LD 1: Virtual Archaeology on World Prehistory

Description: This Lab Deliverable targets the study of 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 and reviewing a select number of animations specific to ancient civilizations the world over, you and your group are to respond to questions via a Discussion Forum assessment of the current state of the art of virtual archaeology and its prospects for the accurate visualization of ancient monuments, artifacts, and features.

Considerations: Please consider the following guidelines in the selection of three to five professionally rendered Internet sites specific to a *given ancient culture or world civilization* that you believe best represents the current state of the art of virtual archaeology and the online animation of its resources.

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, Lightwave, AutoCAD or related 3-D Cad mappings, and other cutting edge programs and approaches.

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 aesthetic rationale you used to justify your specific selections of virtual archaeology Internet sites and or models?
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 result? Was your approach effective? If not, why not?
c.   What new or innovative characteristics of the Virtual Archaeology sites or models chosen do you believe holds the greatest potential for expanding the scope of archaeological visualizations of the past?
d.   What specific 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 costs in terms of its potentials for interpreting the sites or objects in question? What of its teaching value? Future prospects?
e.   What three questions specific to a given world civilization were raised by this exercise?

4. Finally, please use the word processing program on your computer to record the following details about those sites selected, and then cut and paste your narrative into the into the online Discussion Forum located at http://archaeology.csumb.edu/phpbb2.

a.   Complete name or title of those Internet sites selected for this exercise.
b.   Accurate Internet links related to both the main, and or home, page of the site in question.
c.   URL address links to the specific visualizations or models selected for this exercise.