The view from an excavation unit: field data collection, entry, and display

by

James L. Walker

Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

Mozan Data System

- How you interact with us? An internet browser.
  - Example : an Early Dynastic III burial
- How does the data get into the record?
  - Forms and files
- Processes of data management
  - Links among data elements
- Conclusions

http://www.urkesh.org/ - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.urkesh.org/

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Urkesh

Urkesh at a glance

Urkesh Public Website

Urkesh Beta Version currently accessible through password only

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J1 Wall bend
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J3 Terrace edge
J3 UGR

8
1: G. Buccellati, March 2003

The Record

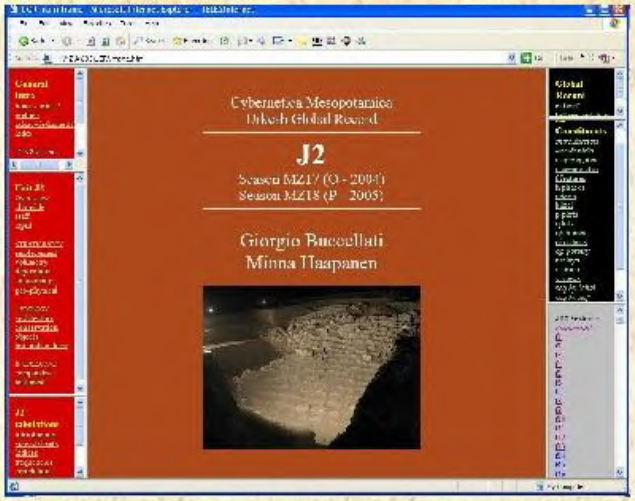
A digital publication is so because of the medium in which it is embedded: the computer.

But this is deceptive. Seen exclusively in terms of hardware, the difference between a digital and a paper edition amounts to little more that the difference between a scroll and a codex, or between a book and a microfilm, or even between a softcover and a hardcover book.

The conceptual dimension is more important. A digital publication proper is articulated along very different lines than those we associate with a "book" – regardless of whether the latter is on paper, film or a CD.

The present section includes only that portion of our publications that are "born digital" in the full sense of the word. I call this the Record.

The Record is the pivotal documentary data base around which all the remaining information about Urkesh revolves.



The Urkesh Global Record embraces fully the multi-dimensional characteristics of electronic data processing. It is so vast in scope that it represents properly a parallel "site": while it is conceptually embedded in the Urkesh website, each of its major components is invoked as a discrete site on its own.

The individual books that constitute the Record and are currently completed

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Cybernetica Mesopotamica
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J3

Season MZ18 (P - 2005)

Giorgio Buccellati
James L. Walker

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v view photos

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J3a1

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Designation/Count

B10 Definition	2005-8-28	rE	burial [Input file: P904GM1.J]
B11 TxtDescr	2005-8-28	rE	Burial near N section of k104, in the compacted fill, f59, behind monumental wall, f11, and consisting of human bones (i8), bead (i7), stone tool (i10), a brick marker (f62), and q items (q100). [Input file: P904GM1.J]
	2005-9-1	jW	A burial in k104 consisting of a well-preserved skeleton, f60 and i8; two grave goods, a bead, i7, and a hand-sized stone tool, i10. A stack of partially burned bricks, f62, marked it. [Input file: P901JW.J]

Volumetric localization

D1 Locus	2005-8-28	rE	k104 [Input file: P904GM1.J]

Spatial aggregation

G09 ElementWithinAggr	2005-8-28	rE	f60, f62, i7, i8, i10, q100 [Input file: P904GM1.J]
G11 FeatureWithinAggr	2007-1-20	!!	f60 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]

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Analogical record

O1.Photo of view	v21	v21a	v21b	v22
O1.Photo of view	v22a	v22b	v24	v25
O1.Photo of view	v26			
O3.Drawing of view	w10			

~O08 2006-5-3 jW p0003 [Input file: Q503JW.J]

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Volumetric localization

D1.Locus	2005-8-28	rE	k104 [Input file: P904GM1.J]

Spatial aggregation

G09.ElementWithinAggr	2005-8-28	rE	f60, f62, i7, i8, i10, q100 [Input file: P904GM1.J]
G11.FeatureWithinAggr	2007-1-20	!!	f60 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	f62 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
G12.ItemWithinAggr	2007-1-20	!!	i0007 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	i0008 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	i0010 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
G13.QLotWithinAggr	2007-1-20	!!	q0100 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	q0102 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	q0108 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	q0111 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]

Time sequencing

I1.Stratum	2007-1-20	!!	s70-JPA [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
I3.Phase to which stratum belongs	2007-1-20	!!	1 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]
	2007-1-20	!!	h1-JPA [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]

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J3k104

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Designation/Count

B11.TxtDescr	2005-8-24	rE	2m by 2m column for typological sampling centered along the north edge of monumental wall, f11. [Input file: Q413JWJ]

Recovery/Assignment

C1Daily	2005-8-24	jW	The surveyor laid out and measured the locus, a 2m by 2m square in the far south edge of k12. We began removing the bakhia terrace, f50, then a softer, brown fill underneath, f57. [Input file: P824JW2J]
	2005-8-25	jW	During the first pick run of the day in accumulation, f57, encountered another sloping layer of bakhia, similar to f50. Designated it f58, and began carefully following it from the N, down toward the monumental wall, f11. [Input file: P825JWJ]
	2005-8-27	jW	We continued to excavate the accumulation, f57, under the layer of bakhia, f50, which forms the ancient top of the terrace. Near the end of the day we encountered another layer of bakhia, f58, under f57. [Input file: P827JWJ]
			Excavated the last portion of the bakhia packing, f58. Below, we found a brown layer of fill containing ash (most in the NE corner) and deterioriated brick chunks (most

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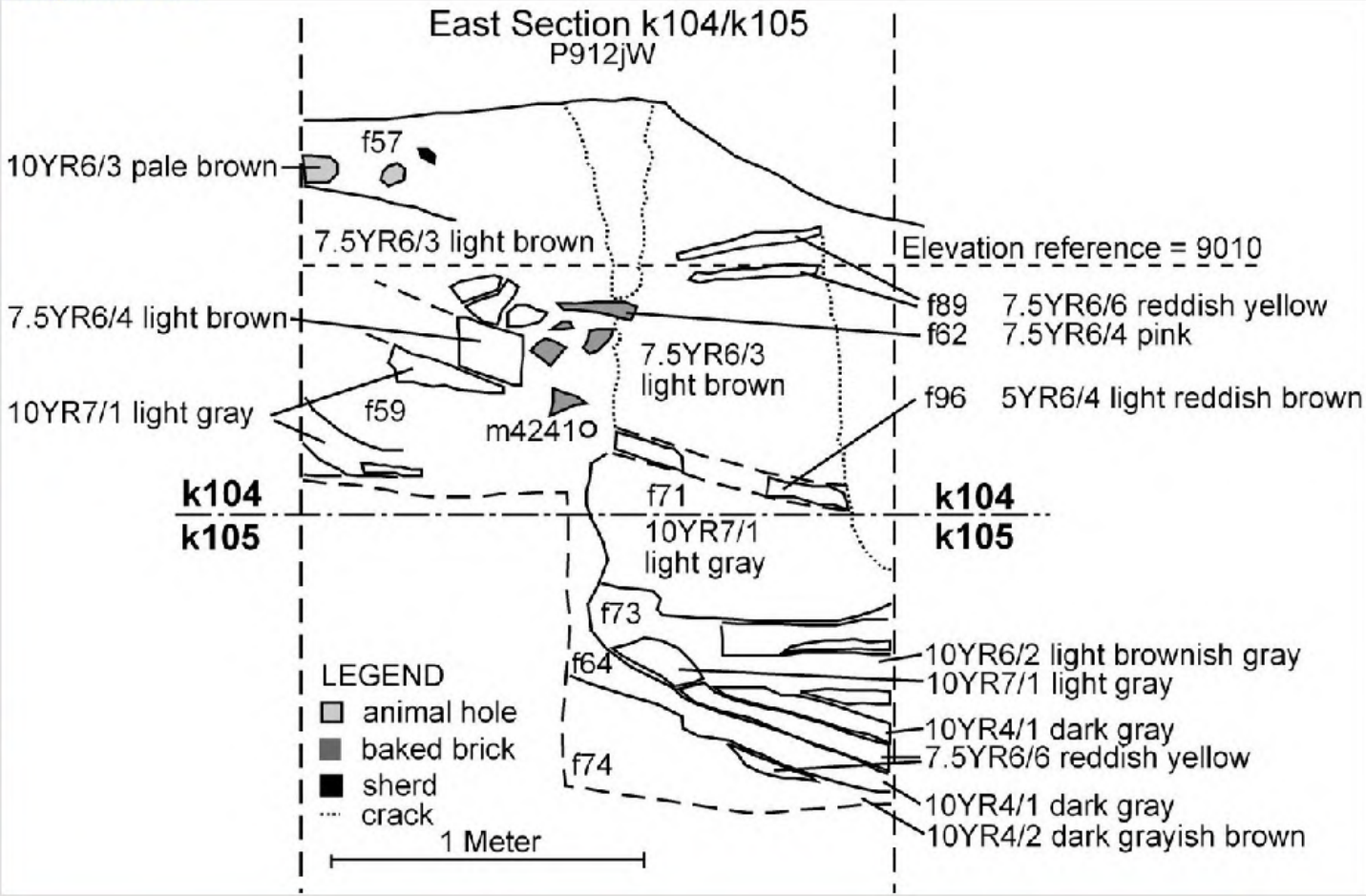

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199.NTime	2005-9-1	jW	placed at the gravesite, then the body was placed overtop in a layer of clean, soil, f59, laid atop f64 and f65, which was then compacted. [Input file: P901JWJ]

Analogical record

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O1.Photo of view	v22a	v22b	v24	v25
O1.Photo of view	v26			

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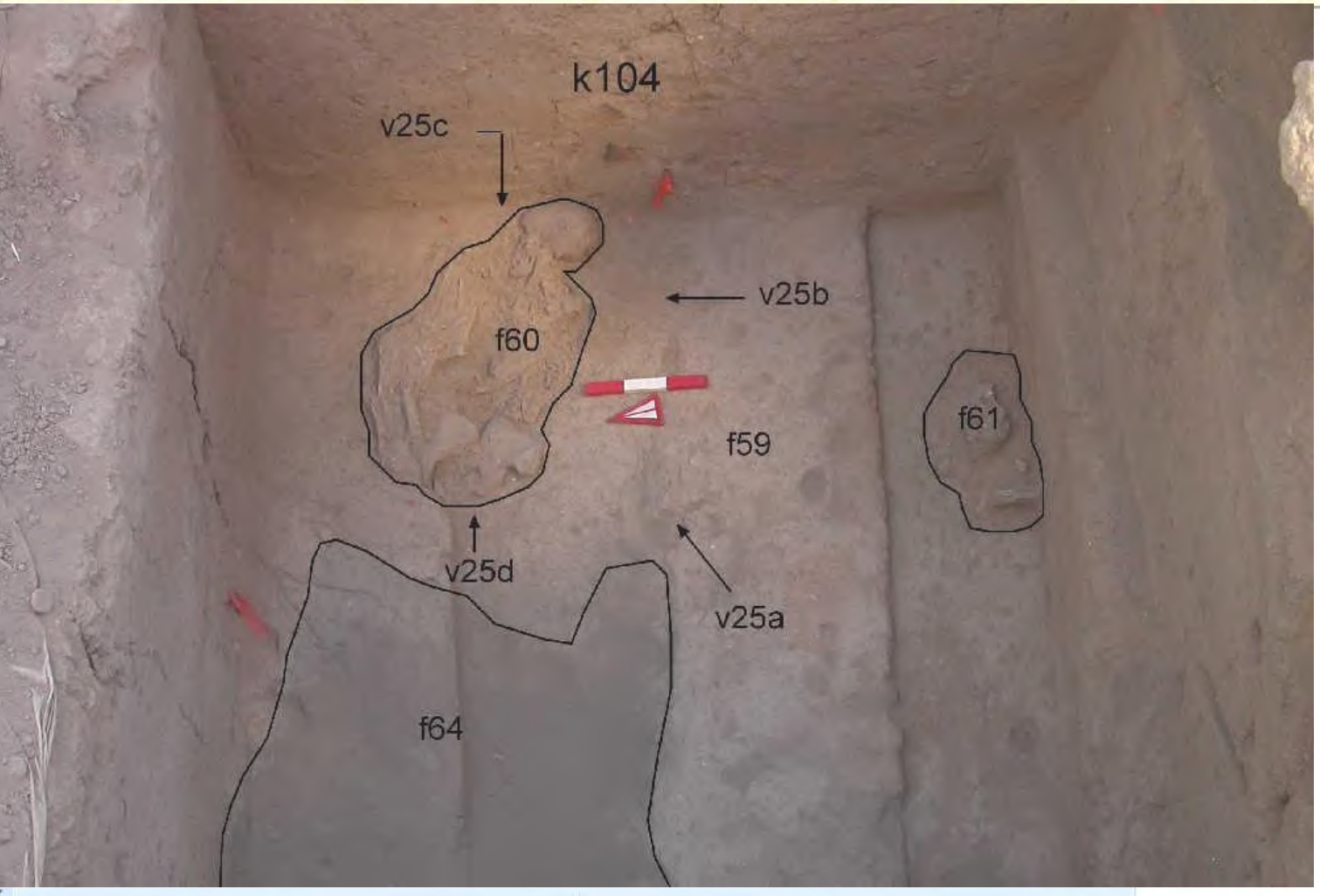

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J3f60

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Designation/Count

B10.Definition	2005-8-28	gM	burial [Input file: P904GMJ]
B11.TxtDescr	2005-8-28	rE	Human remains consisting of a well preserved skeleton, buried in the flex position with the head and knees facing north. The head was beside a stack of partially baked bricks, f62, to the east, while the hips were to the west. More complete exposure of the human remains reveals that the individual was a mature adult. The sciatic notch is medium to wide, but the skull is large and relatively robust. One well-worn incisor, retrieved from the matrix surrounding the mandible, suggests that the individual was at least middle-aged, if not older. [Input file: Q302JW1J]
B12.GraphicDescr	2006-[illegible]-20	jw	v24

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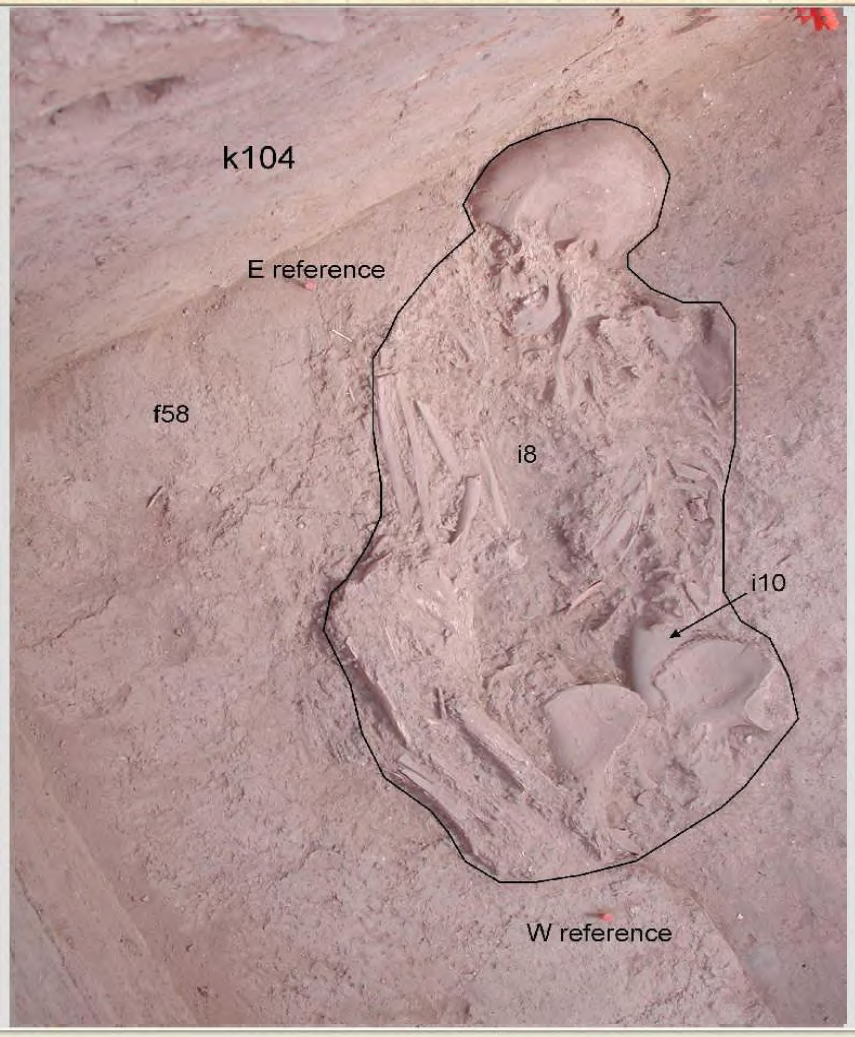

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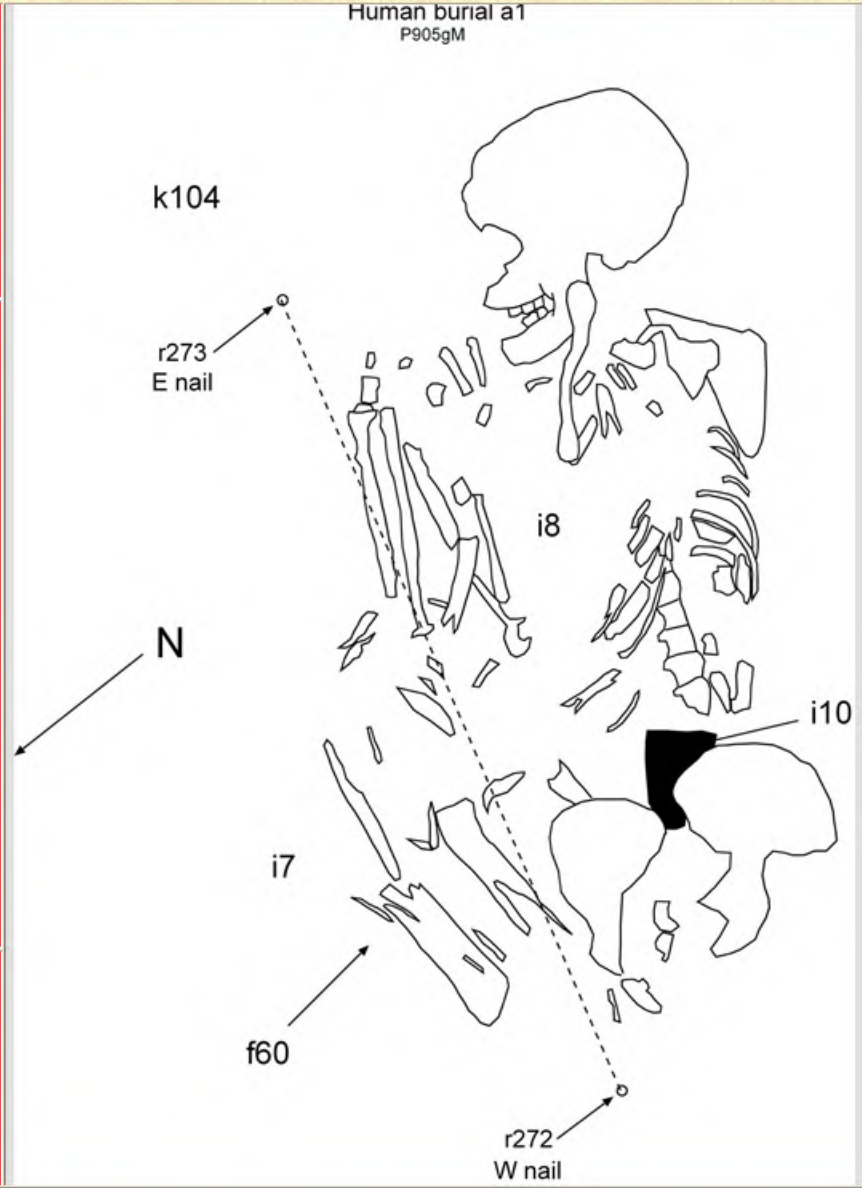

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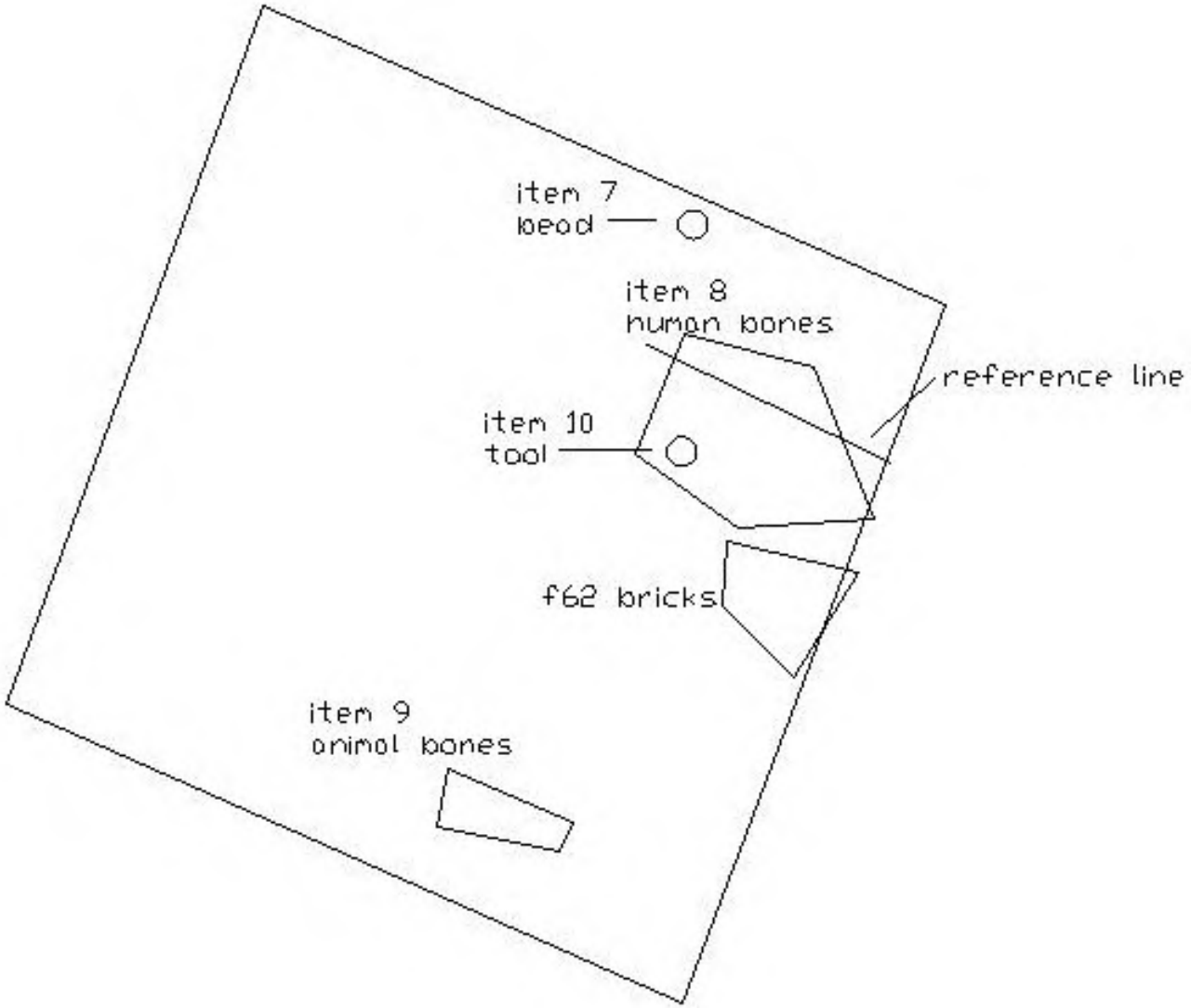

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9NTypol	2019-1-4-	IR	Conclusion: Skeletal analysis estimates J3.8 as a petite female aged 28-35 years at time of death with little tooth wear and several areas of skeletal stress and trauma. The pubis shows pitting and an indentation possibly from pelvic trauma associated with strain. The cervical vertebrae (neck) show osteoarthritis particularly on the anterior inferior surface with evidence of herniated disk cartilage on one thoracic vertebra (presence of Schmorl's nodes). In the lumbar region, one vertebra shows possible trauma to the right side of the spine (anterior) that compressed the vertebra (photo taken). Skeletal stress was also noted on the right hand where the thumb metacarpel articulates with the wrist and the left wrist. This coincides with muscle use of the right forearm that suggests activities involving the wrist and forearm. The left foot also shows stress in the form of frequent foot use that caused cartilage around the navicular to degenerate causing bone friction and eburnation. Comparing this skeleton with later Khabur A16.31, also a female aged 26-35 shows that A16.31 also contains osteophytosis of the neck but not as severe as J3.8 while no other bones showed osteoarthritic changes. Two skeletons from an earlier time period, tentatively dated as Early Dynastic in area F2 show a high degree of premature osteoarthritis of the joint surfaces on young individuals aged between 16-26 years and suggests that occupational stress was responsible. Notes/Future work: Photographs were taken of the skull with the intention of showing them to a paleopathologist in New York. The fracture lines are irregular and appear naturally as a reaction to the skull crushing in postmortem but should be checked by a specialist. [Input file: R425JW.J]
	2005-8-28	gM	human bones from burial (a1) [Input file: P904GM2.J]
	2006-8-12	IR	Biological Age: Adult 28-35 years [Input file: R425JW.J]
	2006-8-12	IR	Biological Sex: Female [Input file: R425JW.J]
	2006-8-12	IR	Body Position: Tightly flexed, Resting on right side, left side exposed [Input file: R425JW.J]
	2006-8-12	IR	Burial Goods: Stone tool placed under right illium [Input file: R425JW.J]
	2006-8-12	IR	Burial Type: Simple, no pit cut visible [Input file: R425JW.J]
			J03.8 was stored in the object room and yesterday was moved into the osteology lab. Two boxes were recovered, one containing the skull wrapped in aluminum foil with the post-cranial skeleton

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B10Definition	2005-9-1	rE	lithic artifact [Input file: P904GM2.J]
	2005-9-1	rE	lithic artifact [Input file: P904GM7.J]
B11TxtDescr	2005-9-1	rE	Lithic object, probably a tool, found under the pelvic bones of human skeleton (i 8). Almost drop-shaped, thin section, rounded edges. Very heavy. [Input file: P904GM7.J]

B12GraphicDescr		
B12BestImage	2006-4-28jw	L_V18d3637J3.10P903gG.jpg

Volumetric localization

D1Locus	2005-9-1	rE	k104 [Input file: P904GM2.J]

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	2005-9-1	rE	dark gray [Input file: P904GM7.J]
K99.NTypol	2005-9-1	rE	lithic tool from burial a1 [Input file: P904GM2.J]

Analogical record

O1.Photo of view	v25a	v25d		
O2.Photo of constituent	L_V18d3636 P903 gG	L_V18d3637 P903 gG	L_V18d3638 P903 gG	L_V18d3639 P903 gG
O2.Photo of constituent	L_V18d3640 P903 gG	L_V18d3641 P903 gG		

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gB outline.txt | P904GM.j | Draft Talk.txt | Q302JW1.j

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.bk J03
.fl Q302jW1.j
.fd Feature descriptions for J03 features (f31-f60)
.fn Edited by jW on Q302, Q414, and Q415
.ei jw
.ed Q302
.rd P810
.ri rE

f 31
ds Natural accumulation in k12, under accumulation f2.

f 32
ds Bakhia in the vicinity of f11 wall stones along the west baulk of k101.  It was discovered in the process of exploring for the location of the south face
of f11.

.rd P813
.rd jW

f 33
ds Laminations with small pockets of ash and inclusions of bricky and plaster chunks in k12.  Ashy material was 10YR4/2, dark grayish brown, plaster chunks
were 7.5YR7/6, reddish yellow.  Lamination color was 10YR5/6, yellowish brown.  Bricky chunks were 7.5YR6/6, reddish yellow.  Although inclusions were
scattered throughout, they were more concentrated in the NE corner, nearest to the BA temple.  Discussions with faB indicated that the temple had been
destroyed at one point in time, which may account for the presence of the inclusions.

f 34
ds Broad area of hard-packed fill, below accumulation f33, throughout locus k12.  This signaled an abrupt change from the previous accumulation, which was
relatively soft, brown soil with pockets of laminations, bricky material and ash.  Originally we thought f34 consisted of laminations formed when soil
washed down from the temple mound and was contained by the massive wall, f11, just to the south and the top of which we are just beginning to uncover.  As
seen in section in the north and west baulks after excavation, it appears more likely that this feature was the top layer of packed fill that was part of
the original construction of the temple mound.  (Fill, f34, was originally covered by a layer of bakhia, f83, which, except for a small segment seen in the
west baulk, has subsequently been eroded away)  This identification as packed fill better accounts for the the abrupt change in density.

.rd P814

f 35
ds Large "T" shaped limestone block in the middle of the west baulk line of k12.  It is unclear whether this is a floating stone or part of a late addition
to the f10, f11 monumental wall complex.
```

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1:1 Ins Ready [10853 bytes, 176 lines, Last Saved: 4/20/2006 11:21:52 AM, Format: Dos/Windows]

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F-1-F-Q808 **F1. FEATURE LOG** MZ19(2006-Q) Volume J3 f-log, page 15

.rd .ri	f	lc (k)	df	elevation @top m#/elev	@top ht	@top h-eye	@bottom m#/elev	@bottom ht	@bottom h-eye	P1	wm	co	c#	hd	tx
P828 gm	59	104	fi	m4176	57	164						pale brown	10YR 6/3	4.5	
	60	104	bu	m4176	49	163					bo				
P829 gm	61	104	b	m4239	130	163					bo				
	62	104	bk	m4239	130	111					bk				
P831 rE	63	103	ad	m4217	82	162						light brownish gray	10YR 6/2		
	64	104	ly	m4241	179	159						gray	10YR 6/1		
P901 gm	65	104	ly	m4241	143	163						reddish yellow	7.5YR 7/6		
	66	101	st	m4025	117	164	m4025	97	164	P903	li				
	67	104	st	m4025	99	164	m4025	67	164	P903	li				
	68	105	st	m4025	115	164	m4025	65	164	P903	li				

NoteTab Pro - C:\MZ\A\J03\I\J\P904GM.j

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gB outline.txt | P904GM.j

```
.bk J03
.fl P904gM.j
.fd list of features f54-f70
.fn corrections and additions made by jW on Q413
.ei gM
.ed P904
.rd P823
.ri rE

f
54      103     st-in   m4118   138     168     m4118   104     168     P825    li
55      101     st      m4073   128     168     m4073   87      168     P823    li
.rd P824
.ri rE
56      103     lm      m4118   81      165     m4217   82      162                     light yellowish brown   10YR 6/4        4.5
57      104     fi      m4073   35      164     m4176   123     164     P827            very pale brown 10YR7/4 4.5+
.rd P827
.ri rE
58      104     packing m4176   123     164     m4176   57      164                     yellowish brown 10YR 5/4        4.5
.rd P828
.ri gM
59      104     fi      m4176   57      164                                             pale brown      10YR 6/3
60      104     bu      m4176   49      163                             bo
.rd P829
.ri gM
61      104     b       m4239   130     163                             bo
62      104     bk      m4239   130     111                             bk
.rd P831
.ri rE
63      103     ad      m4217   82      162                                             light brownish gray     10YR 6/2
64      104     ly      m4241   179     159                                             gray    10YR6/1
.rd P901
.ri gM
65      104     ly      m4241   143     163                                             reddish yellow  7.5YR 7/6
66      101     st      m4025   117     164     m4025   97      164     P903    li
67      101     st      m4025   99      164     m4025   67      164     P903    li
68      101     st      m4025   115     164     m4025   65      164     P903    li
.rd P903
```

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gB outline.txt | Draft Talk.txt | jW's Draft Talk for SAA rev2.txt | Qx10jW.g

```
.bk J03
.fl Qx10jW.g
.fd Plot of markers for surveyed loci in J3West
.ei jW
.ed Qx10
.rd Qx10
.ri eDB

l m4287 m4431 m4432 m4433 m4287
;k94 excavation limits
l m4287 m3628 m4257 m4414 m4287
;k94 locus
l m4414 m4434 m4435 m4436 m4414
;k93 excavation limits
l m4414 m4257 m4255 m4415 m4414
;k93 locus
l m4415 m4255 m3619 m4416 m4415
;k92 locus
l m4415 m4437 m4438 m4439 m4415
;k92 excavation limits
l m4416 m3619 m3609 m4417 m4416
;k91 locus
l m4416 m4440 m4441 m4442
;k91 excavation limits
```

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V19d23

Data file
Processed on 01-11-2007

V19d2301
J3v142c Q912

V19d2301
J3v150 Q917

V19d2302
J3v150a Q917

V19d2303
J3v152 Q916

V19d2304
J3v55 Q815

V19d2305
J3v56d Q817

V19d2307
J3v59a Q817

V19d2308
J3v60 Q819

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qb bones
qi q-items
qp sherds
r relays
s strata
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w view
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seq.by def.
typological
data base

J3 Data Base:
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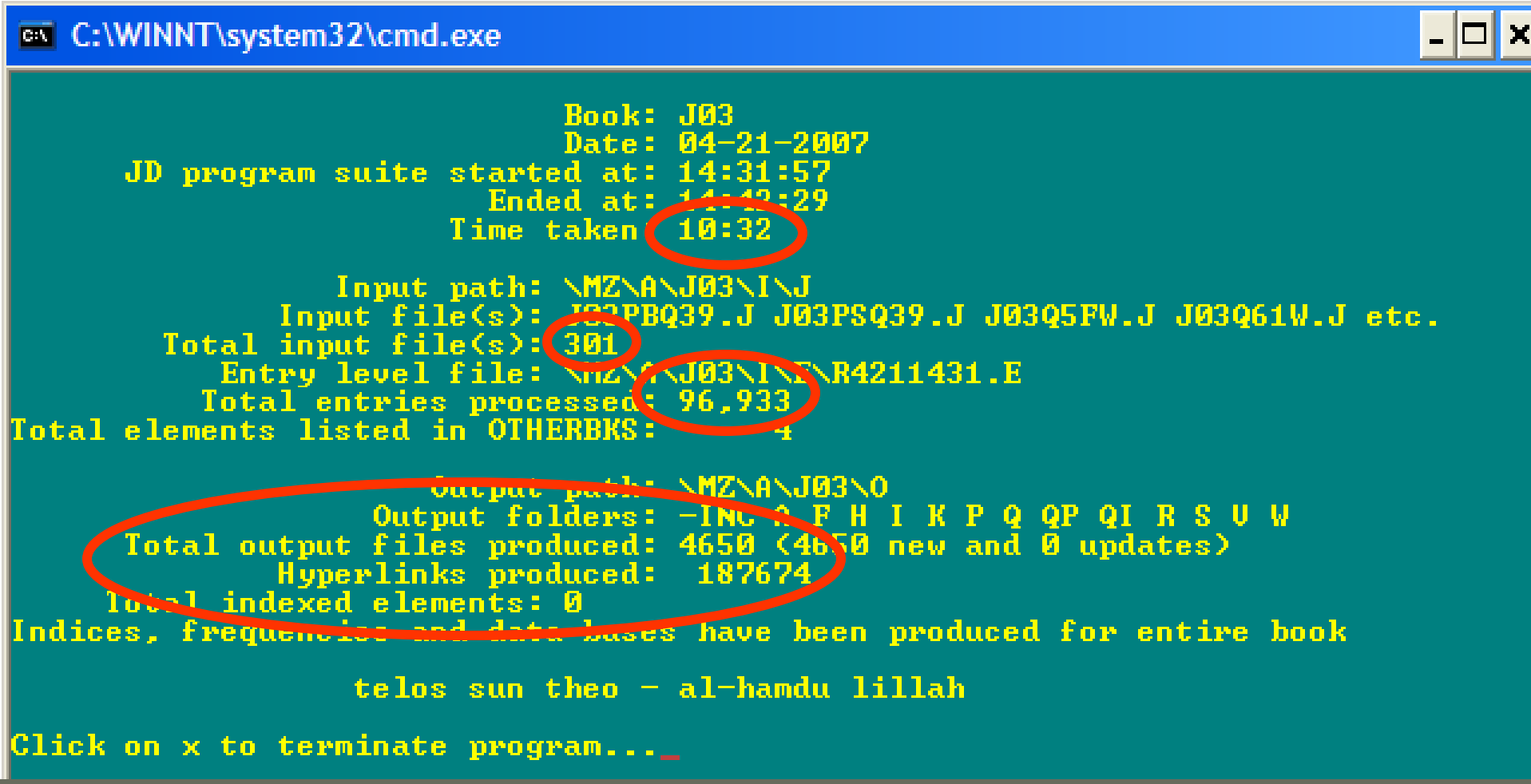
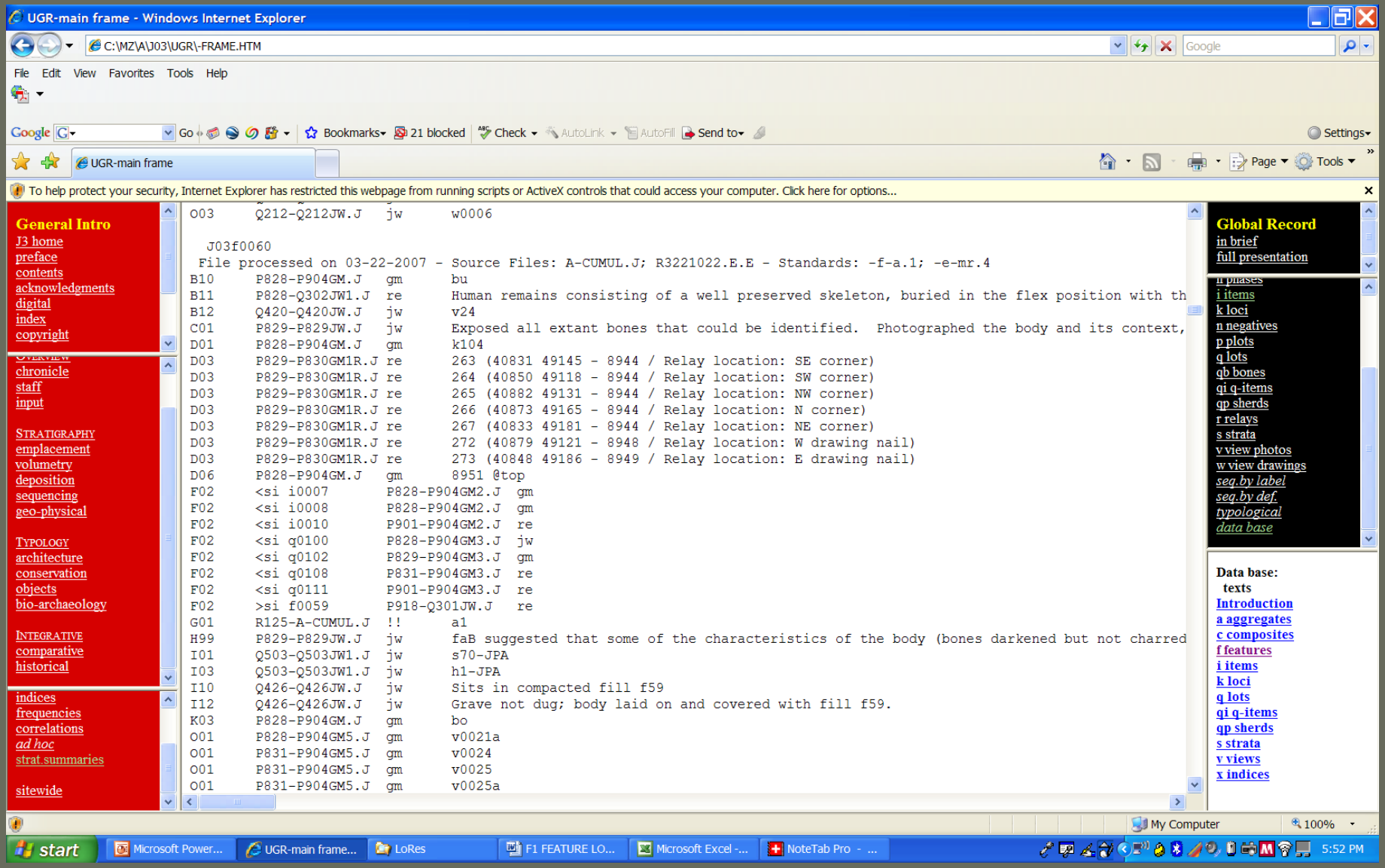
V18d30
v18d31
v18d35
v18d36
v18d39
V19d20
V19d21
V19d22
V19d23
V19d25

Internet 125%
NoteTab Pro - ... SAAs J J03.8 report.do... Shortcut to JD J3 9:57 PM


C:\WINNT\system32\cmd.exe
Book: J03
Date: 04-21-2007
JD program suite started at: 14:31:57
Ended at: 14:42:29
Time taken 10:32
Input path: \MZ\A\J03\I\J
Input file(s): J03PBQ39.J J03PSQ39.J J03Q5FW.J J03Q61W.J etc.
Total input file(s): 301
Entry level file: \MZ\A\J03\I\E\R4211431.E
Total entries processed: 96,933
Total elements listed in OTHERBKS: 4
Output path: \MZ\A\J03\O
Output folders: -INC A F H I K P Q QP QI R S V W
Total output files produced: 4650 (4650 new and 0 updates)
Hyperlinks produced: 187674
Total indexed elements: 0
Indices, frequencies and data bases have been produced for entire book
telos sun theo - al-hamdu lillah
Click on x to terminate program...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sitewide
O03 Q212-Q212JW.J jw w0006
J03f0060
File processed on 03-22-2007 - Source Files: A-CUMUL.J; R3221022.E.E - Standards: -f-a.1; -e-mr.4
B10 P828-P904GM.J gm bu
B11 P828-Q302JW1.J re Human remains consisting of a well preserved skeleton, buried in the flex position with th
B12 Q420-Q420JW.J jw v24
C01 P829-P829JW.J jw Exposed all extant bones that could be identified. Photographed the body and its context,
D01 P828-P904GM.J gm k104
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 263 (40831 49145 - 8944 / Relay location: SE corner)
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 264 (40850 49118 - 8944 / Relay location: SW corner)
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 265 (40882 49131 - 8944 / Relay location: NW corner)
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 266 (40873 49165 - 8944 / Relay location: N corner)
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 267 (40833 49181 - 8944 / Relay location: NE corner)
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 272 (40879 49121 - 8948 / Relay location: W drawing nail)
D03 P829-P830GM1R.J re 273 (40848 49186 - 8949 / Relay location: E drawing nail)
D06 P828-P904GM.J gm 8951 @top
F02 <si i0007 P828-P904GM2.J gm
F02 <si i0008 P828-P904GM2.J gm
F02 <si i0010 P901-P904GM2.J re
F02 <si q0100 P828-P904GM3.J jw
F02 <si q0102 P829-P904GM3.J gm
F02 <si q0108 P831-P904GM3.J re
F02 <si q0111 P901-P904GM3.J re
F02 >si f0059 P918-Q301JW.J re
G01 R125-A-CUMUL.J !! a1
H99 P829-P829JW.J jw faB suggested that some of the characteristics of the body (bones darkened but not charred
I01 Q503-Q503JW1.J jw s70-JPA
I03 Q503-Q503JW1.J jw h1-JPA
I10 Q426-Q426JW.J jw Sits in compacted fill f59
I12 Q426-Q426JW.J jw Grave not dug; body laid on and covered with fill f59.
K03 P828-P904GM.J gm bo
O01 P828-P904GM5.J gm v0021a
O01 P831-P904GM5.J gm v0024
O01 P831-P904GM5.J gm v0025
O01 P831-P904GM5.J gm v0025a
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F1 FEATURE LO...
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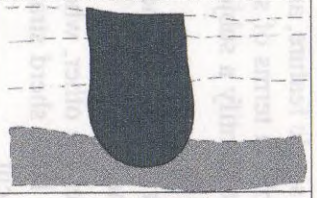
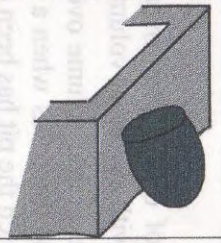
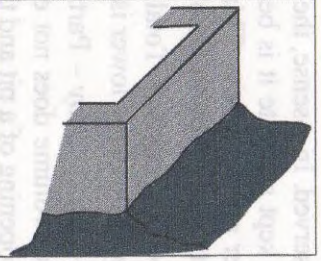
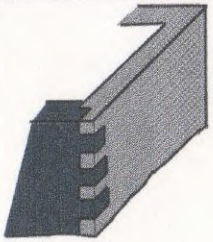
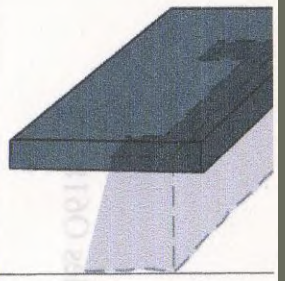
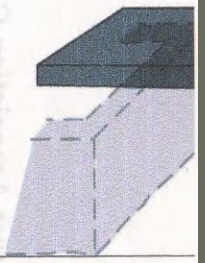
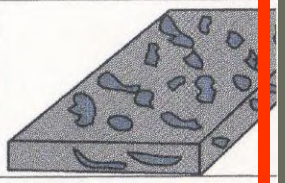
5:52 PM

seq.#		code	verb	defin.	example	sketch
1	a	cu	to cut	truncation	pit cuts floor	
	b	in	to intrude	insertion	pit intrudes fill	
2	a	le	to lean against	partial contact at top	jar leans against wall	
	b	re	to rest on	partial contact at bottom	jar rests on floor	
3	a	ab	to abut	adjacency of edges	floor abuts wall	
4	b	bo	to bond with	interlocking of edges	wall bonds w/ wall (either wall can serve as subject or object)	
	a	co	to cover	total superposition	floor covers wall	
	b	ov	to overlay	partial superposition	floor overlays wall	
5	a	ca	to cap	matching of edges	lid caps jar	
	b	si	to sit in	matching of sides	sherds sit in accumulation	

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< sits in q102 [2005-8-29 - gM - Input file: P904GM3.J]
< sits in q108 [2005-8-31 - rE - Input file: P904GM3.J]
< sits in q111 [2005-9-1 - rE - Input file: P904GM3.J]
sits in >f59 [2005-9-18 - rE - Input file: Q301JW.J]

Spatial aggregation

G1.Aggregate	2007-1-25	!!	a1 [Input file: A-CUMUL.J]

Deposition

H99.NDepostn	2005-8-29	jW	faB suggested that some of the characteristics of the body (bones darkened but not charred) and its manner of burial (flexed position in a marked grave) could be explained by the following: He hypothesized that the BA temple burned in early Akkadian times. Possibly one or more people were trapped in the ruins and suffocated. Their bodies were heated in the fire to a temperature less than 300 degress, which darkened the bones. During the process of cleaning the site the ashes and burned bricks were thrown onto the terrace to serve as fill for a new layer of bakhia. When the body was discovered it was buried in the usual manner for the time which must have been in the ash with grave goods and a simple marker of stacked burned bricks. [Input file: P829JW.J]

Time sequencing

I1.Stratum	2006-5-3	jW	s70-JPA [Input file: Q503JW1.J]
I3.Phase to which stratum belongs	2006-5-3	jW	h1-JPA [Input file: Q503JW1.J]
I10.Stratigraphic reasons	2006-4-26	jW	Sits in compacted fill f59 [Input file: Q426JW.J]
I12.Other reasons	2006-4-26	jW	Grave not dug; body laid on and covered with fill f59. [Input file: Q426JW.J]

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s13c	h6a	accumulation D	f254 covers f257 covers							
s70	h1	fill	f33 covers f83 covers f84 covers **J3f34** covers f38	f34 covers **J3f38** covers f42 covers f50 covers f70 covers f90	f38 covers **J3f42** covers f50	f50 covers f89 sits in f92 sits in **J3f57** covers f58	f58 covers f60 sits in f61 sits in f62 sits in **J3f59** covers f64 covers f65 covers f96	f96 covers **J3f71** covers f73	f71 covers **J3f73** covers f74	f73 covers f93 covers
		burial	**J3f60** sits in f59							
		stone	**J3f66** abuts f67 bonds with f11	f66 abuts **J3f67** bonds with f11	**J3f68** bonds with f111	f72 covers f79 abuts **J3f78** abuts f79	f72 covers f78 abuts **J3f79** abuts f78			
		brick	**J3f62** sits in f59	f33 covers f83 abuts **J3f84** covers f34 abuts f83						
		acuumulation	f38 covers f69 sits in f11 abuts **J3f70** abuts f11							

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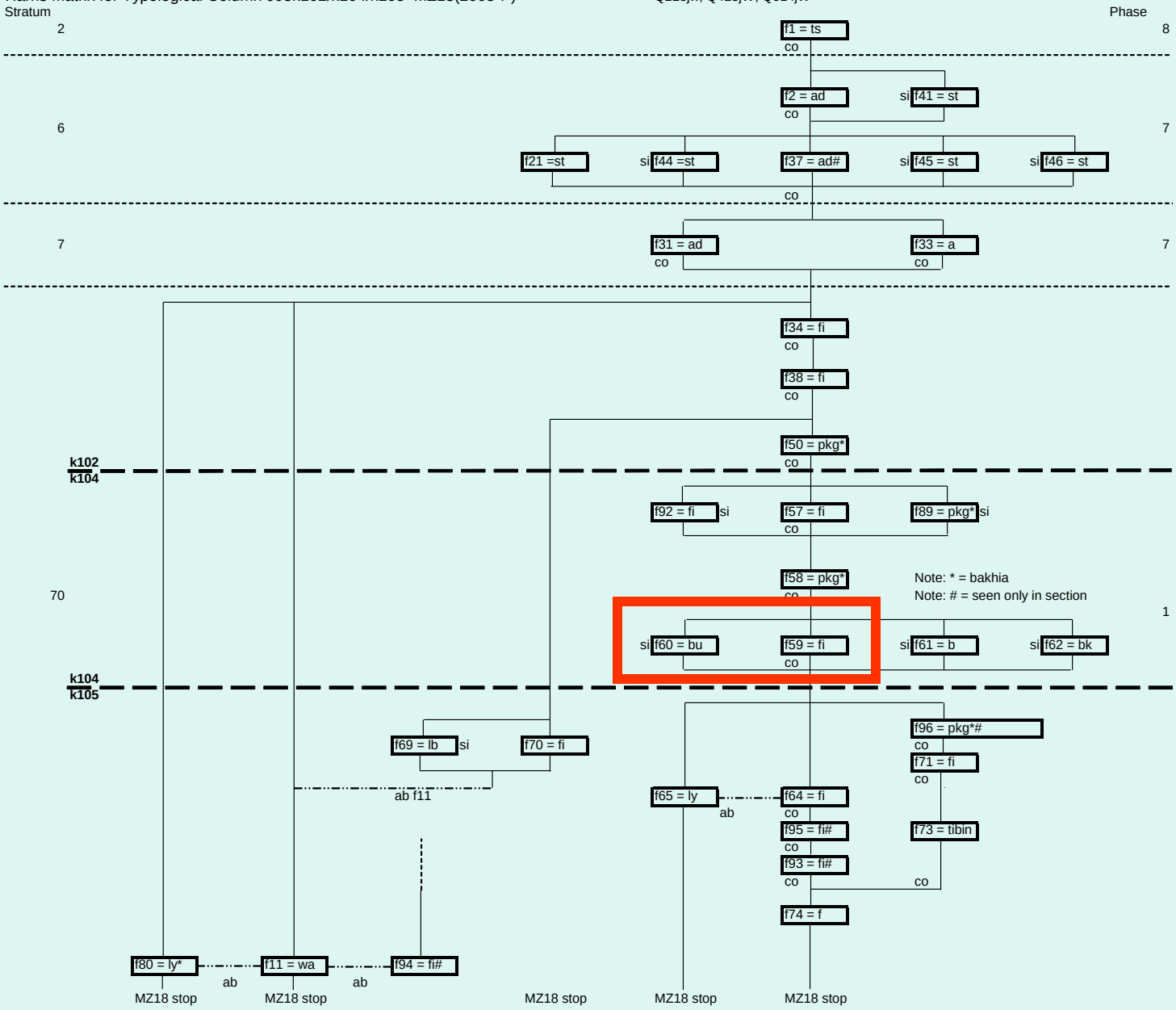
Harris Matrix for Typological Column J03k102/k104/k105 MZ18(2005-P)

Q228jw, Q423jW, Q614jW



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f58	packing		k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	-
f59	fill		k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	-
f60	burial		k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	bo
f61	b		k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	bo

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i8	human body	-	k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	-	-
i9	b	-	k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	bo	-
i10	lithic artifact		k104	h1-0JPA	s70-0JPA	lithic	to drafting and photography
i11	metal artifact	green	k13	h6b-0JPA	s11a-0JPA	bronze	-
i12	bead	white	k13	h6b-0JPA	s12d-0JPA	-	-
i13	figurine	orange	k108	h6b-0JPA	s12a-0JPA	clay	to be drawn, to be photo
i14	seal impression	dark grey	k23	h1-0JPA	s70b-0JPA	clay	-
i15	seal impression	dark grey	k23	h1-0JPA	s70b-0JPA	clay	-
i15.1	seal impression	reddish grey	k23	h1-0JPA	s70b-0JPA	clay	to museum
i15.2	seal impression	pinkish grey	k23	h1-0JPA	s70b-0JPA	clay	to museum
i15.3	seal	dark grey	k23	h1-	s70b-	clay	to museum

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total number of files	5,572
total number of records	1,106,202
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Graphic files

total number of graphic files overall	1,175
total number of photographs	907
total number of templates	179
total number of drawings	48
total number of plots	41
cumulative file size (in bites)	7,739,086

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Overall totals for display files

total number of files	6,747
cumulative file size (in bites)	53,383,927

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Conclusions

- The Urkesh Global Record opens our field note books to you.
- Our atomistic observations have been organized into a format we think will be maximally useful for your research.
- The process of publishing is dynamic.
- Visit us soon at www.urkesh.org