

Subject:	CH
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Interviewer:	KB
Notes by:	SP & CK

IS213: Interview Questionnaire

Research Methodology

1. What is the last project that you were involved in? (actual fieldwork or archaeology-related research paper)

- In the Andes, 25 years
- Last 12 years worked in Chiripa, Bolivia

2. Did you do any background research to prepare for the project? What kinds of research did you do?

- I'm the background researcher.
- Look at books, visit labs, archives, meet w/ people in home country, run excavations, talk to locals, write things w/ local people, set up databases, advise PhDs, give papers, etc.
- All the activities that you can possibly think of doing research. Grand proposal, organizing the meetings at the home country that we are working on, run the excavations, etc.

3. How did you do your research?

a. Did you have a system for organizing your research? What was it?

- Use File maker database for last 5-6years, but needs to be improved.
- Use videos, still images, raw-field notes, statistical analysis, artifact photos, etc.

b. Are there any improvements you would like to make on this method?

- Continually improving. Try to improve everyday.

c. What resources did you use to do your research?

4. For someone who doesn't know, what is the typical process in archaeological research?

- What do you mean? It is really hard to say what a typical process is in archeological research. In broad sense, all aspects of research apply to the process of research and it all depends on your research topics.
- Could follow the scientific method

- Also, self-reflexive archaeology—while doing something continually revising hypotheses→constant cycling between data & questions
- Ethnography—simultaneously in the field
- As project director, I have to worry about all aspects
- Personally, I farm out the more specific data collection & analysis to specialists
- Must be “ethical” (follow ethical protocols) in collection & analysis—save everything even if it’s not being analyzed at once
- I do paper notes and then puts them on the computer—because old computer media gets obsolete (ex. tapes)

5. What is the process that you have to go through to access a collection such as the Uhle artifacts?

- I’m the curator so I don’t have problem to access the collection.
- Normally, other people must ask permission of me.

a. What kinds of things did you look at in that collection? (What do you look at in an artifact or document?)

- Anything that is available. Ceramics, textiles. But, I haven’t done any formal research for this particular collection.

b. What kind of research preceded looking at that artifact?

- I was just inspecting the collection to see what we have

c. What kind of research followed looking at that artifact?

6. Do you have any experience with doing research online?

- Yes, but I’m not computer savvy like others. I use International Plant Names Index site a lot because it links to vast amounts of other websites that I’m interested in.
- IPNI links multiple herbaria out of Kew Gardens—an old repository (like Uhle)—so that when I look @ a certain plant, it will link to other herbaria as well as the info at Kew→this is good to find things all over the world.

a. If you used an online resource on your last project, what was it/were they?

b. What did you like or dislike about it?

Like: when it’s transparent, search boxes are good, keyword search engine, linking

c. Are there any improvements you would like to see with those resources in particular?

d. If you did not use an online resource on your last project, would you have wanted one?

e. What kinds of things would you want to see in such a resource?

- Likes to know location, dates, any information about the artifacts, etc.
- Would like to log on to get an idea of what kinds of bone lots existed—in the old days would have written a letter or physically visited
- Linking of databases and how much linking you can do is important
 - Stuff like book indexes is what archaeologists want—what’s inside then the details
- Clearly some people only want to know by geography, type, material, etc. → all of this is needed—first nested grave lots, then what’s in it (by type, i.e. what types of materials are in a lot)
- Each archaeologist wants to know the small details for their specialty, but would go through nesting (browse hierarchically), but should also go in the back way → example: should be able to see “how many pots?” vs. having to go by geography only

f. Can you recommend similar websites or systems that you have used in the past?

- USDA plant site—nice—has maps, is flexible → like this better than IPNI for ease of use

Demographics

7. What is your job? Where do you work/who do you work for?

- Prof of Anthropology, specialty in Archaeology

8. What is your academic background?

- BA Stanford, MA & PhD in UCLA in Anthropology

9. How long have you been in your current field?

- Started grad school in 1975

10. What is your specialty/what are you interested in?

- Inside Anthropology > Archaeology > 1. Andeanist, 2. Paleoethnobotanist (specialist in the study of plants people used in the past (often what people choose to bring into an area, why, and how))

11. Would you be willing to participate in later user testing?

- Yes

12. Additional comments or question...are there any questions you think we should have asked?

- Networking and nested is most important
- Most archaeologists use Access & FileMaker
- Must have strong and flexible database

* Knowing how things are nested is what makes them really important (i.e. the location of a pit (on a map) and what were the contents of the pot)

- The fact that it's complete and provenanced is the critical thing—links of the location to the contents—the populations in situ

* What to highlight in the collection is the important question

- Artifact types should be a way to get @ the data

→always have the provenance pop up and be visible at each stage