

NOAA Science On a Sphere Users Collaborative Network Workshop
NOTES

Day 1, INTRODUCTION PRESENTATIONS FROM INSTITUTIONS WITH SPHERICAL
DISPLAY INSTALLATIONS Session

Bishop Museum
July 29, 2008
Honolulu, HI

SOS at Nauticus:

Q: re the auxiliary screen aspect of their system. How does Nauticus use the plasma screen with SOS?

A: It is a flat panel to the side that shows additional content during the SOS display. One Plasma screen in the room.

SOS at the SMM:

Q: none

SOS at the Tech

Q: Mike Drennan asked for show of hands re Sony projector users. None raised their hands. The old projectors at the Tech were turning the image blue.

Q: Length of shows?

1.5 to 2 minute, timed to length of voice over

Q: trackball, do they think it operates the screen rather than the sphere?

A: they usually spin the ball then look up later. People near the sphere don't control it.

Q: Speed control on the track ball?

A: yes

Comment: Using at LHS and the comment they get is "get the ball out of the 4 year old hands!"

SOS at MSC:

She showed the SOS room via photos. Railing distance due to touching, people going under railings. Large railing diameter. Have seats, give them a place to linger works! (She gave a visual tour with verbal commentary regarding the photos, showing the projector cylinder stands, kiosks, etc.)

Comment from Roberta: They will add the interactive from the tech to see how it works, and delve into interactivity with the Sphere. Currently, the kiosks give supportive material for sphere to allow visitors to delve in to subjects deeper. Kiosk holds Related information.

Q: what was not working before? Location or info?

A: Info about the content around the sphere was not working.

Kiosks are related so you can see the sphere and kiosk at the same time. Two kiosks are interactive, two are not. Kiosk to control what is seen on the sphere is next for the Maryland Science Center.

Q: Does it need to be interactive (kiosk) because really the Sphere is so engaging and perhaps one detracts from the other? Yes, the kiosk needs to be interactive. Kids need to be kept active, but the trick is not to give too much information. Label some things, but not all things.

**** Suggestion of Kiosk and Interactivity breakout session****

SOS at the NASA Goddard Visitors Center:

Q: so the plasma will come on for a while, present info, then go off?

A: Yes, we expect it will be used for v little accent info. Longer Ex: convey subduction on plate tectonics on the screen, then bring them back to the sphere

Q: How many screens, just one?

A: There are four 50 inch plasmas, so every side people can see the plasma screens.

SOS at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary:

Like to show regional info. Originally, the visitor center opened in 2005 and they simply hung stuff on the wall for opening day. The public loved it, 30,000 visitors. Later, SOS came in and became the biggest attraction. They wanted to understand regional effect, to measure how many kids reached. So remote small town, so what is the impact? Docent training is key for them. Teachers use the sphere to give lessons on geology, for example. When they had an exhibit that necessitated the removal of the Sphere temporarily, visitors to the new exhibit asked, "Where's the Sphere." They now have so many people interested in the sphere and such visitorship that they are going to build a NOAA technology wing. To include "Immersion Presents" telepresence activities with Bob Ballard.... They have the desire to join the sphere and telepresence technologies together in some way. Regional partners so important.... Real time shipping information, etc to have on the sphere to bring to life the activities in the region.

SOS at James Madison Univ.:

Q: Considering you want to measure intention of what people are seeing, could the psychology department of the university perhaps be of value to help figure out how people are reacting to the sphere and absorbing the content?

A: JMU seeks to form collaboration between psychology, teacher college, science depts, etc to pilot a joint project. This would be useful for grant writing especially.

Q: Doing unique thing at teachers college, would sphere casting with other teacher colleges be an option?

A: JMU is growing their online program. We at JMU have limitations, so a new area like that for the online sessions is interesting.

Q: What do future teachers think of the pedagogy with science on a sphere

A: Many take tech classes, so they jump right in. The hurdle is meeting Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL's) and still fit in the sphere with all they have to do in the classroom.

SOS at McWane Science Center:

Note worthy community relation: McWane has a local weather man come at 11AM every Wednesday. Most well attended weekly event, “Weather Wednesday.”

Q: are students responding to surveys the same pre and post?

A: Yes.

Q: Do they broadcast from McWayne?

A: Depends – a weather event happens then the meteorologist will stay at the station and send a sub.

Q: With eval, do you use it during the presentation or after the presentation?

A: usually after the presentation. E-instruct software is used.