Guide to Completing the Raw Material Record Form
The Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology

The Raw Material Record Form is designed to provide documentation of lithic raw material characteristics and sources in the Midwest. This information and samples of the lithic source will be stored at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology as part of its Midwest Lithic Repository and will be accessible through an online database, which is currently under development (http://gbl.indiana.edu/).

What follows is an explanation of how to complete the Raw Material Record Form.

Page 1 – Primary Data

1. **Raw Material Name:** Please use formal names in this section.

2. **Variety:** This refers to a specific recognized subset of the raw material name or type.

3. **Alternative name(s):** Include other known sources with the same raw material type.

4. **Prehistoric Site No.:** If applicable, include the official archaeological site number for the source location.

5. **Field Site No.:** This refers to site identification numbers not associated with state prehistoric site numbers. These numbers may include geological survey numbers, university or CRM internal site identification numbers, or other site reference numbers.

6. **UTM (Northing, Easting):** Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid location

7. **State:** Name of state for source location

8. **County:** Name of county for source location

9. **Quadrangle:** Name of 7.5’US Geological Survey Quadrangle map for source location

10. **Township, Range, and Section:** Location of lithic source location using the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) - http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/boundaries/a_plss.html

11. **¼ Section Location:** smallest quarter section within a Section that the lithic source was recovered (e.g., SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ )
12. **Source/Exposure Type**

   a) **Bedrock:** This refers to vein bedrock sources which may be bedded, thinly laminated or massive. (Check “outcrop” for weathered source exposures.)

   b) **Cutbank:** This refers to lithic sources exposed by erosional surfaces due to streams, rivers, and in some cases rain or wind.

   c) **Glacial Till:** This refers to lithic material poorly sorted in non-stratified sediment. In some cases glaciofluvial activity can sort these deposits.

   d) **Talus:** Rock piles typically located downhill from primary source. This may be caused by rockfall.

   e) **Primary Context Nodules:** Check this section if nodules occur in limestone deposits. These nodules often are found within bedded layers in random concentrations.

   f) **Secondary Context Nodules:** Nodules of this type are not found in limestone beds. They might be found in rivers and streams or in eroded contexts.

   g) **Outcrop:** This source refers to weathered surficial exposures of lithic raw material.

   h) **River Lag:** This refers to rock or pebble concentrations formed by fluvial activity. Sources may be well sorted and found in buried or exposed in valleys.

13. **Raw Material Description:** Please provide descriptions of the raw material as it exists at the source, and as it appears in the samples provided. Please describe the type of material (chert, quartzite, chalcedony, jasper etc.), color (Munsell), texture, inclusions, banding and cortex characteristics.

14. **Maps and Images:** This critical information is described in the *Raw Material Record Form*.

15. **Collected by:** Name of person/people and/or organization that collected the material

16. **Form Completed by:** Name and contact information of person that is filling out the *Raw Material Record Form*
17. Geologic Context
   a) Period (System): Name of geological period during which lithic source was formed
   b) Group: Name of the geologic stratigraphic unit, which consists of two or more formations
   c) Formation: Name of geologic strata that the lithic source is located
   d) Availability: mark the level of occurrence from low (rare) to high (abundant)
   e) Natural Distribution: Enter the known geographic range (states and counties) for the lithic sample.

18. Physical Source Description
   a) Form: This refers to the shape properties of the specimen. Is the raw material a bedrock (tabular or bedded) section or a nodule?
   b) Cortical surface: refers to the exterior, weathered portion of the rock, if present.
   c) Matrix characteristics
      i. Banded: Variations in color or texture resulting in linear or layered appearance in the matrix of the raw material.
      ii. Druse: refers to igneous crystalline inclusions or cavities.
      iii. Fissures are cracks within the matrix.
      iv. Mottled: Random spots or blemishes of differing colors, sizes or textures throughout the matrix.
      v. Speckled: Small specks or dots throughout the matrix.
      vi. Oolites are small spherical grains (less than 2mm)
d) **Index Fossil Types**: Fossils inclusions within the matrix. Common examples include: Sponge Spicules. Please see the below image and its website source for images of this typical fossil inclusions (Stelle and Duggan 2003 - [http://virtual.parkland.edu/istelle1/ref/biface_guide/insert/documents/insert_types.html](http://virtual.parkland.edu/istelle1/ref/biface_guide/insert/documents/insert_types.html)).

![Image of fossils](image.png)

- e) **Matrix Munsell Color Index/Color**: Define the color using Munsell Color Index System - [http://db.a.med.sc.edu/price/irf/Adobe_tg/models/munsell.html](http://db.a.med.sc.edu/price/irf/Adobe_tg/models/munsell.html)

- f) **Texture**: Select one that best describes the matrix

- g) **Luster**: Select one that best describes the matrix

- h) **Knapping Quality**: If known, rate the knapping quality from poor to excellent

19. **Heat Treatment Testing** is a section for those who have experience with heat alteration of the specimens

- a) **Munsell Color Index/Color Change**: Was there a change in the munsell color after heat treating?

- b) **Texture Change** Was there a change in the Munsell color after heat treating?

- c) **Luster Change**: Was there a change in the luster after heat treating?
20. Prehistoric Utilization section should be completed by individuals that have direct knowledge of the raw material utilization.

a) Cultural Period(s): If known, what cultural periods utilized this lithic source material?

b) Trade/Distribution Area: If known, what is the cultural distribution?

c) Tool Type(s): Are there any specific tools associated with this lithic source?

d) Heat Treated?: Was the lithic source show signs of heating?

21. The References Section refers specifically to studies related to the raw material in terms of geology, archaeology and anthropology.