

Analytical / methodological aspects of obsidian studies

Obsidian is extremely well suited to instrumental analyses of various types for provenancing and geochemical studies. The primary aspects for applicability are availability, efficiency, precision and accuracy with low cost and non-invasive methodology. These requirements do not always support each other. Inter-laboratory collaboration and large accessible databases will obviously help. At the same time, the modern circulation of „touristic” obsidians offer more and more challenges for authentic provenancing and underline the importance of a reliable, authentic context for our samples. Is there a best practice for analytical studies? What is the optimal level of information to make decisions by, to record and publish?