


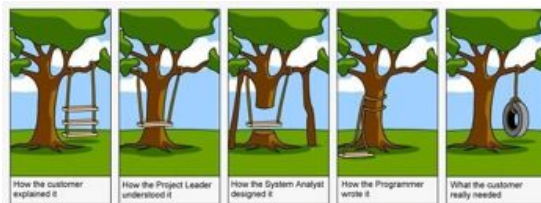
# Archaeology of the ballpoint pen

or the authenticity of digital archaeological data

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Archaeological information in the digital society  
Arkeologisk information i det digitala samhället



<http://homes.soic.indiana.edu/nensmeng/images/i400-org-info.jpg>



## What is it? Why?

## Kind of really? (=authenticity)

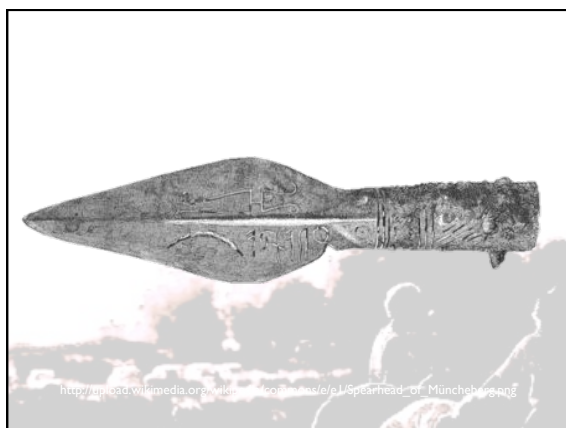


Size  
Material  
Texture Text  
Weight  
Form Color

**Interpretation.**

**Context**  
"I know it's a  
pen"

**"It could also be  
a spearhead"**



**Context of use**  
"It's in your hand"

**Context of finding  
"alone or pierced  
through the heart  
of a person"**

**Wear marks.**

**Dating  
materials, texts,  
mechanism**

Turn it around to  
get new perspectives

**Use it?**

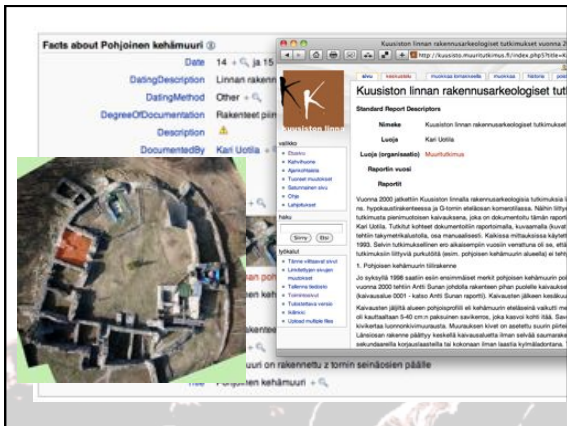
**Why would this kind  
of a mechanism be  
developed?**

I would  
 "assume" that it  
 is something.

Experience of the object  
 "Experience of the pen is an  
 important part of the  
 interpretation"  
 "React on form issues"

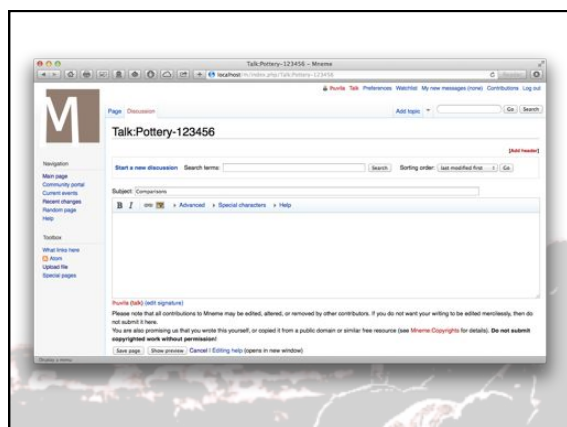
Draw a picture and show a colleague  
 Look for similar objects in the  
 literature Experiment with it: try to  
 use it Try to make a similar object  
 Typology Try to figure out a possible  
 function on the basis of the context Try  
 to see how it has been manufactured:  
 try to "see" the hands who have made  
 the object Compare with and  
 contextualise to known materials  
 Listen: it says knock.

What to do?



**Classification**

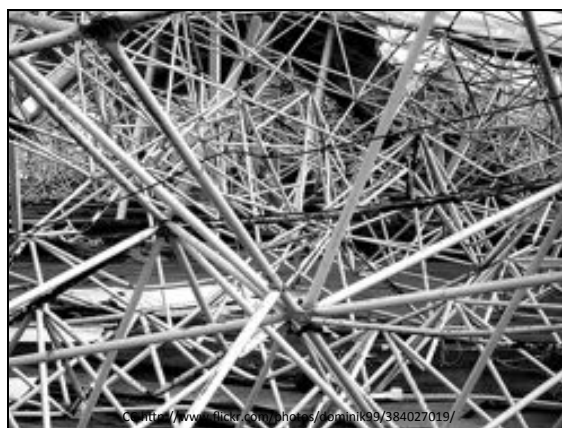
- **'Observations':** size, weight, (material), wear marks, weight, (colour), dating, taste, odour, sound
- **Context of discovery:** 'alone', 'unconventional'
- **Context of use:** comparison, assumption, experience/reaction, trials of use, trials of making, reference (literature, colleague)



## Structure

- **Observations**
  - Size
    - Comment
      - Comment on comment
      - ...
  - Weight
  - Odour
  - ...
- **Context of discovery**
  - ...
- **Context of use**
  - ...

## Authenticity?



## Considerations

- Discussions are time consuming
  - Automatic comparisons necessary (e.g. to find interpretations of all objects that say knack)
- Timing of the discussions, when they take place?

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