2012 MPMA Poster Session

What is a Poster Session/Poster Presentation?

A Poster Session is an exhibit of several Poster Presentations with an academic or professional focus usually given at a conference. The session involves a number of presenters and a chair or host. It allows for 90 minutes of informal interaction with a large number of conference attendees free to move from one poster to another. Each poster exhibit is delivered primarily through the use of visual display and handout materials. The poster's presenter should expect to make brief remarks, share information, and answer questions about the presentation topic. A Poster Presentation is a good introduction for people who have limited experience presenting at a conference or who are not ready yet to organize a session. A Poster Session opens up participation at a conference for a greater number of people and enhances the participation experience.

A Poster Presentation is a visual display of an informative topic using images (photos, charts, graphs, tables) along with text that is designed to promote and explain new findings, programs, methods, techniques, or research. It is composed of a short title, an introduction, an overview of methodology or development, the results, and a key conclusion. Shown during the MPMA conference, they can be a good introduction to developing professional knowledge or new research.

Intent

The intent of the Poster Session is seen as an opportunity for the presenter to display specific information in a condensed and concise manner. This format allows viewers to study the information and discuss it with the presenter one on one. A well thought-out poster should convey its message to the viewer in 5 to 10 minutes.

Topic/Theme

The broad categories for the 2012 poster sessions are Education Collections/Collections Management, and Exhibits. Within one of these broad categories, the Poster topic should focus on one of the following: case study, emerging trends or current issues, new programs, or research. The theme is that of the 2012 conference.

Expectations

The presenter is expected to be present physically throughout the course of the session, standing alongside the poster, making brief remarks, sharing information, and answering questions from conference attendees. Handouts related to the topic of the poster are optional but highly encouraged.

Guidelines for a Poster Presentation

The overall size of the Poster should be no larger than 36" X 48". This size allows an adequate amount of space in the layout to organize information and images properly. A portable wall will be provided to affix the poster, but presenters must provide their own poster putty and clamps.

Poster Background

Muted or pastels are suggested colors for an effective background. Black should not be used. Images (photos, charts, graphs, tables) along with the poster text should be placed in a manner that the reader can follow the flow of text easily.

Fonts

The title should be a minimum of 70pt font; all other text should be in a minimum 18pt font, not to exceed a 24pt font for all body text. It is recommended to use sans serif fonts for large headings and the main text of your poster.

Images

Scanned images should be a minimum of 150dpi and a maximum of 300dpi with a caption accompanying each image.

Poster Production

1. Posters should be created with a software program such as:

Adobe Illustrator

Adobe InDesign

Adobe Photoshop

PowerPoint (lastest versions work best)

PosterGenius

2. The poster file should be taken to a professional printing facility such as:

Kinko's

A University Printing Press

An Online Printing Service

Copydotcom.com
Digitalroom.com
Genigraphics.com
Advantagegrafix.com
Makesigns.com
PhDposters.com
Pixus
PosterBurner.com
Posterpresentations.com
Postersession.com
Sciencepresentations.com
Scifor.com
Uprinting.com

Other Resources

The following links are resources and guidelines that will help a presenter throughout the process of creating a Poster Presentation. Additional tips on how to present a Poster also are provided, considering that a poster is not like a traditional session in which a presenter has a set audience. A Poster Presentation relies on people to come up to the presenter

http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign

http://abacus.bates.edu/~bpfohl/posters/

http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.0030102

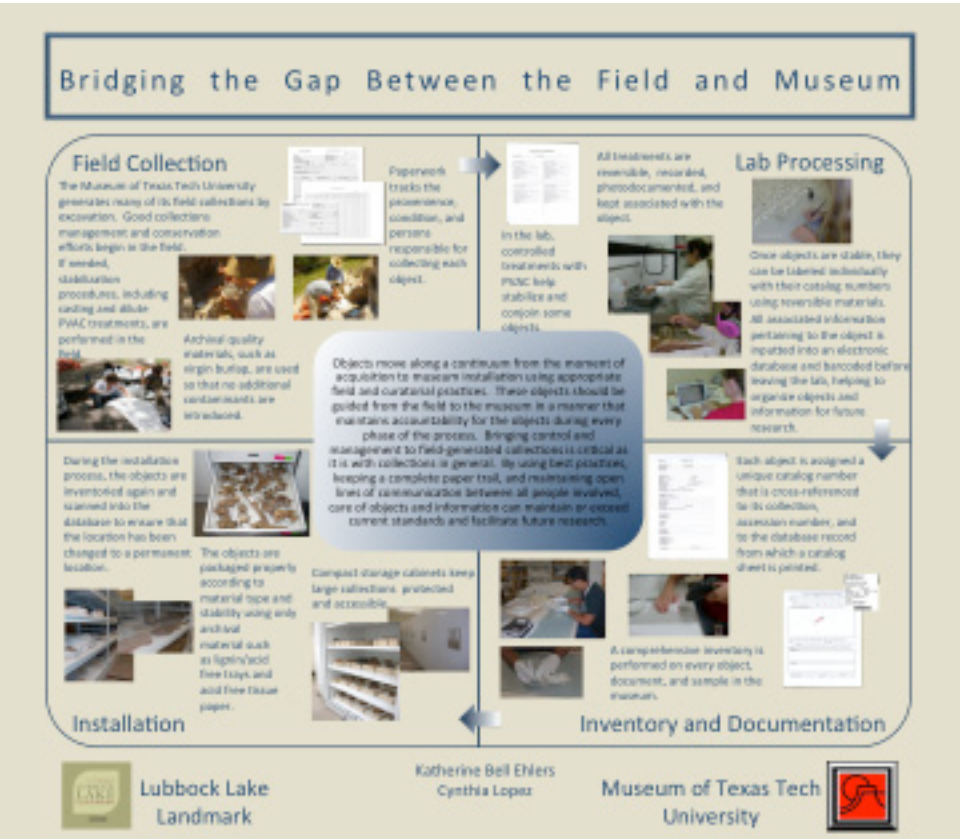
http://www2.napier.ac.uk/gus/writing_presenting/academic_posters.html

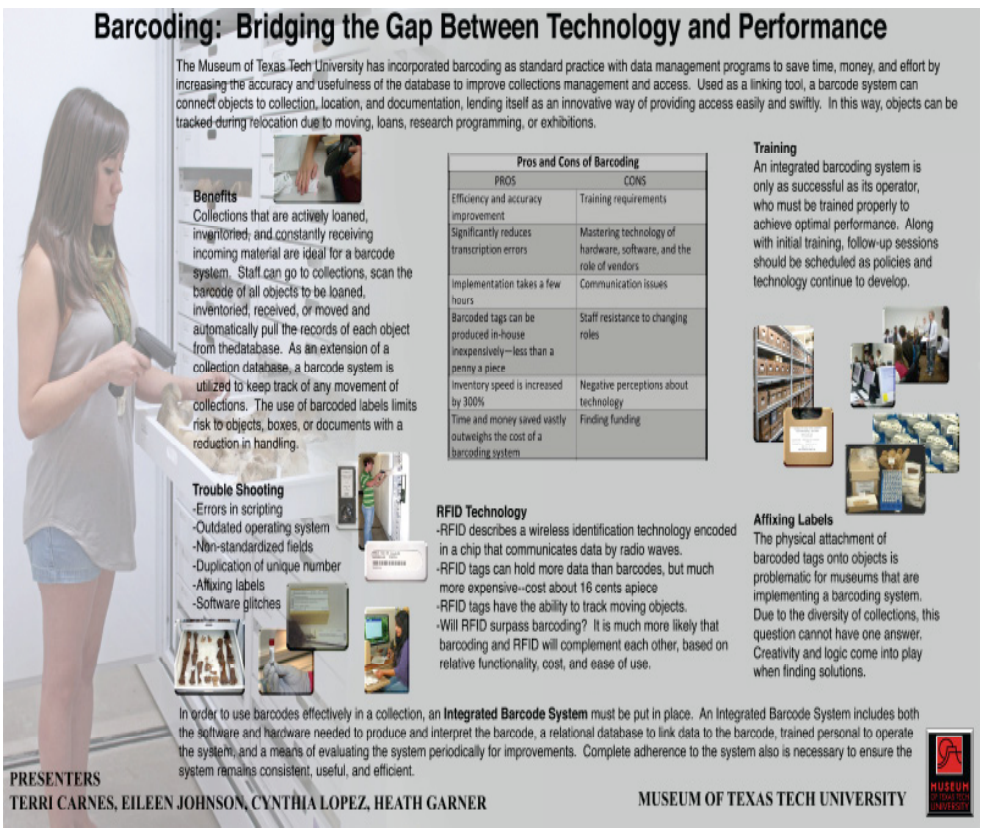
http://www.depts.ttu.edu/undergraduateresearch/capitol/docs/How_To_Posters_Presentations_and_Conferences.pdf

Examples of Poster presentations (on following pages)

Barcoding: Bridging the Gap Between Technology and Performance

Bridging the Gap Between the Field and Museum


Bridging the Gap Between the Field and Museum
Field Collection
Paperwork tracks the provenience, condition, and persons responsible for collecting each object.
Archival quality materials, such as virgin burlap, are used so that no additional contaminants are introduced.
Lab Processing
All treatments are reversible, recorded, photodocumented, and kept associated with the object.
In the lab, controlled treatments with PVAC help stabilize and conserve some objects.
Once objects are stable, they can be labeled individually with their catalog numbers using reversible materials. All associated information pertaining to the object is inputted into an electronic database and barcoded before leaving the lab, helping to organize objects and information for future research.
Objects move along a continuum from the moment of acquisition to museum installation using appropriate field and curatorial practices. These objects should be guided from the field to the museum in a manner that maintains accountability for the objects during every phase of the process. Bringing control and management to field-generated collections is critical as it is with collections in general. By using best practices, keeping a complete paper trail, and maintaining open lines of communication between all people involved, care of objects and information can maintain or exceed current standards and facilitate future research.
During the installation process, the objects are inventoried again and scanned into the database to ensure that the location has been changed to a permanent location.
The objects are packaged properly according to material type and stability using only archival material such as lignin/acid free trays and acid free tissue paper.
Compact storage cabinets keep large collections protected and accessible.
Each object is assigned a unique catalog number that is cross-referenced to its collection, accession number, and to the database record from which a catalog sheet is printed.
A comprehensive inventory is performed on every object, document, and sample in the museum.
Installation
Inventory and Documentation
Lubbock Lake Landmark
Katherine Bell Ehlers
Cynthia Lopez
Museum of Texas Tech University


Barcoding: Bridging the Gap Between Technology and Performance
The Museum of Texas Tech University has incorporated barcoding as standard practice with data management programs to save time, money, and effort by increasing the accuracy and usefulness of the database to improve collections management and access. Used as a linking tool, a barcode system can connect objects to collection, location, and documentation, lending itself as an innovative way of providing access easily and swiftly. In this way, objects can be tracked during relocation due to moving, loans, research programming, or exhibitions.
Benefits
Collections that are actively loaned, inventoried, and constantly receiving incoming material are ideal for a barcode system. Staff can go to collections, scan the barcode of all objects to be loaned, inventoried, received, or moved and automatically pull the records of each object from thedatabase. As an extension of a collection database, a barcode system is utilized to keep track of any movement of collections. The use of barcoded labels limits risk to objects, boxes, or documents with a reduction in handling.
Pros and Cons of Barcoding
PROS
CONS
Efficiency and accuracy improvement
Training requirements
Significantly reduces transcription errors
Mastering technology of hardware, software, and the role of vendors
Implementation takes a few hours
Communication issues
Barcoded tags can be produced in-house inexpensively—less than a penny a piece
Staff resistance to changing roles
Inventory speed is increased by 300%
Negative perceptions about technology
Time and money saved vastly outweighs the cost of a barcoding system
Finding funding
Training
An integrated barcoding system is only as successful as its operator, who must be trained properly to achieve optimal performance. Along with initial training, follow-up sessions should be scheduled as policies and technology continue to develop.
Trouble Shooting
-Errors in scripting
-Outdated operating system
-Non-standardized fields
-Duplication of unique number
-Affixing labels
-Software glitches
RFID Technology
-RFID describes a wireless identification technology encoded in a chip that communicates data by radio waves.
-RFID tags can hold more data than barcodes, but much more expensive--cost about 16 cents apiece
-RFID tags have the ability to track moving objects.
-Will RFID surpass barcoding? It is much more likely that barcoding and RFID will complement each other, based on relative functionality, cost, and ease of use.
Affixing Labels
The physical attachment of barcoded tags onto objects is problematic for museums that are implementing a barcoding system. Due to the diversity of collections, this question cannot have one answer. Creativity and logic come into play when finding solutions.
In order to use barcodes effectively in a collection, an Integrated Barcode System must be put in place. An Integrated Barcode System includes both the software and hardware needed to produce and interpret the barcode, a relational database to link data to the barcode, trained personal to operate the system, and a means of evaluating the system periodically for improvements. Complete adherence to the system also is necessary to ensure the system remains consistent, useful, and efficient.
PRESENTERS
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