Hierarchies for archaeological objects

1. Name (participant and institution)
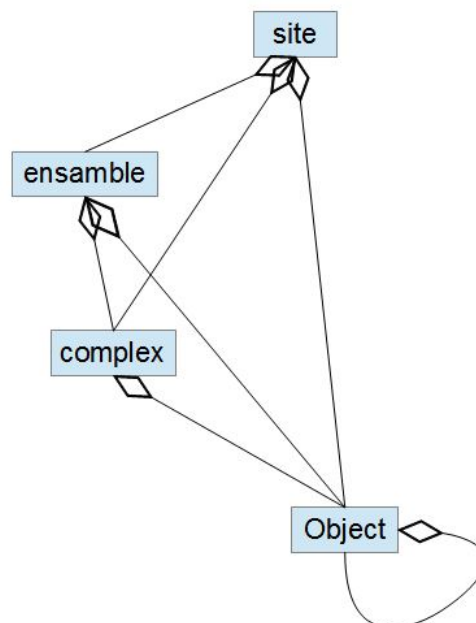Dan Matei (National Heritage Institute, Bucharest, Romania)

2. Background information

a) Maintains the Romanian heritage databases (listed monuments, listed objects, archaeological sites, rare books, theatre productions so.).
b) Acts as national aggregator for Europeana.

3. Definition of hierarchies for the domain

The archaeological entities are organised in a four level hierarchy:
- site
- ensemble
- complex
- object (not only artefact)

There are cases when an ensemble is composed of several complexes and each such entity could be associated with several objects (found within that entity). Moreover, even the objects could have other objects as components. The most obvious example is a hoard formed by several coins.
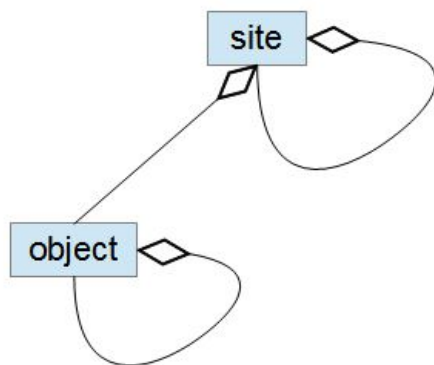
4. Use Case Scenario

For instance, in the figure we have a composite site formed by several ensembles and complexes.

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
National Archaeological Record of Romania (RAN)

Site Information	Display on the map of Romania
RAN ID	65351.19
List of Historic Monuments 2004 Reference	DB-II-a-A-17237
Name	Ansamblul medieval de la Târgovişte - Curtea Domnească din Calea Domnească
County	Dâmboviţa
Commune	MUNICIPIUL TARGOVISTE
City/Town/Village	Târgovişte
Address	Calea Domnească 181
Site Class	locuire
Site Type	ansamblu urban
Ownership	stat
Owner	C. N. M. ,,Curtea Domnească"
Last update	1.6.2010

Finds:

Class/ Type	Period (Date)	Culture/ Cultural phase	Description/ Notes	List of Historic Monume...
turn	Epoca medievală (sec. XV)			
casă domnească	Epoca medievală (sec. XV)			
casă	Epoca medievală (1656)			
zid de incintă	Epoca medievală (sec. XVI-XVII)			
clopotniţă	Epoca medievală (sec. XVII)			
foişor	Epoca medievală (sf sec XVII)			
casă	Epoca modernă (1803)			
casă	Epoca medievală (sec. XIV)			
poartă	Epoca medievală (sec. XIV)			
Biserică	Epoca medievală (1583 - 1585)	neprecizată		
Biserică paraclis	Epoca medievală (sf. sec. XIV)	neprecizată		
Palat	Epoca medievală (1583 - 1585; transf. sec. XVII)	neprecizată		
Baie publică	Epoca medievală (sec. XVII)	neprecizată		

Bibliography

1. Lista Monumentelor Istorice, MO nr. 646 bis/16/07/2004, Ordinul ministrului culturii şi cultelor nr. 2.314/2004, vol. II, Bucureşti, 2004, p. 1090, poz.533, http://www.cultura.ro/sectiuni/Patrimoniu/Monume... source)
2. Cantacuzino, Gheorghe, Date arheologice în legătură cu cronologia unor construcţii ale Curţii Domneşti din Târgovişte, Monumente istorice. Studii şi lucrări de restaurare., II, 3, Bucureşti, 1969 [Publicaţie]
3. Diaconescu, Petru; Olteanu, Gheorghe, Cercetare arheologică (Curtea Domnească - 2006), Valachica, 19, CNM Curtea Domenască Târgovişte, Târgovişte, 2006, p. 368, fig. 1-2, p. 297 [Publicaţie]
4. Cercetarea arheologică a habitatului urban târgoviştean, Valahica, XX, Târgovişte, 2007, 193-194 [Publicaţie]

Actually, the current model is unnecessary complicated. The distinction between ensembles, complexes and sites is not clear and the archaeologists tend to confuse them. So a more clear and simple model is:

site

object

It will be implemented in the near future and it will not eliminate the need to represent the hierarchy of sites within sites, objects within sites and objects within objects.

The EDM properties:
- dcterms:isPartOf
- dcterms:hasPart

are suitable to relate the sites within sites and objects within objects. And

- edm:wasPresentAt

is suitable to relate the objects to the sites they were discovered in.

5. Problems and limitations

For the moment our user interface is too simple. It does not allow the user to navigate up and down the full hierarchy. Only (at most) two levels are visible (as the screen capture shows).

6. Proposed solutions for Europeana

A familiar tree-view exposure of the archaeological hierarchies (as in the case of administrative and geographical entities) would be just fine.