A primary focus of the Region 9 archaeology program is maintenance of archaeological records. The following records are periodically reviewed and updated: the Wisconsin state archaeological site files (ASI), a regional reconstruction of the presettlement vegetation, the notes and maps of the General Land Office surveys, aerial photographs covering the region, records of archaeological surveys and excavations conducted by the regional staff, and a comprehensive bibliographic database. These records are maintained as a local center available for use by qualified individuals conducting serious archaeological research within the region. Over the past two years, an improvement plan for the various databases was designed and implemented before we relocated to Sabin Hall on the UW-Milwaukee Campus in 2001.

This relocation process was a time for intensive reorganization of the entire Archaeological Research Laboratory, including SEWAP. All of our collections housed at the laboratory were integrated into a single storage area and computer database. Prior to this process of integration, artifacts that had been collected by Elizabeth Benchley’s contract operations had been curated separately from the collections made by Lynne Goldstein’s SEWAP program. This meant that in some cases, collections from the same site, conducted by different programs, were being curated in separate areas of the laboratory, under entirely independent curation systems. In addition, collections and archives were described in the laboratories paper database by project number, rather than site name or number. Finally, collections from sites were stored on shelves, labelled by site name, site number, field number, or project number. Field numbers were customarily the first two letters of the USGS topographic quadrangle on which the site was mapped, followed by a sequential number. The numbering system could be very confusing, resulting in situations where, for example a site on the Jefferson quadrangle in Jefferson county had a field number of Je23, while it had a state site number of [47]Je64.

A large amount of time and energy was used by UWM personnel to locate, organize, combine, and relabel all of the collections from the laboratory into a coherent, searchable data base. All sites from all projects conducted in the United States are now locatable using state site numbers, and are stored in sequentially marked boxes. They are cross-referenced by project number and site name.
In addition to the artifacts themselves, archival storage of records is also undergoing reworking and integration. This process will take as long or longer than the artifacts, but is just as important, if not more so. Map files have been catalogued and reorganized for ease of access, and we are currently examining options for long-term storage of map data. All cultural resource management reports of investigation received from the WIS are automatically entered into our bibliographic database. Finally, we hope to begin the process of putting all of the Archaeological Research Laboratory Reports of Investigations into digital format soon. By the end of next five years, we hope to have a completely coordinated and integrated computer database of all archaeological research undertaken by the laboratory since its inception.

**Updating ASI Files**

Even with the upheaval of moving the laboratory, updating the ASI files continued, finding and correcting errors in existing ASI records by checking and validating information contained on the paper copies stored at the Region 9 office. The updating and maintenance of ASI files at the Southeastern Wisconsin Archaeological Program was conducted in compliance with a mandate to provide local archaeologists with clear, available, and up-to-date archaeological resources with which to do research. A total of 50 ASI files were reviewed for accuracy and inclusion of all categories and were updated and/or corrected; 36 of these needed multiple additions/corrections. Paper copies of records kept at SEWAP were carefully compared with those reported by the State Archaeologist's Office and discrepancies were noted in detail upon Wisconsin ASI Update/Correction Forms to be sent to the State.

**Region 9 References**

The new format now contains 414 entries comprised of Reports of Investigations, journal articles, and section 106 reviews. Each entry contains complete bibliographic data, including keywords for access: CRM, (name) County, historic, prehistoric (specific if available), artifact types, site designation (if applicable), Phase of work. The keywords are based on the Wisconsin Archaeological Site Inventory Form categories. Documents received from the State Archaeologist over the past two years were entered first. The regional staff is continuing to add previous years.