Jeff,

Here is a specific proposal for you and would be of some
importance, and I hope of interest.

I want to do a comprehensive academic treatise on
illusions and perception. Illusions are a very nice window in how the brain
perceives, because they can reveal the hidden constraints of the perceptual
system in a way that normal perceptual processes do not. They can show in a
dramatic fashion the underlying constraints that work beneath the level of
awareness.

Although I have done a number of books on
illusions/perception, they have all been confined to static images. There is no
opportunity to interact or to change parameters. Additionally, the really
interesting and important material is dynamic, i.e, motion illusions, auditory
illusions, cross-modal
illusions, etc.

I would like to do an academic treatise that contains an
interactive CD (this may also be done via a website) where the user can
actually interact with these illusions in fundamentally important ways, thereby
revealing deep insights into perception. Only by adjusting paramaters such a
luminance, contrast, speed, distance, can you really start seeing how these
processes are connected.

There is so much being done in this field right now, which
is so important to perception, vision, ai, etc., but it is all completely
scattered, and with
no central place where it is gathered in a way that will be helpful to
students, researchers, etc. You
will come across the occasional interesting demo, such as Arthur Shapiro's
demonstration on the curved ball, but the field is clamouring for such a work.

I was approached by MIT Press to do such a book (through
various recommendations from leaders in the field from Caltech, MIT, and
Harvard), but MIT did not have
the funds to do the programming aspect, which would be roughly $300,000. BTW,
Arthur Shapiro (as well as Vilaymur Ramachandran) wanted to be my co-author on
this book, and I have literally my pick of anyone else in the field of who's
who. This IS what I am good at,
and I would like to return to it. In a sense, I feel a bit like Darwin who, just
after returning on the Voyage of the Beagle, has amassed such an enormous
quantity of information, but who has not yet published any of it in a substantive
way. Blue World Alliance is sufficiently organized
and run by other people now, so that I can return to doing what I am most
passionate about. WIth funding, it would be published by MIT Press.

Is this something of interest to you? Hey, not only would it
be significant for the field, but you would see an enormous amount of very cool
stuff! ;-)

Yours,
me