



Student Curated Exhibitions?

Exhibitions provide a great variety of opportunities to shed light on a scientific topic. Not only while visiting an exhibition, but even more when curating your own. Creating an exhibition offers multiple ways of engaging with the topic, so students can participate in those parts of the project that fits their interest best.

The learning opportunities for students in the process of exhibition-making are extremely versatile, the topics can be illuminated from very different angles and with variable depth (D'Acquisto 2006). Similar projects in the past have shown that for students as well as teachers novel learning experiences arise (Weilbacher et al., 2011).

Common student exhibitions are made of a collection of posters, in some cases complemented with tables offering simple experiments. With the EXPOneer exhibition system it is easy to draw student curated exhibitions to a new level of professionalism, with only moderate additional effort.

What is EXPOneer?



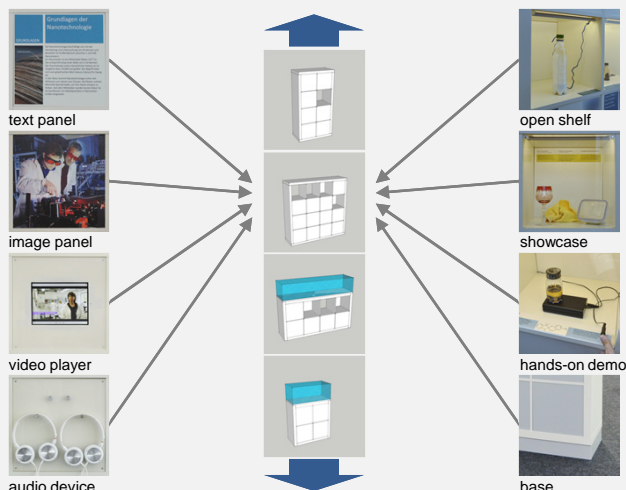
EXPOneer is an simple but versatile exhibition system. It allows you to create an exhibition with a professional look and feel, in a pretty defined and projectable time frame. Based on the inexpensive and worldwide available IKEA Expedit and Kallax furniture, we developed a modular system, offering you all tools to build a state-of-the-art exhibition: text and graphic panels, illuminated showcases, audio and video points, hands-on exhibits ...



Exhibition „Nano-Research at Kiel“ in a Kiel shopping mall: science outreach activities based on the EXPOneer system.

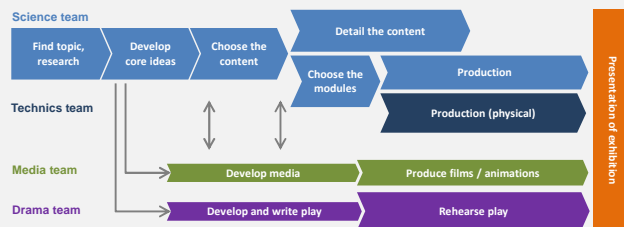
Modular System

The modular system is based on IKEA Expedit / Kallax shelves. Since all of them have the same grid spacing, all functional elements can be arranged freely in each shelf.



How to Develop an Exhibition

One core idea of EXPOneer is to integrate different students with their own interests and favors in the project. This reduces the risk of an exhibition being to narrow-minded, and on the other hand might attract new visitors. The exhibition development can be broken down in various tasks, which can be adapted to the courses (and resources) available at school.



A possible exhibition project at school: teams work on sub-projects fitting their interests.

How to Build the Hardware

The focus of the development was on inexpensive and easy to build solutions that can be reproduced at any school without special tools or knowledge. A detailed guide with all instructions needed to plan, develop and build your own exhibition is freely available at www.exponeer.de.

1. Create the layout in PowerPoint and order a print on self-adhesive foil online
2. Order LED-Strips, wires, and a power supply online
3. Find somebody with a 3D-Printer and let him/her print some small parts for your shelf.
4. Visit IKEA and shop the shelves you need
5. Visit your local hardware store and buy custom cut chipboard and acrylic panels, aluminum profiles, wooden strips, screws and fittings
6. Assemble the IKEA shelves
7. Cut the wooden strips into small pieces and glue them to your shelf
8. Solder the wires to the LED-Strips, glue them into the aluminum profiles and mount them in your shelf
9. Laminate the foil to your chipboard panels and place them in the shelf
10. Drill two holes in each acrylic panel and mount them
11. Celebrate your opening!

How to Integrate in Day-to-day School Life

The idea of EXPOneer is to offer an exhibition system that is flexible, highly scalable and thus easily to adapt to a given time / financial frame: Building a simple 2x4 shelf containing eight text/image panels will be easily done by one person in one day (~140 €). One of our pilot schools developed the content during lessons over half a year, and build a great exhibit with two large and one small shelf in little more than one day (~1.400 €). Creating a 30m² exhibition with all the bells and whistles as shown on the left will probably take a few days, or the need for more students involved (~2.500 €).

In any way, there will be a way for each school to build their own little exhibition, reflecting the nature and excellence of that particular school.



Student curated exhibition „Pictures of Me“ at the Heinrich-Heine-Gymnasium in Kiel-Heikendorf.

www.exponeer.de



The EXPOneer project is funded by the Chemical Industry Fund (FCI).

