

Archaeology: From Map to Museum

LD 1: Virtual Archaeology on the Internet

Description: This Lab Deliverable is intended to have you explore cyberspace with a specific eye to the world of Virtual or Digital Archaeology. Your objective will be to search out sites that include innovative multimedia visualizations of ancient archaeological sites. Upon recording your sites and reviewing a select number of said sites, you and or your group are to provide an Online Journal assessment of the current state of the art and its future prospects.

Considerations: The following considerations about the nature of the three to five Internet sites that you have chosen should be taken into account in their selection and interpretation.

1. Sites selected for this exercise should reflect innovative scientific and technical attempts to visualize or model ancient archaeological sites by way of either 3-D (Three Dimensional), Virtual Reality modeling programs such as QTVR, AutoCad or related 3-D Cad mappings, and other cutting edge programs.

2. Sites selected should reflect serious professional attempts to test and push the envelope of innovation regarding archaeology's efforts to model and visualize past or ancient worlds. As such, I would recommend that you select sites of an academic or scientific nature with bonafide experts and or technicians as their sponsors.

3. Upon selection of the three to five Internet sites that you most believe to represent the state of the art of archaeological technology and visualization of past worlds, please consider and be prepared to discuss and or document the following characteristics pertaining to the visualizations or models in question:

- a. What was the primary technical or scientific rationale you used to justify the selections of the Internet sites and or models in question?
- b. What strategy did you use to track down the sites chosen? In other words, was there a specific search engine or body of key words that you employed in order to produce a particular sort of result?
- c. What new or innovative characteristics -- or software package -- of the Virtual Archaeology site or model identified do you believe holds the greatest potential for expanding the scope of visualizing the past?
- d. What benefits or other considerations do you believe that the model or visualization in question has to offer? In other words, does the model or visualization justify its production in terms of the potentials for interpreting the site or object in question? Teaching value? Future prospects?

4. Finally, please use the word processing program on your computer to record the following details about the sites that you have selected, then cut and paste into the Online Journal:

- a. Complete names or titles of the Internet sites selected for this exercise.
- b. Accurate Internet links related to both the main and or home page of the site in question and links to the specific visualizations or models studied for this exercise.
- c. Brief summary of the Internet site's content and or purpose.