



**PRIMAL PICTURES**  
**THE VISIBLE HUMAN PROJECT®**

The Visible Human Project originates from long-term project developed in 1986 by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in the USA.

The project anticipated the digital age and the future need for electronically represented images in clinical medicine and biomedical research and recommended the creation of digital medical image libraries.

Early in 1989, an ad hoc planning panel made the following recommendation: “NLM should undertake a first project building a digital image library of volumetric data representing a complete, normal adult male and female. This Visible Human Project will include digitized photographic images from cryosectioning, digital images derived from computerized tomography and digital magnetic resonance images of cadavers.”

A contract for acquisition of the pixel-based data was awarded in August 1991 to the University of Colorado at Denver.

The Visible Human Male data set consists of MRI, CT and anatomical images. Axial MRI images of the head and neck and longitudinal sections of the rest of the body were obtained at 4 mm intervals. The CT data consists of axial CT scans of the entire body taken at 1 mm intervals. The anatomical cross-sections are at 1 mm intervals to coincide with the CT axial images. There are 1871 cross-sections for each mode, CT and anatomy. The complete, 15 gigabytes male data set was made available in November 1994.

The Visible Human Female data set was released in November 1995. It has the same characteristics as the male data with one exception. The axial anatomical images were obtained at 0.33 mm intervals, resulting in 5,189 anatomical images, and a data set of approximately 40 gigabytes. The Visible Human Project data sets were used as a basis to create the follow primal products:

Male Visible Human  
Interactive Shoulder  
Female Visible Human  
Interactive Hip  
Interactive Spine  
Interactive Head and Neck  
Interactive Thorax and Abdomen  
Interactive Pelvis and Perineum

Further information on The Visible Human Project can be found at:  
[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/visible\\_human.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/visible_human.html)

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