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Supplementary Material for Society Island Human-centered Canoe-web Database

Jennifer G. Kahn

College of William and Mary, jgkahn01@wm.edu

Claudia Escue

College of William and Mary, cmescue@email.wm.edu

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College of William & Mary, jgkahn01@wm.edu

Claudia Escue

College of William & Mary, cmescue@email.wm.edu

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Authors Jennifer G. Kahn and Claudia Escue

This documents describes the structure of the Society Island Canoe-Webs Database found in the attached Excel File. For this database, we mined data from 28 documents. Eleven other documents were examined but revealed no pertinent information. Of the 28 documents examined, nine were modern botanical surveys or ethnobotanical studies, five were ethnographic works, seven were archaeological, archaeobotanical, or museum collection studies, one was a missionary account, and seven were early European Explorer accounts (for source types see Hamilton and Kahn 2007).

From these 28 documents, we captured which particular plant and animal taxa were used across five categories: structure, purpose, vessel, maintenance, and use. Wherever possible, use data was reported at the species level, yet some entries only provided data to the genus level.

The structure category is defined as species used to create the original canoe structure, but this excludes removable parts like paddles, sails, and masts. The structure category has five sub-fields, including ornamentation, processing, body elements, extraction, and general, with sub-categories including tools and ritual. Ornamentation refers to aesthetic, social, or spiritual elements of the canoe, rather than functional elements of the canoe. So while the shape of the mast or the hull would be functional elements, carved figureheads, shell inlays, or other sorts of decoration of the hull are classed as ornamentation. Purpose relates to particular use-events recorded around canoes, with the five-sub-fields of trade (use of canoes to transport trade items or to transport people with items to trade), hunting/fishing, ritual, cosmology, and navigation.

Sub-categories of the purpose category include vessel (items related to the physical canoe), equipment (auxiliary items not part of the actual canoe like masts, paddles), sacrificial (transportation of items like human bodies, pigs), and general (unspecified use). Hunting of marine mammals like dolphins and whales is differentiated from fishing which includes capture of fish or shellfish. Ritual is defined as relating to generalized ceremonial activities. Cosmology relates specifically to beliefs or activities related to origin myths and world-views. Navigation relates to any practice linked with way-finding.

The vessel category relates to specific mention of canoe type, whether single-hulled, double-hulled, or general (type unspecified). The double-hulled category has three sub-fields, canoes for use in war, those for use in voyaging, and those for use in ritual. The maintenance category relates to post-manufacture refabrication practices, with sub-categories of repair (practices to prolong use), recycling (practices to refabricate materials for other use), ritual (a species used for ritual to repair a canoe, but these were lacking in our study), and general (maintenance activity unspecified). The use elements category relates to the raw materials used for specific canoe elements, with the sub-categories of sail, mast, paddles, and general (unspecified).

References Cited

Hamilton, B. and J. Kahn 2007. Pre-Contact Population in the 'Opunohu Valley, Mo'orea: An Integrated Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Approach. In *The Growth and Collapse of Pacific Island Societies: Archaeological and Demographic Perspectives*, (P.V. Kirch and J. -L. Rallu, eds.), pp. 129-159. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.