

## Richard 01 101

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>>> *I am not an experienced newsgroup contributor. I don't know the  
>>> jargon, and I don't know the manners (not that I've seen many). Why  
>>> should I? It's only very recently that I've been physically able to  
>>> access the internet at all, and discover a worldwide network of  
>>> others who have similar interests.*

The normal procedure upon joining a new group is to search Google (or something like Google) for FAQ – example:

sci.anthropology.paleo faq

and you should get a document or reference to the group's FAQ or "Frequently Asked Questions" But some groups don't have this document and you could look for the charter if you can't find a faq.

These groups were supposed to be an open forum for discussions between professionals but they quickly became more open than anyone expected and because posters could be pretty anonymous, behavior quickly went to the movies. Just the same, people talk to people in these forums and there is no reason not to be polite.

>>> *So, like a newcomer to the bar, I announce my position, and get  
>>> back a little more than I think I deserve.*

But this isn't a bar. This is more or less a place for the exchange of information and the best way to look at how a group works is to observe the group, this is known as lurking, it's reading without posting. You probably get beat up a lot if you are used to walking into bars and announcing your position. I think you'd lose a lot of teeth that way and I don't get out to a lot of bars, I just suspect.

Why would the people in the bar be at all interested in having you announce your position? Are you talking about sports bars? A New York Yankee stronghold where if you talked the talk you'd be welcomed and hugged? Still doesn't sound right. Most of the posters here who have a position are slightly wacko. A testosterone fixation, a disease that he'd like to connect to Neanderthals ("Neanderthals are Me" kind of thing), terrible

bad athletes' feet, a mystical investment in eustrus, heck, there are lots of them but they are pretty easy to identify and ignore. The group's been here a while and is kind of tired of this kind of baloney.

Others who jump right in are often "trolls" people who want only to make a maximum amount of mess and leave, start fights, leave a trail of their parents' swear words or the ones they just learned at school. Just seeing if they can hook someone into a response, blow it up into a fight, and on a happy day – start a fight between two or more groups. Generally groups try to ignore trolls.

So, you should (anyone should) pop in here with a question, something they have looked at, maybe read a bit, did a Google search and still want to learn more. I often post articles I want someone to discuss. Rich (and others) post articles that others might not have seen or that would be within the "paleo" topic, or something that was recently discussed. PB tosses in a few articles and table of contents for a journal or two. There are others but I'm trying to hurry.

Or you should (anyone should) pop in here because you want to read and participate in discussions. Not sell your religion or air your pompous opinions. We have people here with knowledge that are helpful, act as resources, point out good directions, books, articles and are even willing to explain stuff you your little heart's content.

>>> *I've been accused by you as a liar*  
Was the accusation right?  
>>> *and by Su Solomon as a drunken pornographer*  
That's not so bad

>>> *That's a bit more than attacking my published opinions.*  
What have you got published? And in a groups that starts with "sci" your opinion might not be worth as much as it is at home.

>>> *It's like resident*  
>>> *territorial monkeys throwing things at newcomers to put them in*  
>>> *their place, and perhaps a phenomenon worth studying on its own*  
>>> *account.*

I think this comes from the bar room approach. I think it was also quite fashionable to buzz all newcomers in some groups years ago but think it is generally frowned upon now. If you hop in acting wierd you might you still might get buzzed.

>>> *If you have time, perhaps you could advise (under a different*  
>>> *headline, so others can understand) what the following mean:*  
>>>  
>>> *1) LOL*  
>>> *2) Troll*  
>>> *3) Killfile*  
>>>

>>> *and if there are signs ;-) and >:-( to try and express body language  
>>> over the web, are there others which can say, for instance –  
>>> – Oh \*\*\*\* – not that old chestnut again !  
>>> – You are talking nonsense – think before you post  
>>> – Why don't you read my post properly before you attack it?*

Here's a short list:

<http://www.pb.org/emoticon.html>

I don't see too many of the emoticons used here and not all of the acronyms either but some get used. This is pretty much a high verbal group and most can write their way through what they want to say and aren't pressured to use the acronyms. But when we communicate without seeing each other we mess up, take something seriously when it was a joke, for example, and :) after a joke might not be a bad idea.

>>> – *How can I conduct a discussion through swathes of >>>> and deep  
>>> strata of old messages?*

That drives me crazy, too. Sometimes I name the wrong person but most survive here. You should be able to count the number of >>> on the conversation and match it up with the number of >>> next to the persons name. There is a service on the internet that is supposed to fix up the speakers with separate colors and translate the smilies :) in to "real" smilies with yellow or blue – whatever colored faces. Might help you. Helps me a little. OE Express with Quote Fix. Should be able to Google it.

>>> *(Addressed to Jim) I'm not attacking you personally, but your very established and constantly–advertised (and in my opinion, erroneous) opinions.*

I think I can easily name those few people here who might share your IMHO erroneous opinion.

[snip]

>>> *If I remember I originally contacted you because your website  
>>> quotes a croc attack on my island (Siargao) which was quite untrue.  
>>> I didn't accuse you of lying, but merely of perhaps quoting an  
>>> erroneous report. Have you corrected it yet?*

Do you expect people to correct their websites on your say–so? (I'm not too worried about Jim for he can take care of himself very well.)

>> *(Jim) I'll be leaving for several months in a few weeks, so I may not get  
>> to email or messages here, but you could email me and I will get it  
>> when I return in the early spring.*

Good for you! (And bad for us!) Sniff

Go back, Richard, into the archives for SAP:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?group=sci.anthropology.paleo>

and see what the talk was like in 1994, for example. You can easily see why all these years later many of the posters here treat AAT like a joke. Hard, no impossible not to.

Finally read those posts where you have been given good definitions of what science is and is not.

Jois