

Internet, archaeology and virtual museums

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The development of the 21st century archaeology requires changes not only in the general understanding of archaeology as a discipline about Past, based on the material culture, but also in the way the archaeologists communicate their knowledge on Past.

Internet is still a field of technology and universal knowledge that has been not using the most efficiently from archaeology. Although there are numerous websites, not many include rich information and the basic archaeological achievements are scanty represented. Nevertheless, the archaeological Internet is a specific field of knowledge communication in which are involved archaeologists who mostly feel as a social duty to work on making archaeology closer to public through volunteering on Internet. Their work should be highly appreciated. In many cases it is beneficial not only for the visitors of the websites but also for the webmasters even when the websites do not have a commercial character.

The virtual museums on Internet give a great opportunity the wealthy of the archaeological finds and features to be represented in the most sophisticated way. Cross-national, national institutional, non-for-profit, private or individual projects will be discussed in our presentation together with the general academic and humanistic benefit of the Internet virtual museums, exhibits and thematical websites. We will try to trace possible directions for their future development as an essential archaeological expression attempting to connect archaeological discoveries with both, professionals and just interested in archaeology.