

VAST2004: The Best of Both Worlds

VAST2004, the 5th International Symposium on Virtual Reality, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, incorporating the Second Eurographics Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage will take place from 7 to 10 December at the Conscience-auditorium, Brussels and Ename Center, Oudenaarde, Belgium.

This year's VAST Symposium will be dedicated to the theme: *Interdisciplinarity or "The Best of Both Worlds": The Grand Challenge for Cultural Heritage Informatics in the 21st Century*

Following the discussions of previous VAST Symposia and the first Eurographics Symposium on Graphics and Cultural Heritage, the 2004 VAST Symposium will focus on the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research interests including those of monuments, sites and museums as manifest in the EPOCH Network, covering every phase of cultural heritage informatics, from initial data capture to information processing, and the dissemination of results to the scientific community and the general public. In addition, the wider legal and ethical responsibilities of Cultural Informatics (set out in the draft ICOMOS-Ename Charter) will be discussed.

Thus, subjects dealt with at VAST2004 will include among others:

- Data Capture and Processing
- Data Management
- Standards and Documentation
- Innovative Graphics Applications and Techniques
- Digital Reconstructions and Visualisation
- Archaeological Analysis and Interpretive Design
- Interactive Environments and applications
- The Economics of Cultural Informatics and Tourism
- Story-telling and design of heritage communications
- Novel internet applications in heritage
- Usability, effectiveness and interface design for heritage applications
- Cultural Informatics Education and Training
- Professional and Ethical Guidelines

The Ename Center for Public Archaeology and Heritage Presentation, and the Flemish Heritage Institute (VIOE) are hosting this conference.

The Conference Chair is Daniel Pletinckx, of the Ename Center. The Conference Secretariat is effectively headed by Eva Roels (eva.roels@enamecenter.org), who can be contacted for any organizational issue.

The International Program Committee is co-chaired by Yiorgos Chrysanthou (University of Cyprus), Kevin Cain (Insight Ltd.), Neil Silberman (Ename Center), and Franco Niccolucci (PIN).

As yet, the provisional Conference program is the following (details/updates and the registration form may be found at http://www.enamecenter.org/pages/VAST_schedule.htm).

MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER – PRE-CONFERENCE: TUTORIALS AND EPOCH MEETINGS

- Usability Tutorial
- Standards Tutorial: CIDOC-CRM, MPEG, OpenSG
- EPOCH activity meetings: Integration, Common Infrastructure, Research Agenda, NEWTONs

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER – CONFERENCE

Plenary session – Invited lectures

Patricia Manson, DG Information Society, European Commission, Head of Unit Technology-enhanced Learning & Cultural Heritage: *Accessing our digital cultural heritage: the challenges and opportunities for ICT-based research through European Commission initiatives.*

Neil Silberman, Coordinator of International Programs, Ename Center: *Beyond theme parks and digitized data: what can Cultural Heritage Technologies contribute to the public understanding of the Past?*

Parallel sessions

- ◆ Full papers on
 - Avatars and virtual humans
 - Museums and public archaeology applications
 - Data capture and 3D visualization
- ◆ Short papers on
 - Data Management
 - Internet and Cultural Heritage Communication
- ◆ EPOCH showcase presentations

WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER – CONFERENCE

Parallel sessions

- ◆ Full papers on
 - Multimedia and archaeological interpretation
 - Shape reconstruction and modelling
 - Storytelling and Learning
 - User Interface
- ◆ Short papers on:
 - Excavation Recording and Documentation
 - Museums and Public Archaeology Applications
 - Data capture and 3D Visualisation
- ◆ EPOCH showcase presentations

The program includes also a Panel on the ICOMOS Ename Charter and an EPOCH workshop on socio-economic models and SME involvement. Also a public meeting to illustrate the CHIRON Marie-Curie project will be held on this day.

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER – SOCIAL ACTIVITY AND EPOCH ASSEMBLY

The Conference will move to Oudenaarde with a visit to the city and to the Ename 974 project. For EPOCH partners, the morning will be dedicated to the Network's Assembly.

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER – OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Guided visits to monuments organized for VAST delegates.