Classification and Typology

- Allows communication via a shared terminology
- Important for documenting and explaining changes in types, forms, and functions

Attributes

Sites and artifacts are classified according to various attributes.

- Quantitative
- Qualitative

Were these attributes relevant to the original maker or user?
Temporal Types

Temporal types are sites or artifacts tied to specific times.

- Can be used for dating
- Does not work well with artifacts which change little over time.

Assemblage Types

- All artifacts and ecofacts collected from a site
- Classified for purposes of site-to-site comparison
- Reveals general similarities and differences

Classifying and Typing Artifacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ground</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Percussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pecking</td>
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<td>• Grinding</td>
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<td>• Polishing</td>
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<td>• Flaked</td>
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<tr>
<td>• &quot;Flintknapping&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Percussion flaking</td>
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<td>• Pressure Flaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Biface/ Uniface</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Blades/ Flakes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Classifying and Typing Artifacts

Ceramics
- Terra-cottas
- Stonewares
- Earthenwares
- Porcelains

Metal
- Metallurgy
- Bronze
- Iron
- Steel

Glass
- Faience
- Storage
- Windows
- Beads
Classifying and Typing Artifacts

- **Shell**
  - Beads
  - Tokens
  - Pendants
  - Cups
  - Bowls
  - Fishhooks

- **Bone**
  - Needles
  - Awls
  - Scrapers
  - Beads
  - Tubes
  - Punches

Classifying and Typing Artifacts

- **Perishables**
  - Basketry
  - Wood
  - Leather
  - Hide

Analyzing Artifacts: Use-Wear Analysis

- Examine Microscopic Wear Patterns
- Use Replicated Tools
Analyzing Artifacts: Geochemical Sourcing

- **Chemical composition**
  - Acts as a ‘fingerprint’
  - Reveals the original source of the material

- **Especially useful with:**
  - Stones (obsidian, jade, turquoise)
  - Metals (copper, tin, silver, gold)
  - Clay (as in ceramics)

Analyzing Artifacts: Residue Analysis

- **Residues**
  - Dried Food
  - Wine Stains
  - Resins
  - Embalming Chemicals
  - Adhesive
  - Proteins

Analyzing Artifacts: Residue Analysis

- **Analysis**
  - Microscopic Analysis
  - Gas Chromatography
  - Protein Residue Analysis
  - Infrared Scanning
Analyzing Artifacts: DNA Analysis

- Human Evolution
- Trace Migrations
- Identify Individuals
- Determine Domestic Plants and Animals