

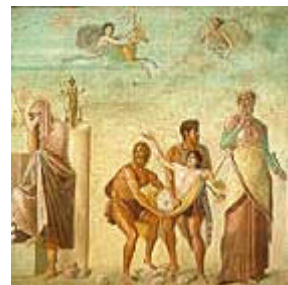
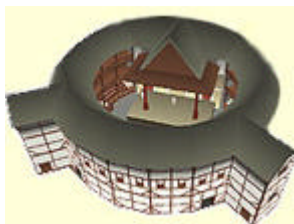
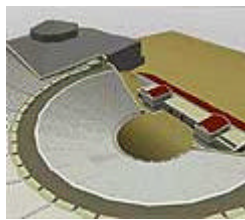


*Antiquity Related Collections Harnessed for Educational Scenarios*

*Jay Dempster*

**ARCHES is a collaborative project between the University of Warwick's School of Theatre Studies, Centre for Academic Practice and IT Services elab with City College Coventry. The project, which started in January this year, has been funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) under the Exchange for Learning Programme (X4L). Over a two-year period, the ARCHES Project aims to re-purpose materials on ancient Greece and Rome between *three* educational contexts (further and higher education and an international online resource), *three* subject areas (Theatre Studies, Classics, Virtual Reality (VR) Modelling) and *seven* modules.**

The project will make available for national use a new collection of VR objects relating to Greece and Rome prepared by the University of Warwick. These objects will be of immense value to disciplines such as Classics, the Performing Arts, Art History, Architecture and IT Modelling. No similar VR objects currently freely exist in the public domain. Moreover, enabled by a number of recent grants from the University of Warwick, project members in Classics and Theatre Studies have created a collection of 1,500 original digital images of Roman artefacts. Through this project, these two collections will become freely available to further and higher education in the UK and international educational sectors for the first time.



This collaborative project will bring together lecturers from the Arts Faculty departments at Warwick and City College Coventry with educational developers and technologists from the Centre for Academic Practice and the ITS elab. The aims include the creation of a searchable online database for tutors and students which can deliver resources to diverse technical and educational environments. It is hoped that the work will provide in a broad sense valuable models for repurposing electronic resources for use in learning and teaching.

During the first year of this project, we will be focusing on the technical architecture for submitting educational descriptions of the resources and addressing issues of access. We hope to produce a facility whereby staff and students alike can search or browse the resources as thumbnails in a web environment and choose a selection for their own project or teaching purpose. It is also hoped that it will be possible to annotate and edit the data and then save this personal collection for publishing to the web. In the second part of ARCHES, lecturers and students will create and deploy these collections in a variety of educational scenarios.

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