AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE

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An efficient means of storing, recalling and analyzing large amounts of data is essential for the study of archaeology.

The advantages of computerizing are many. It facilitates quick and efficient data storage and retrieval. It allows to be updated easily. It could serve as a powerful research resource base that gives the user access to large amounts of data, that can be searched, compiled and analyzed efficiently.

History is a complex puzzle, which is solved by putting together bits of information from literary and archaeological records. The history of a society, or a country has to be pieced together from large amounts of information that cannot be handled efficiently by manual methods. The advent of computers has made it possible to analyse large amounts of data - easily, intelligently and scientifically.

The computer data base will make it possible to study large amounts of data. It will open up possibilities that are beyond the abilities of the human brain. For example, the data base can handle uncertain data (say a monument whose period is subject to argument, and has two or more possibilities). And in fact the data base could help to reduce these uncertainties by intelligent data analysis (by cross references and AI techniques).

An island in reasonable isolation like Sri Lanka, which is reasonably small will be most suitable for the study of internal dynamics. The computer data base will be able to provide data necessary for such a study, mainly the study of ancient agrarian society.

The challenge in Social Sciences is to understand Social Systems the way we understand. Electrical, Mechanical, Biological Systems. Unfortunately in the Social Sciences the laws that govern society and social development are yet to be understood. It is only by analysing the large amounts of data left behind by ancient society, that we can understand and formulate the laws that govern social development.