

Interface Overview

The user interface is designed to balance two layers of information: content and context. The Content Navigation Bar allows the visitor to explore freely within a hyperlinked archive of information related to the objects on display. The Context or Location Information Bar provides persistent access to information (such as the jobs and people who created an artifact) related to the visitor's current location within the physical space of the exhibition. The design of these bars is intended to provide a clear separation between these two layers of information, while preserving the maximum screen space for text and multimedia content.

Content Navigation Bar

Title Bar

Title of the information that is currently displayed on the device

Save

To bookmark the information that is currently displayed on the device

Arrows
Move backwards and forwards within the information that you have viewed

UP/Down
Scroll within the history list

Map
Displays map showing the location of the information that is currently displayed on the device

Location Information Bar

Title Bar

Shows the title of the current location i.e. the section of the museum that you are currently in

Object Panels

Opens a panel that displays Artifacts, People or Jobs that relate to your current location

Setup
Access to your preferences

History
History of the information that you have viewed

Saved Objects
Objects that you have saved are highlighted in the history

Arrows
Scroll within the object panel

American Museum of the Moving Image: eDocent

Overview:

Organic, Inc., is partnering with the Museum of the Moving Image to develop a wireless platform for distributing information in a public exhibition space, eDocent™. This system is targeted at a computing environment that is a few years away, when portable computing devices are the primary platform for browsing and sharing information in public spaces. It is an early opportunity to design an application for next generation mobile computing devices that integrate network connectivity, location awareness and multimedia capabilities.

Moving Image and Organic, Inc., developed a prototype of this system that was installed in the museum and tested with visitors from February to March, 2001. The prototype system provided visitors with the opportunity to explore information related to a number of key objects on display in the museum. As users move through the exhibition space the system responded intelligently, gathering information (Artifacts, People, Jobs) related to a given location. By selecting an object, visitors could browse text, images and audio related to an artifact and the people and jobs involved in its creation. Visitors could save objects of interest for further exploration online.

The eDocent system is Internet compatible and follows a standards-based approach utilizing off the shelf technologies. The system is intended to be flexible to support the delivery of information to a variety of mobile devices. The current version allows content to be viewed on a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a tablet computer and a kiosk PC. The system also includes a web-based component that demonstrates the integration of browsing in the physical space of the museum and from a desktop computer at home. Organic sees this initiative as an opportunity to lay down the groundwork for many of our 'Clicks and Mortar' business partners who want to extend their reach into physical spaces

Contact

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The eDocent System:

The eDocent system is Internet compatible and follows a standards-based approach incorporating off the shelf devices. A number of standard portable computing devices, from Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) devices to E-books to Web Tablets, and operating systems such as Palm and Symbian were evaluated in the development of this system. For the prototype Organic integrated advanced networking and sensor technologies and designed a custom application platform that can be extended to meet the future needs of the Museum of the Moving Image and other institutions, such as libraries or malls.

At the heart of eDocent is a flexible system for delivering multimedia information to a variety of devices. The system is designed to create a unified experience that is accessible within the exhibition and can be continued online, at a kiosk or at home. The system allows visitors to prepare for a visit by exploring the museum's collection; bookmark objects of interest as they move through the galleries; and then continue to access information related to these objects from home.

eDocent is targeted at a world in which portable computing devices are the primary platform for browsing and sharing information in public spaces. The eDocent platform supports the delivery of information to a broad range of portable devices, through the use of XML and XSLT. This standards-based approach ensures that the technology will remain relevant as mobile computing devices evolve and new capabilities are integrated.

Key Features

- Standards-based approach
- Off the shelf hardware
- Location and object sensing
- Multimedia content
- Wireless data delivery
- Kiosk, PDA and Web integration

