



## Real-world example: LEA DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNREGISTERED CG



*Fig. 1 Egyptian Ushebti, KMKG 2496.00*

### CASE STUDY

This presented scenario simulates a situation in which a law enforcement agency (LEA) utilizes the ENIGMA platform to establish a workflow for identifying and documenting an unknown and undocumented cultural good (CG). This scenario involved the General Police Directorate of Thessaloniki (GADTHE), where an LEA officer intercepted the object in Thessaloniki. The object in question was identified as an Ushebti (a funerary figurine from ancient Egypt) (fig. 1). When intercepting the CG, the LEA officer had no information, metadata, or supporting documents for the object. As a result, the scenario is exemplary to many real-life situations where LEAs encounter unidentified and undocumented CGs. This imposes significant challenges for LEAs due to their assumed lacking expertise in identifying CGs.

The main problem the LEA encountered regarding the artefact was the lack of provenance information and is therefore unable to quickly and accurately identify the CG. In the scenario, the LEA suspected the CG to originate from an illegal excavation site and therefore assumed it to be a looted item. In such situations, LEAs secure and seize such items and require further legal steps for which accurate object identification is required. At this stage, collaboration with cultural heritage (CH) experts is required. By using the ENIGMA platform's collaborative workflow and tools the LEA could, through the help of CH experts, successfully identify the object as an Ushebti and providing the necessary provenance information.



*Fig. 2 A LEA inspecting the Ushebti.*

## WALKTHROUGH

This scenario's walkthrough details the process an LEA officer follows, from intercepting an undocumented object to securing it using the ENIGMA platform and with the help of CH Experts. The process starts with the LEA officer intercepting an Ushebti and realizing it has no accompanying documentation.

**Step 1:** The LEA officer intercepts and inspects the undocumented cultural good (fig. 2).

**Step 2:** The officer gathers all available information of the CG. This includes capturing 2D images, an object description and the generation of a 3D model (figs. 3-4).



*Fig. 3 Scenario: Gathering CG information, including 3D scanning.*



*Fig. 4 Impression of the 3D Model of the Ushebti.*

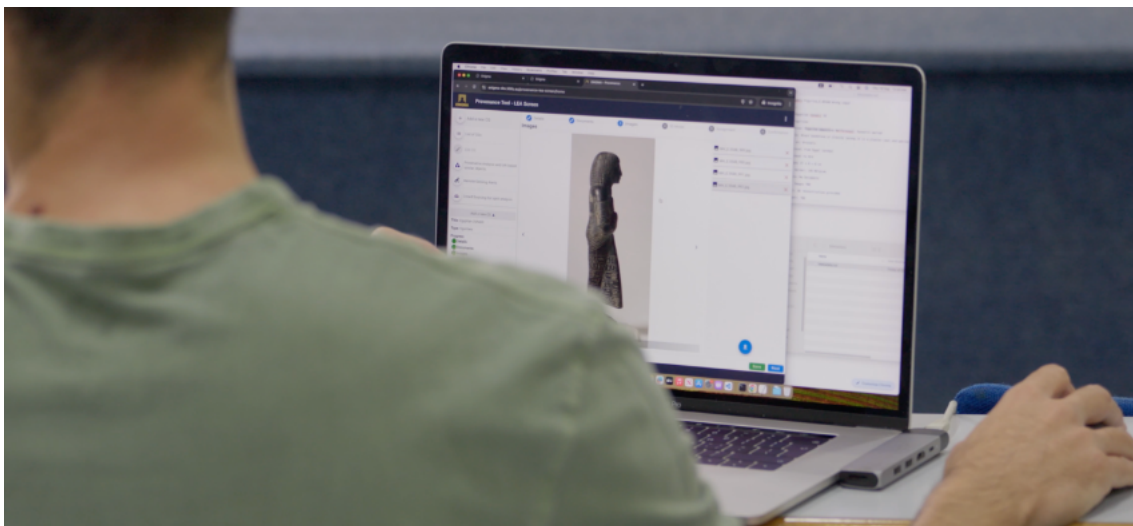
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**Step 3:** The LEA officer enters the gathered data into the ENIGMA platform. They fill in the object's description and assume a preliminary legal status.

**Step 4:** The officer assigns a CH expert via the platform to check and amend the data input. The expert is notified and accesses the object's file in ENIGMA. They would then confirm the object's identity as an Ushebti and provide an assessment regarding its authenticity and potential provenance (fig. 5).

**Step 5:** Based on the CH Expert's professional input, the LEA takes further legal steps. In this scenario, the expert's advice confirms the need for further investigation.

**Step 6:** The object was confiscated and secured for further inquiry into its origin, demonstrating a successful interdisciplinary collaboration.



**Fig. 5** A CH expert verifying the LEA input and identifies it as an authentic Ushebti.



## LESSONS LEARNED

This case successfully demonstrated how the ENIGMA platform facilitates a structured workflow for LEAs dealing with unknown or undocumented cultural goods, specifically through collaboration with CH Experts. The scenario highlighted the platform's reliability for helping with the provenance and identification of unknown CGs. The platform's audit functions ensured full traceability for the legal proceedings.

- **Outcome 1:** ENIGMA was found to be reliable for helping the provenance and identification of unknown Cultural Goods (CGs).
- **Outcome 2:** The LEA process of confiscating goods and collaborating with a CH Expert was more time-efficient than conventional means.
- **Outcome 3:** The process confirmed the utility of ENIGMA's collaborative documentation and its role in providing accurate data for unknown CGs.

## FURTHER RESOURCES

### APPLIED ENIGMA TOOLS:

- ENIGMA Provenance Tool
- ENIGMA Scenario Building Engine
- ENIGMA 3D Reconstruction Tool
- ENIGMA Similarity Report

### RELATED BEST PRACTICES:

- Provenance Tool
- 3D Reconstruction Tool
- Laser Scanning for 3D
- Measuring CGs for LEAs
- Museology and Heritage Vocabularies

### FURTHER ONLINE TRAINING:

<https://eu-enigma.eu/training/>