

PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THIS COLLECTION

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This collection of research work is all founded on these basic ideas:

- **Uniqueness of Science.** The most wonderful discovery in human history is that humans can discover things by a disciplined process which is called "science"; producing archival material also called "science", enabling those who follow to take advantage of the archival material to upgrade and expand the resource for the benefit of humanity.
- **Pollution of the Archival Woods.** The archival woods contain vast amounts of material that were not produced using this disciplined process, but which nonetheless apply the trappings of science, thereby causing untold difficulty to the serious scholar who is striving to determine what is sound and what is unsound from the masses of material.
- **Growth of Complexity.** As time passes, the complexity of societies grows rapidly along with the interdependence of people, and the importance of collaborative work also grows rapidly, outdistancing human cognitive apparatus. Hence the importance of adapting the computer to help human beings work together first to describe, then to diagnose, then to design, then to implement, and finally to enjoy the fruits of their collaboration.
- **Replacement of Obsolete Systems and Practices.** Many of the systems that are in place have become obsolete, but there is a momentum that tends to keep them in place. Dislodging them is not a simple task, and for those pioneers who intend to take on this challenge, the very least that archival material can do is to provide the highest quality evidence possible that what they are proposing has been found empirically to be very functional under highly variable conditions in many different cultures; which is why so much emphasis has been placed on gathering evidence from countries around the world. Names and pictures of individuals have been collected to emphasize the role that people in the various countries have played in demonstrating the utility and viability of the work described in the Warfield Special Collection.
- **Neutral Science.** Neutrality of the science is essential for widespread utility. Regrettably much of what has been advanced in the so-called "systems" field and "complexity science" is quite specific to particular domains, and is not portable from one domain to another. My work emphasizes the neutrality of the systems science, and its applicability across problematic situations. Moreover, it makes minimal demands on learning methodology. It does, however require sound learning of foundations. It is expected that, when properly applied, indications of whatever special methods are required will bubble up from the interactions among the actors who are guided in local applications by the process experts who have mastered the work described in this Collection.

¹ As far as I have been able to determine, there has been relatively little change in the idea of science since its articulation by Aristotle. I feel that the best relatively modern articulation is that given by Charles Sanders Peirce. The main reason that Peirce's articulation was the best is that his own scholarship spanned many areas of study.