



Open exhibits

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Exploring Maps and Timelines – Multitouch and Multiuser Exhibits Group Activity

Introduction (10:45 – 11:45)

Open Exhibits will develop a series of multitouch and multiuser modules over the next two and a half years. We are interested in how best to create exhibits that use maps or timelines. What are the best paths forward in looking at these types of exhibits? How can we make exhibits that use maps and timelines more approachable for the visiting public?

We will be presenting an activity in which three groups will explore examples of mapping exhibits, while three groups will explore timeline-based exhibits. The six groups will investigate the art, science or history topics, learn about the museum and help create a conceptual design for an interactive multitouch and multiuser exhibit.

To help set the stage for this activity we will look at some prior examples and discuss the types of exhibits that have been developed thus far. In addition, we will share some of the initial research and evaluation that has been conducted and challenge the groups to take things further.

Introductory Presentations:

Jim Spadaccini – Early Multitouch Mapping Exhibits

Erik Lizee – Mapping the Oil Spill

Bryan Kennedy – The Rain Table, Delta Formation, Sea Levels Rise – RealTime Mapping Simulations

John Llewellyn – Timelines

Warm Up (11:45 – 12:15)

Each participant can choose one of two groups. Each participant will have an opportunity answer the following questions.

Group A. Timelines: What are the potential strengths? What are the potential pitfalls?

Group B. Mapping Exhibits: What are the potential strengths? What are the potential pitfalls?

The Activity (1:30 – 3:00)

Each group will design a multitouch, multiuser exhibit based on the given topic, approach (timeline or map), and institution provided. Groups can design an application for a table (or tables) of any size, or design for a multitouch wall.

Part of the exercise, is to learn about the topics presented and the institution and try to find those elements essential to understanding the subject and to weave them into the exhibit.

Design Considerations:

Consider the following: How do we expect visitors to engage with the exhibit? Does the exhibit encourage social interaction? What about technical feasibility? What are the expected educational outcomes? What about cost? (Are there design criteria that we should incorporate? Please share your thinking during reporting.)

Maps

Group #1 – Latest Earthquakes in the World

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/recenteqsww/>

<http://www.emsc-csem.org/Earthquake/Contribute/index.php?lang=en>

Organization: USGS, CSEM EMSC (audience: medium-sized science center)
(*science, geology*)

Group #2 – Traditions of the Sun: Chaco Canyon

<http://www.traditionsofthesun.org>

Organizations: NASA, NPS Institution: Chaco Culture Visitor Center

Notes: *Satellite images and aerial photographs*

(*archaeoastronomy, astronomy, anthropology, history*)

Group #3 – The Silk Road

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/silkroad/journey.php>

American Museum of Natural History

(*history*)

Timelines

Group #4 Timeline of Human Evolution

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-evolution-timeline-interactive>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_human_evolution

Institution: The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

(*evolution, natural history*)

Group #5 The JFK Assassination Timeline

<http://simile.mit.edu/timeline/examples/jfk/jfk.html>

Institution: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum -
<http://www.jfklibrary.org>
(*history*)

Map and Timeline

Group #6 Weather and Climate Events

<http://www.amnh.org/sciencebulletins/climate/>

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/weather-events.html#recent>

Organization: NOAA (audience: medium-sized science center)

(*science, weather, climate*)

Reporting (3:00 – 4:15)

Be prepared to share what your group comes up with. Please be specific about the types of interactions that you expect to see. Explain how visitors will interact with the exhibit in as much detail as possible given the time allowed. Use: sketches, screen grids, flow charts; any visuals that might help describe your approach. Use the large paper and other materials to help share your design concept(s) with the larger group.

You'll have 5 to 10 minutes to present and a few minutes for questions.

Notes: