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Archaeology in Egypt: A Changing Paradigm

In the course of the last decade, Archaeology has undergone major evolutions, marked by an increased focus on Archaeometry, the development and routine use of powerful new surveying (Lidar) and documentation techniques (photogrammetry). The recent massive destruction of numerous archaeological sites has increased the awareness of the fragility of heritage and accelerated the development of digital resources. Meanwhile, European public policies have urged the movement for open access to research data, and universities as well as funding agencies are promoting digital humanities and publications. These evolutions are confronted in Egypt with many, sometimes conflicting, responses, including specific security regulations, the 1983 (revised in 2010) Antiquities Protection Law, pressing demands from local authorities for a greater investment in the development of archaeological tourism, and an ever increasing pressure for the economic and demographic development of the country to rely on its archaeological heritage. The relations between foreign missions working in Egypt and the Egyptian authorities have also witnessed substantial evolutions, all of which have led to a redefinition of the priorities and methods of Archaeology in Egypt.