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Multi-scalar Characterization of Raw Materials

## Session 2: Lithoteques and Field Surveys: An Idea-Sharing Session

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The development on abiotic raw materials studies, has led to the emergence of reference collections, or "lithoteques". These have been progressively created by different institutions to cover their own set of research and specific regional frameworks.

However, the creation of these reference collections must be accompanied by intensive -geo-archaeological surveys aimed at locating the the most lithic raw materials outcrops, in order to have the most representation of the possible source areas that occurred in the past. Subsequently, these materials should be analyzed by different methods in order to be comparable with archaeological materials and identify their geological origin. Nevertheless, associating archaeological lithic materials with geological sources can be a difficult task without the above-mentioned systematic regional data. The creation of regional lithotheques or comparative lithic reference collections allows us to better understand where past cultures procured such lithic raw materials.

Moreover, the use of software based on GIS enable us to create specific or thematic maps to define field survey programs or to map the studied outcrops, as well as geo-statistical tools to answer specific questions such as maximum transport distances, optimal routes or slope maps.

The aim of this session is to share actual data about existing reference collections and to invite the researchers to present their geo-archaeological field surveys, the methods used for structuring them, and the data that can be extracted from the GIS analyses of the location of said outcrops (chert abundance, cost-benefits, accessibility routes, etc.).