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Imaging in 3-D

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The Arius3D scanner at McKissick Museum offers new perspectives for visualizing objects. Using a laser that captures points in three-dimensional space, the scanner measures an object’s surface area to determine both its shape and color. These images serve as accurate digital replicas of objects. Researchers have used three-dimensional scanners to capture finger prints invisible to the naked eye and to survey fossils that are millions of years old.

The 3D images are created differently than photographs. Through scans taken from different points of view, they are reconstructed by assembling numerous scans and data into one image. The 3D models are built as a series of pixels put together to form the illusion of a single image. In adding a third dimension to imaging, the Arius3D scanner redefines how images are made.