The ARCANE DataBase

Basic information for users

DB presentation shown in Bern
December 9, 2011

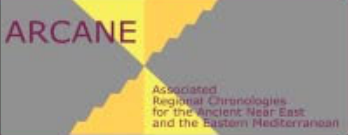by
Stefano Anastasio, Pino Fenu, Francesco Saliola

Dataset populated with the inventories provided up to
November 1st, 2011

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Associated
Regional Chronologies
for the Ancient Near East
and the Eastern Mediterranean

Final Conference
8th–11th Dec. 2011
Bern (Switzerland)

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Browsing the DB

It is possible to browse the DB through two main layouts:
a "simplified" one (LIST) and a complete one (SEARCH).

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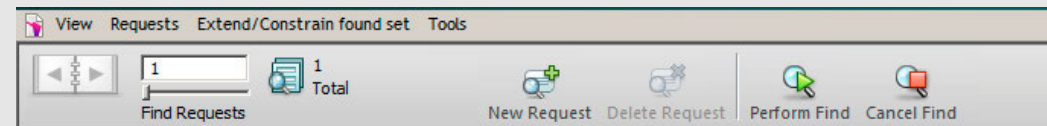
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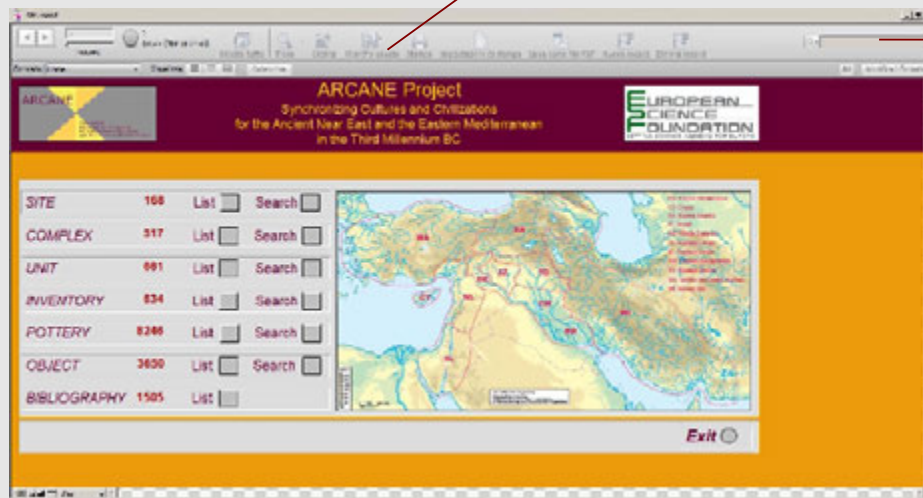
Display, browsing & search functions

The top menu is used to search and sort.
The zoom control is on the
bottom left part of the window.
Additional features are available
on the different tables.

View   Requests   Extend/Constrain found set   Tools

1   Find Requests   1 Total   New Request   Delete Request   Perform Find   Cancel Find

To search and sort records.
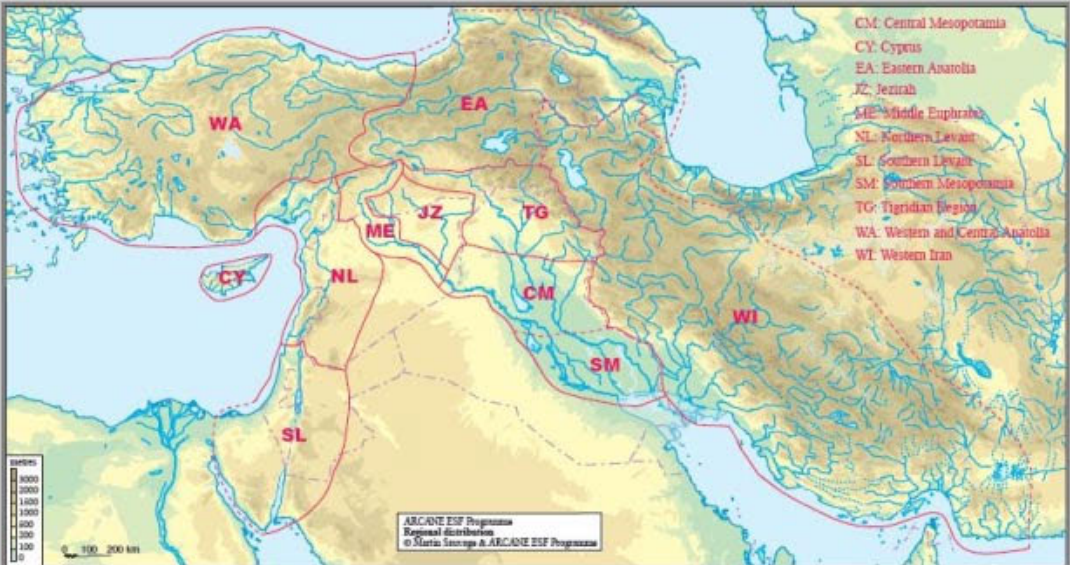
ARCANE Project
Synchronizing Cultures and Civilizations
for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean
in the Third Millennium BC

EUROPEAN
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SITE	168	List ☐	Search ☐
COMPLEX	317	List ☐	Search ☐
UNIT	681	List ☐	Search ☐
INVENTORY	834	List ☐	Search ☐
POTTERY	8246	List ☐	Search ☐
OBJECT	3630	List ☐	Search ☐
BIBLIOGRAPHY	1505	List ☐	

Exit ○

To perform "global" searches
within all fields.

100 ▄▄▄▄ ▬

To zoom in and out.

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The SEARCH layout allows to navigate data within all tables, with summaries concerning each table. Records can be sorted by clicking on each label on top, as well as queried in their complete tables (e.g., complexes, units, pottery, objects and bibliographic references of any site in this example).
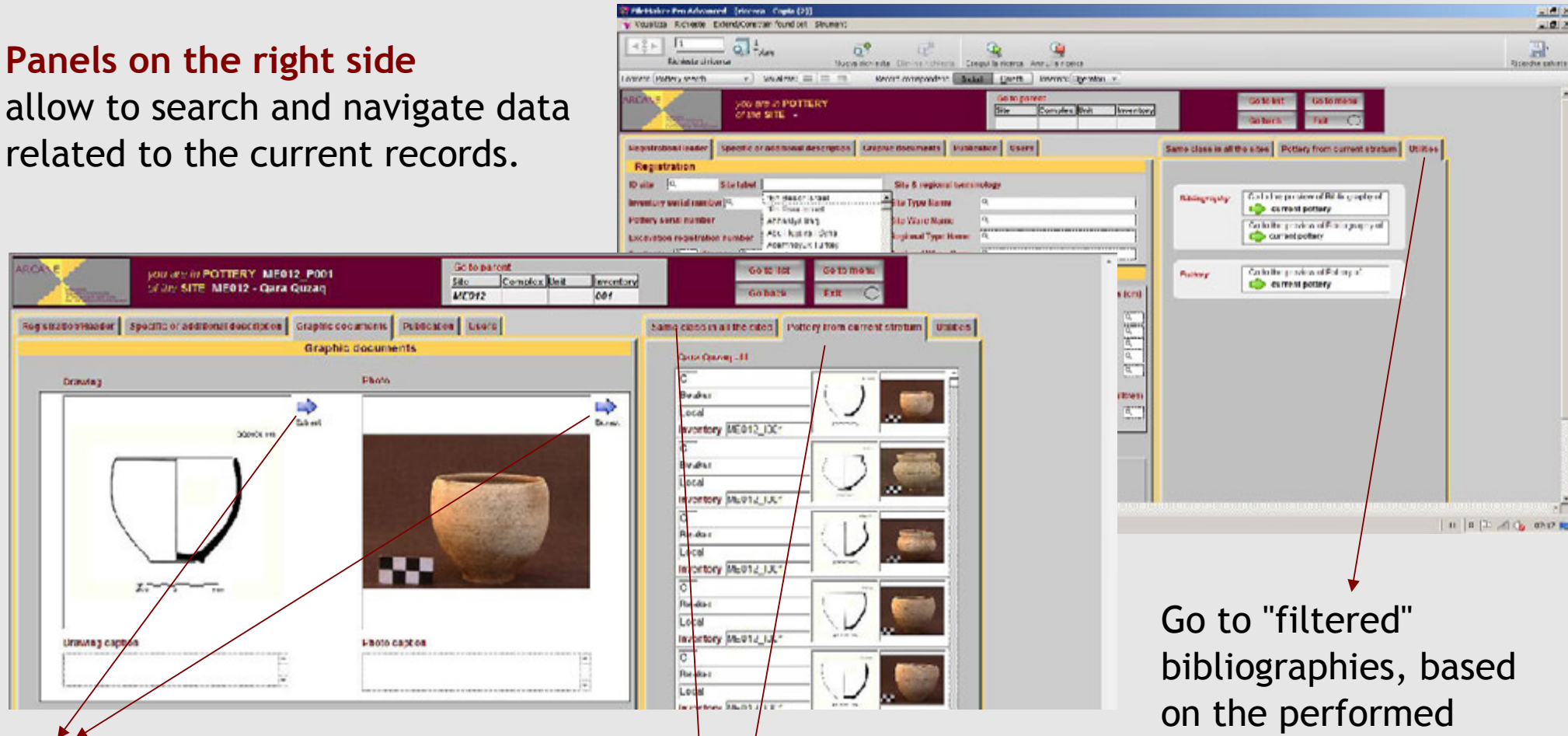
The SEARCH layout allows detailed queries concerning all data.
Pre-arranged values lists make the queries easier.

You can perform single" queries, or select the "Extend/Constrain found set" menu entry to refine your search.

The menu on top and the tabs on the right allow to navigate the records that are related to the one which is currently shown on the left.

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Panels on the right side
allow to search and navigate data related to the current records.

Extract and save images.

Go to "filtered" bibliographies, based on the performed searches.

For Pottery: view the same shape type in all sites or view all the pottery coming from the same stratum in the current site. Different options are available in the other tables.
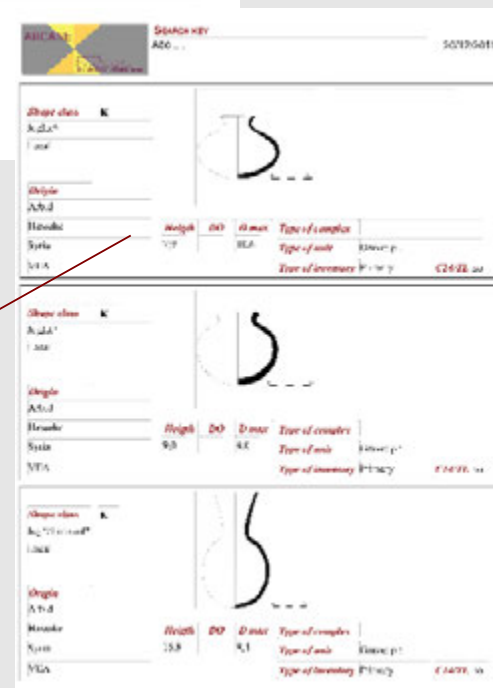
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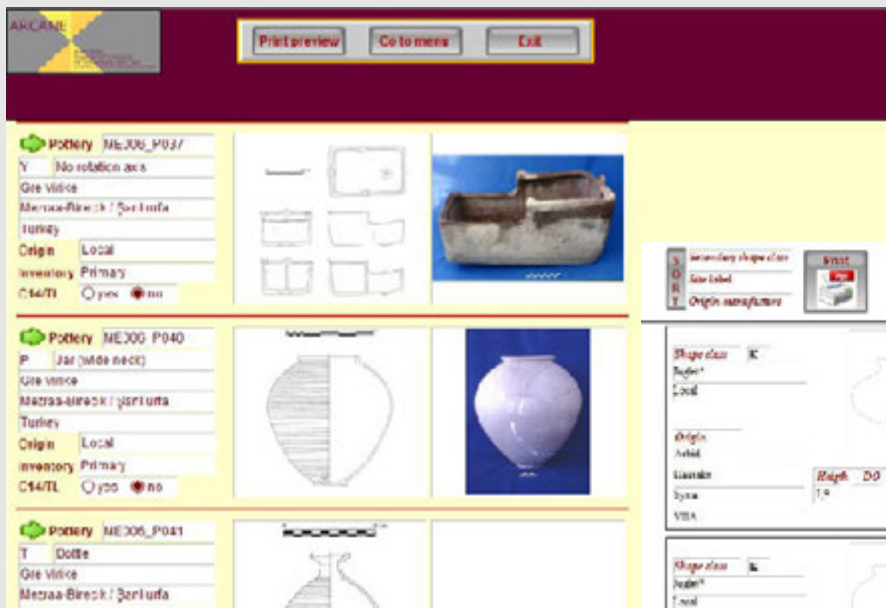
**Perform queries,
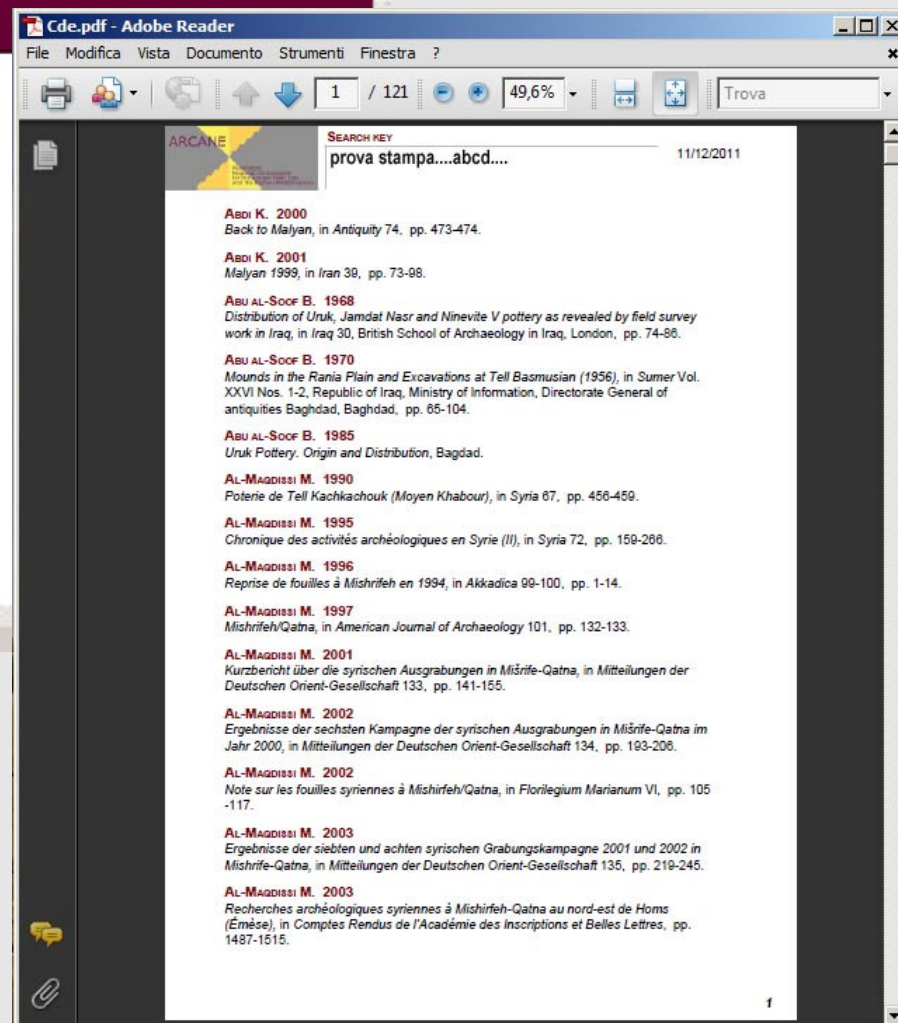sort the results,
print reports**
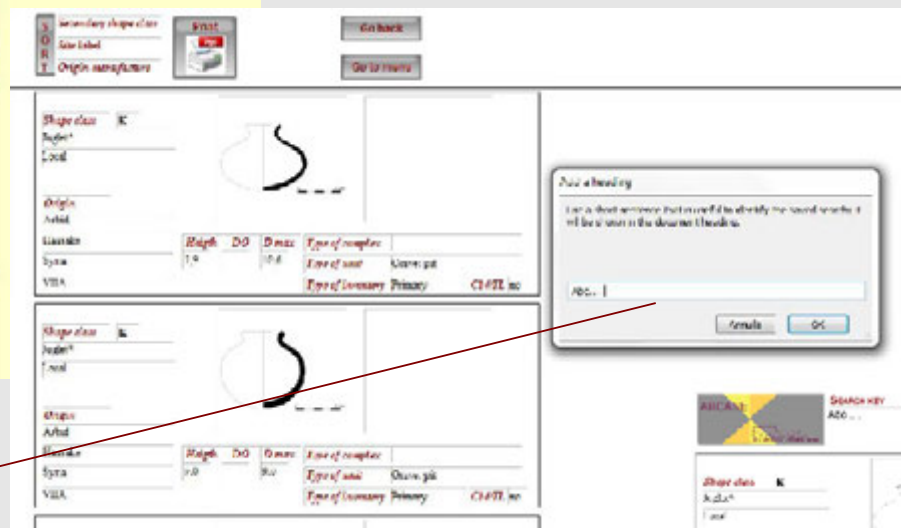
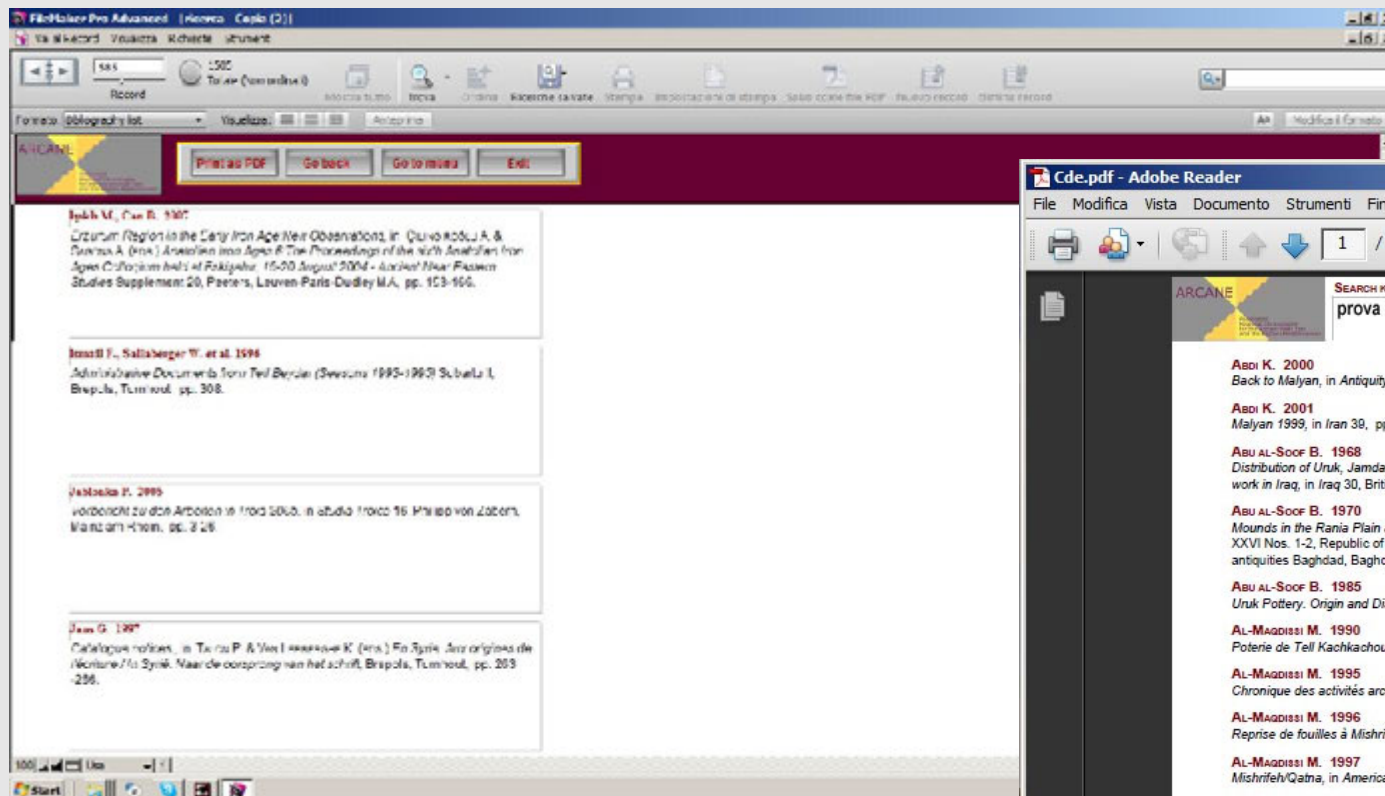Add a personal note to better
describe the results
of your search.

Print the results of
your search on hard
copy or PDF (provided
that you have any PDF
printer installed on your
computer).

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Bibliography

You can make bibliographic searches in any layout. The results can be refined based on your detailed queries.
You can print them on paper or as a PDF.

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The future of the DataBase
Main biases in the current data set to be improved

• Scanty amount of C-14 data **related** to the chosen inventories.

• Data from different regions are not '**weighted**', therefore the DB has some inconsistencies.

• The data-managing **workflow** must be easier and understandable. All the involved actors must be motivated and aware of the process.

Regions	Sites	Inventories
CM	2	16
CY	19	93
EA	5	17
JZ	17	130
ME	16	68
NL	7	57
SL	27	77
SM	4	59
TG	24	124
WA	17	78
WI	15	115
		834

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C-14 data

The C-14 table for data entry, provided in July 2010. C-14 data are related to inventories. This can also be a flexible tool for queries when populated with a good amount of data.

Data 'weight' and consistency

Some regions are underrepresented. More sites and inventories (hopefully with good C-14 data) could be added, in order to make the whole data set more balanced.
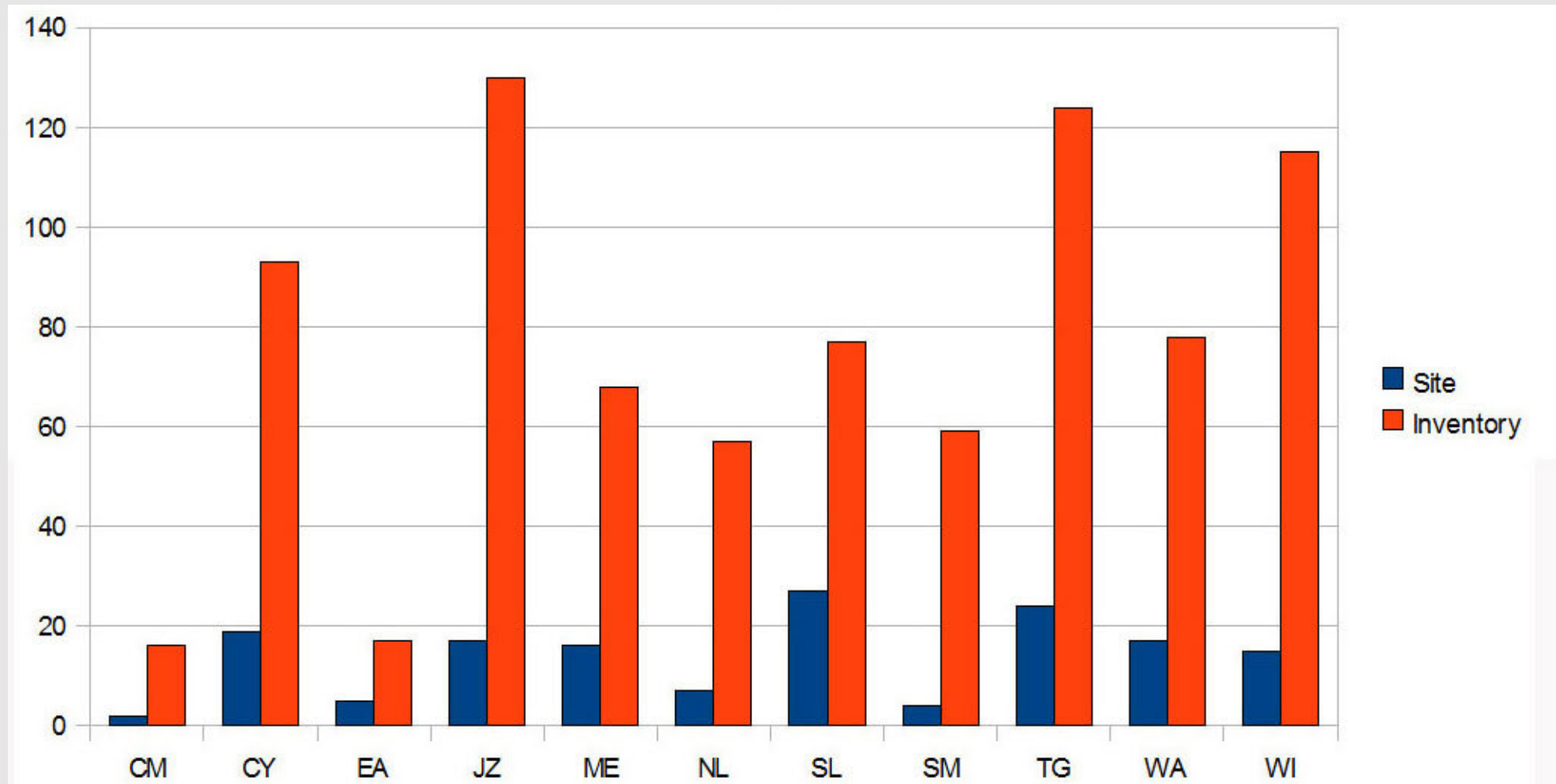
The schema proposed at the beginning
of the Project (from "Guidelines")

Workflow issues
• Workflow must be easier
• People must comply with it

Suggestions:
In each Regional Group, keep the
"Scientific Validation" and the "Technical
Management of the DB" more separated.

One person per region should be in charge
of the data to be merged into the DB.

Do not give duties concerning the
database management to Team Leaders
who should mainly supervise
the scientific validation.

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