



Automobile Assembly Line on Display : 3D Model as Research tool & “Edutainment” device

The virtual reconstruction of the work process on an automobile assembly line is a means to inform the history of a relatively unknown practical activity. It is also a wonderful support to disseminate the results of this research.

Screen capture of the 3D model

The image shows the second station of the assembly line in the C5 workshop (1922)

The 3D model is an interpretation of a large number of informal data and unwritten records given by visual sources such as layout diagrams, illustrations, photographs and films.

We can virtual move inside this workshop, reconstitute the working process and gestures.



The Virtual Factory research program (*Usines 3D*) is developed by the History department of the Evry University (LHEST-UEVE, France) with the support of the French Research Agency (ANR). Its purpose is to produce digital models of significant industrial plants to help document the history of working practices.

In a micro-history perspective, computer technologies are a tool to take advantage of the original, unedited information brought by series of images (visual documents) which show things that no writing talks about. It is an illustration of the way multimedia documents and computer techniques can produce new types of constructed historical documentation from scattered (and often discredited) historical sources.

I will first present the corpus of multimedia documents the 3D model is fundamentally constructed on. I will then show how the data processing of this corpus and the virtual reconstruction of the workshop are the essential instruments of the historical research. I wish the following discussion to debate on the complementarities between the research's and the curator's quest for public dissemination.



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His research is oriented in two complementary directions. First a social approach of automobile production technologies of the XXth century. In parallel, an analysis of visual sources on the history of labor and its representation.

He is now directing the *Virtual Factories* research program supported by the French National Research Agency.