first step of the process was the creation of a criteria catalogue for the determination and segregation of archaeological contemporary mass finds.

Furthermore, the artefacts were divided into the categories “keepable” and “discardable”. This was followed by the recording and processing of the finds to be discarded. An international approach was given, in the form of a two-day workshop on "Modern Mass Finds" to exchange experience with other experts and these results were incorporated into our further workflow. Prospectively the database should grow continuously, display the latest data, and allow interoperability.

The challenges we are facing are concerning the usability of the web-database. Especially the searchability of the datasets in a scientific form (necessary keywords, search operators and specific classifications). Another issue might be the future integration of data from other researchers, due to the institutional accessibility and costs of long-term storage.