

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Open collection: Fraunhofer researchers are scanning dinosaur bones & co. in Berlin — and you can watch**

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**The 3D scanning system CultLab3D of Fraunhofer IGD will be tested at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin next week. This should explore the opportunities and challenges to digitalize natural and cultural goods quickly and efficiently, thus preserving them for generations to come as well as making them accessible worldwide. All interested parties are welcome at the panel discussion on 11 November 2014 and to visit the scanning system from 11 to 14 November 2014.**

(Berlin/Darmstadt) European natural-history collections include hundreds of millions of collection objects available to science for research and comparative purposes. This information is essential for science and the management of natural resources. With the advent of computer technology, collection data have been increasingly digitalized and integrated into networks since the turn of the century, where they are available for the scientific community today.

“Museum collections around the world offer invaluable biodiversity information. Free, open access to these resources is decisive for the promotion of biodiversity research and a better management of nature for a sustainable future. However, this is currently still immensely time-, staff- and cost-intensive”, explains Prof. Johannes Vogel, General Director of the Natural History Museum in Berlin. Here, a total of 30 million objects are stored, of which only a small portion has been digitalized so far. With a new 3D digitalization procedure, the researchers of Fraunhofer IGD might be able to change this. Their 3D scanning system CultLab3D scans collection objects quickly, cost-effectively and in a fully automated fashion.

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“Our technologies not only offer a faster digitalization, classification and archiving of museum inventory but also substitute expensive items on loan and physical copies for freely available virtual models” explains Pedro Santos of Fraunhofer IGD. In the coming week, the Natural History Museum in Berlin will test the possibilities of the 3D scanning system. What is feasible and where are the limits? Can large fossil dinosaur bones be scanned just as well as small alcohol-preserved fishes or almost transparent tiny crabs? All interested parties are invited to watch the test live from 11 to 14 November 2014 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

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**Invitation for the panel discussion “Open collection: Opportunities and possibilities of 3D digitalization for research and society” on 11 November starting at 2:00 pm**

**Host:**

Dr. Angelika Grosse, scientific journalist

**Impulse:**

Dr. Herbert Maschner, Idaho State University  
“3D Visualization, Biodiversity, and the Great Extinctions:  
Natural History Museums and Global Science”

**Panel guests:**

Dr. Dietrich Nelle, Assistant State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Education and Research

Prof. Dr. Dieter W. Fellner, Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research (IGD)

Prof. Dr. Barbara Göbel, Director of the Ibero-American Institute, Prussian Heritage

Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques Hublin, Director of the Human Evolution department, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

Dr. Gregor Hagedorn, Head of Digital World, Natural History Museum

Dr. Tahani Nadim, International Fellow of the Federal Cultural Foundation at the Natural History Museum

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTER GRAPHICS RESEARCH IGD

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**Please register at [evolution@mfn-berlin.de](mailto:evolution@mfn-berlin.de) until 7 November 2014.**

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Further information:

[www.cultlab3d.eu](http://www.cultlab3d.eu)

[www.naturkundemuseum-berlin.de](http://www.naturkundemuseum-berlin.de)

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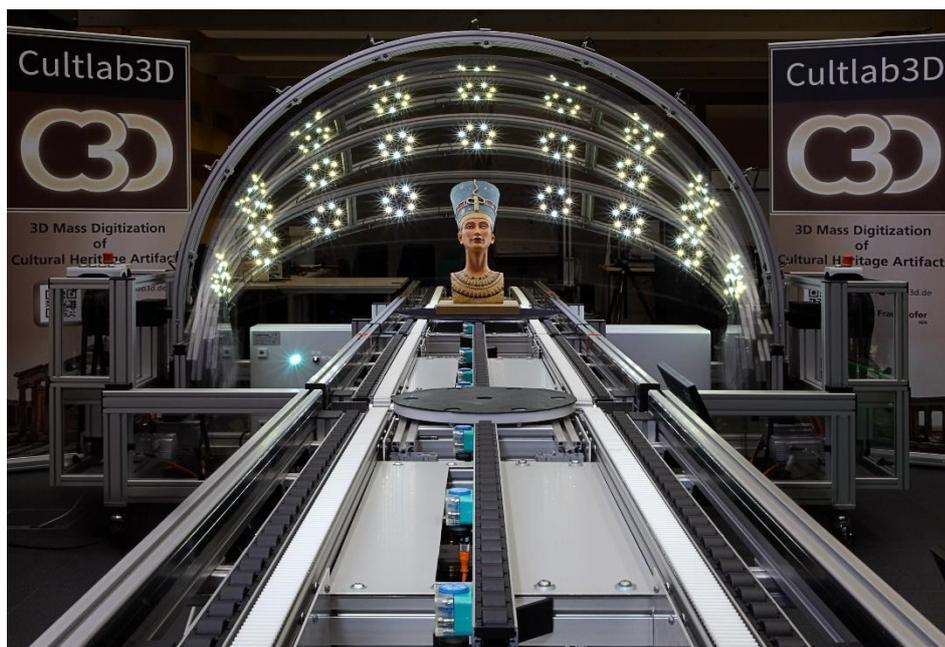


Image: From 11 to 14 November 2014 the researchers of Fraunhofer IGD test their 3D scanning system CultLab3D together with the Natural History Museum in Berlin. The aim is to explore the opportunities and challenges of digitizing natural and cultural goods quickly and efficiently. Here you see the scanning system with a replica of Nefertiti.

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## Profile

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Fraunhofer IGD is the world's leading institute for applied research in Visual Computing. Visual Computing is image- and model-based information technology and includes computer graphics, computer vision, as well as virtual and augmented reality.

In simple terms, the Fraunhofer researchers in Darmstadt, Rostock, Graz and Singapore are turning images into information and extracting information from images. In corporation with its partners, technical solutions and marketrelevant products are created.

Prototypes and integrated solutions are developed in accordance with customized requirements. In doing so, Fraunhofer IGD places users at the forefront, providing them with technical solutions to facilitate computer work and make it more efficient.

Owing to its numerous innovations, Fraunhofer IGD raises man-machine interaction to a new level. Man is able to work in a more result-oriented and effective way by means of the computer and visual-computing developments. Fraunhofer IGD has more than 200 employees. The budget amounts over 17 million euros.