

SOS Network meeting 2009:
Understanding learning impacts panel
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Notes

Trying to move beyond hold time, attraction and like/dislike to looking at learning. In particular, we are interested in how people make meaning out of the complex visualizations on the sphere and what kind of scaffolding helps visitors make sense of images. What sorts of context does the sphere need and do particular data sets need.

1) We have published some work already on some best practices for false color image development. How to make images usable as sense making tools for visitors – Public Understanding of Science Journal.

- Culturally meaningful colors
- Labels and place names
- Labels where no data
- Color bars and legends ON THE SPHERE!!!!
- No black continents

2) We are currently videotaping users at the MP, showing them their videos and interviewing them about what they were doing at the exhibit, focusing particularly on the explanations they make of the images or the claims that they make about the content.

What are we seeing?

Interviews on content knowledge changes
Clinical interviews to zero in on conceptual changes

Multiple opportunities to engage (more than one kiosk)

Interactivity (hands on activities/other touch screen kiosk exhibits important)

Choice over content

Basic information – how are the images created – where does the data come from , how is it collected, how do you read the images, who uses the data?

Deeper content: How to make it available and accessible. More about tsunamis for instance.