

The iCLiKVAL 3D Project

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iCLiKVAL is an open-access web-platform for crowdsourcing scientific curation, in which researchers can annotate literature and other media to highlight knowledge present in these media and to share it with the rest of the scientific community. More than 15 million annotations of over 600 thousand media items have been collected so far. The iCLiKVAL web site allows users to easily create accounts, add annotations, form communities and groups, and effectively search upon the media or annotations themselves.

The iCLiKVAL 3D project attempts to represent the content of the knowledge database via an innovative layout. By using technologies linked to virtual reality, the project displays a panel of the media in a three-dimensional world and allows users to explore it in an intuitive and exciting manner. Starting from an overview of the entire content, the user can visualize the relations between media, supported by annotations or metadata. They can then “jump” from media to media through these links and dynamically explore the network of information.

The three-dimensional layout creates a feeling of immersion “inside” the data, and allows for more freedom in the organization of the various elements and in the navigation through them. Your view is not limited to a flat image such as a sketch on a whiteboard; instead, you can now stand in the middle of the library, with all of the books around you. And more than that, you can see multiple threads that connect these books and allow you to follow the paths created by these unique knowledge entities.