During the American Rock Art Research Association Symposium in 1981 the concept of computerizing rock art sites was discussed. These discussions led us to see this as an area of research where contributions could be made. Then, in 1982, President Jesse Warner appointed Mr. Manning and myself to delve further into the field.

Our first effort consisted of placing information on 4 by 6 cards. This proved to be very unwieldy, and with the availability of a small computer, the concept has snowballed into enormous visions of grandeur. Presently, sites, slides, literature, and intercommunications are available to the researcher.

The first example below is typical of early site descriptions in the files of the Utah Division of State History, while many are of even poorer quality (as a matter of fact Argyle Canyon and this section of Nine Mile Canyon are in Duchesne County).

42Cb09
Nine Mile Canyon/Argyle Canyon
38m. above the canyon floor
2 petroglyph panels.

The next example is an improvement.

42Du10
Location:
La 39.91 Lo 110.32
Nine Mile Canyon/Argyle Canyon
100m. above 42Cb 09
Reported by: JEO
Documented by:
KBC01234, 50S
RCRut011BZ, 77S

Data: Petroglyphs

The latitude and longitude appear to be useful. It is merely a street address. If someone should hand you an address of 32412 S 12400E and ask you, "Where is it?", you would almost immediately reply, "Well, that is way South and East, about 54 miles South and 21 miles East".

There should be a permanent record of the person reporting a site to our records. Our records should also show who has taken slides of the site, how many, and how many panels were studied by the recorder. It also became apparent that an S for slides and a 5 on a computer screen are too similar. A cross-hatched square would be more definitive to represent slides.

42Du012 Duchesne County
Location:
La 39.816 Lo 110.325
SW 1/4, NW 1/4,
Sec 26, T3S, R5E
Nine Mile Canyon,
600M East of Ellis' House,
North of road, at foot of wall.
Reported by:
JEW 42UR112
Documented by:
JEW45-5B62 27#
RCRut035U 27#
JEO00133 19#
RDRut007AC 37#

Description:
Fremont, horned anthropomorphs.
Ute, quadrupeds, abstract figures.
Note that Duchesne was added. It may be obvious to us that Du is Duchesne, but to a foreigner from Colorado or Arizona, it would not be so clear.

Now to break it down: 42Du012, is the number assigned by the Utah Division of State Histor, i.e., 42—State of Utah; Du—Duchesne County; 012—the sequential number in that county. LA 39.816 LO 110.325, Latitude and longitude (as explained—see above). SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec 26, T3S, R5E, this standard land description is very useful when checking the County Treasurer's office to see who pays taxes on any particular plot of land. Nine Mile Canyon and 600M E. of Ellis' House, are useful information for local inquiry, plus all principal streams are named on USGS Topographical maps. JEW 42UR112, this notation indicates the site was originally reported by Jesse E. Warner, and it will remain as a permanent part of the URARA site record. 42 UR112 is the Utah Rock Art Research Association's site record number. JEW45-5B62, JEO00133, RCRut035U and RDRut007AC: the first two or three letters are the initials of individuals who have documented the site. The numerical sequence after their initials represents their individual site number and classification system. 27#, 19#, 27# and 37# represents the number of slides these individuals have taken at that site.

The following is an example incorporating all of these ideas into an actual site location in Sevier County, Utah:

42SV12345 42UR13 Sevier County
Location:
A-La 38.844 Lo 111.742
B-La 38.845 Lo 111.742
C-La 38.851 Lo 111.744
NE 1/4, Sec 1, T23S, R1E.
17 KM SE of Salina,
8KM W of 42Sv633,
4KM W of Gates Creek Dip,

Gooseberry Creek Road
Fish Lake Nat'l Forest
Reported by:
RCR 42UR13
Documented by
RCRut013C 4#
Key figures Panel:
A-Inverted triangle
B-Circular abstract
C-Concentric circle

Suggestions and inquiries about the above information should be forwarded to the Utah Rock Art Research Association in care of the Site Record Committee. If you feel that you have a site that has not been reported, contact the Site Record Committee, which can check to see if the site is on record. Don't assume that all panels at a site or sites themselves have been recorded.