There are many projects currently being carried out in Pompeii and Herculaneum which aim to preserve and maintain the sites whilst furthering our understanding of life in those towns. Some of these include the Anglo American Project, Herculaneum Conservation Project, the Via dell’Abbondanza Project, the Doors of Pompeii and Herculaneum Project, and the Pompeii Forum Project.

The Anglo American Project in Pompeii, begun in 1994, (AAPP), is run by the University of Bradford in Britain and investigates Insula I in region VI. The aim of the project is to increase our understanding of the social and economic life of the urban community; looking at the two substantial houses, the House of the Vestals- perhaps the most luxurious house in the city, and the House of the Surgeon, as well as four bars, an inn, and workshops. The AAPP has employed meticulous techniques of excavation and documentation, such as both organic and inorganic excavation material being brought back to labs for storage and preservation. This thorough analysis has showed the effects of 200 years of exposure on the site; the different levels of occupation- eg. 1st displays of decoration, the first delivery of water by aqueducts, and changes due to the earthquake; dating of walls by dating associated materials in the ground; and evidence for diet- specifically fish remnants- found by careful sieving of the excavated earth.

Since 2001 the Herculaneum Conservation Project, a collaboration between the Packard Humanities Institute and the Soprintendenza, supported by the British School at Rome, has sought to address some of the most pressing threats to the survival of the site. The focus has been on infrastructural problems – roofing and drains. It has also sought by scientific experiment to analyse the critical conservation risks and to develop better approaches to solving or reducing them. It is directed by Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, and operations on site are overseen by the Project Manager, Jane Thompson and by the Director of the archaeological site, Maria Paola Guidobaldi. The project has cleared much of the existing drains along the lower Decumanus and the septic tank under the Cardo V street was excavated. The consolidating of the wall crests on the upper terrace of the Palaestra has revealed the various construction phases of the building. Research in the Sacred Area by the site Director allowed for the history of cult buildings to be better understood.

The Via Dell’ Abbondanza Project has been established to accurately record the building frontages of the structures on the 900 metre-long Via dell’Abbondanza and is being conducted under the auspices of the Soprintendenza di Pompei. State-of-the-art surveying, photographic and computer equipment are used to create photo mosaics that document the current condition of the structures. The objective of the Project are the Recording of both sides of the 900 meter-long street using digital photographic and geomatic technology; Producing accurate and detailed photomosaics; Providing them to the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei; Comparing the photomosaics to the original excavation records made between 1910 - 1923; Analyzing the deterioration of selected structures. This study will reveal any changes that may have occurred since the original excavations, and provide accurate documentation for traditional and digital archives and may prove useful for future conservation projects.
Over the past three decades, the houses of Pompeii and Herculaneum have frequently been the subject of spatial analytical study. The Doors of Pompeii and Herculaneum Project seeks to continue this trend by conducting an examination of the doorways in 52 Campanian houses in an effort to reconstruct the size, design, and locking capabilities of internal doors and partitions. A four-house pilot project was completed in October 2009, resulting in the establishment of an initial database containing the records of 67 doorways. Though some important conclusions have been drawn from this preliminary study, far more data is required to establish reliable typologies for threshold and door jamb construction, and to better understand the effect that doors had on traffic patterns, viewsheds, and spatial controls within the private home. This Project is directed by Dr. M. Taylor Lauritsen and backed by The University of Edinburgh Archaeology and the Baldwin Brown Fund.

The Pompeii Forum project was begun in 1988 under the directorship of John Dobbins and backed by the University of Virginia. Addressing the inaccurate plans of the Forum, the deteriorating condition of the site and the reaction to the 62 AD earthquake, the Project aims to provide the first systematic documentation of the architecture and decoration of the forum, to interpret evidence as it pertains to Pompeii’s urban history, and to make wider contributions to both the history of urbanism and contemporary problems of urban design. The Project has already reached and published conclusions that challenge the traditional understandings of the Forum; the evidence gathered pointing to a comprehensive post-earthquake plan for the east side of the forum—Rather than being a symbol of the depressed economic conditions at Pompeii after A.D. 62, the forum with its vigorous and ambitious post-earthquake building program reveals plans to rebuild on a grand scale.