

Virtual Field Trips

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Type of Virtual Field Trips

Videoconferencing connections that allow real-time collaboration between a content provider and students in a different location.

Technology used includes videoconferencing equipment (my district uses Polycom), camera, microphone, speakers, internet connection, and a projector.



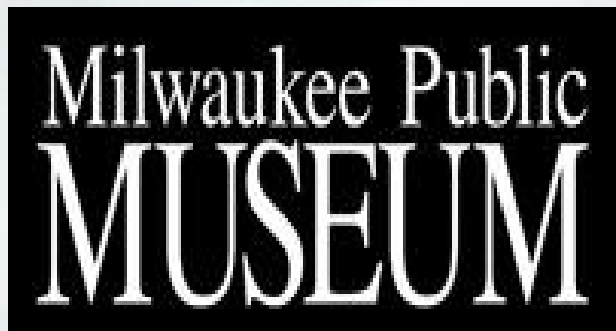
Examples of Virtual Field Trips

Liberty Science Center "Aquatic Ecosystem"

<http://mediasrv.sccresa.org/twice/aquatic%20eco.aspx>

CoSI "Gadget Works"

<http://mediasrv.sccresa.org/twice/gadget.aspx>



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Content Providers

Content providers offer students the opportunity to interact with experts in the field that they are studying.

Citizenship: It's Your Right!

Healthy Eating for Kids

Surviving the Oregon Trail: What should we take?

Planetary Patty

Ancient Egypt: Proportions, Symmetry and Size



How does my district pay for Virtual Field Trips?

-Schools minimize cost through our BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services)

-My district is reimbursed a portion of the cost the following school year



-My district's BOCES is supported by NERIC (Northeast Regional Information Center). NERIC provides technical assistance and troubleshooting for Virtual Field Trips.

-My district's Superintendent of Schools supports Virtual Field Trips!

Success of Virtual Field Trips

A sixth grade teacher participated in a VFT and was so excited she got the sixth grade team of teachers to work together to participate in one for the whole grade. Over two days the whole sixth grades class participated in a Virtual Field Trip at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Teacher training for programs have been provided for teachers in the district. Teachers have told me that students have been highly engaged in learning when participating and I have seen that too.



Challenges in my district

Teachers do not have a clear sense of what to expect when thinking about scheduling a Virtual Field Trip.

A building principal scheduled a Virtual Field Trip but the content provider had to cancel due to weather and that was the only time the principal had to participate.

Many teachers who expressed an interest in scheduling a trip did not have the time this year.



Virtual Field Trips and OLPC

There are many free Virtual Field Trips available!

Smithsonian Museum's VFTs are free to students outside the U.S.

NASA's Digital Learning Networks trips are free to students outside of U.S. as long as they have a partner school in the U.S.

Durham Museum (Nebraska) provides free trips but the content is uniquely American.

Content providers require that participants schedule VFTs based on content provider's time zone.

OLPC as a Content Provider?

OLPC may be able to connect to deployments around the world. Volunteers would have ability to monitor success of deployments and make sure XO's are being used as intended.

OLPC could provide teacher training workshops to deployment sites before and after initial phase of deployment.

Workshops like the Realness.org Summit may be available to community members not able to attend in the future with use of videoconferencing.



Resources

Sites that describe videoconferencing in education:

http://vc.neric.org/Programs_Events.htm

<http://www.nassauboces.org/cit/vls/lectora/vc/index.html>

<http://www.twice.cc/fieldtrips.html>

<http://www.swing.k12.wi.us/isdn/>

<http://www.kn.att.com/wired/vidconf/vidconf.html>

Content Provider links:

<http://www.cilc.org/>

www.vccontentproviders.org