Adam Wall recently graduated from Humboldt State University in May, 2019 with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Anthropology, specializing in digital archaeology. His research focuses on the development of a standardized methodology for digitally rendering archaeological data, and the use of such a methodology to make previously opaque, complex data easily accessible to anyone — not solely academia.

This is a composite map of Structure 30 (STR 30), an ancient Mesoamerican ballcourt in Belize, excavated and documented as an archaeological site by Humboldt State University students and alumni. Each demarcated square or rectangle corresponds to a separate excavation map; field notes were consolidated and digitized individually, then pieced together based on alignment and overlaid atop an outline of the entire structure. Satellite imagery of the site was used as a reference to ensure accuracy. By this method, the previously isolated pockets of data, inherent to individual field notes, instead become parts of a greater whole, allowing a fuller picture of archaeological sites rather than what similar documentation normally permits.