From Reality to Virtual Reality, and Back Again

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This presentation will provide an overview of recent 3D scanning projects undertaken by the Museum Conservation Institute. Emphasis will be placed on several collaborative efforts with other Smithsonian units. Most recently, MCI has worked with staff of the Museum of Natural History’s Department of Anthropology and the Office of Exhibit Central to produce replicas of skeletal remains. Other project highlights include integration of other analytical information with 3D scanning, and modification of 3D data to produce new understanding of cultural iconography.

17th century skull during scanning
(photo: Donald Hurlbert, NMNH)