

THE WOLBACH USER EXPERIENCE LAB

Providing scientists with the opportunity to engage their work in new & creative ways

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GOAL: To foster a 1-year undergraduate student driven project where gesture, voice and touch based technology is experimented with and adapted for scientific use at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) John G. Wolbach Library.

PROJECTS:

- { Adapt Microsoft Surface table to interact with video wall. Collaboration already underway with Brown University to adapt Garibaldi Panorama and Deep Zoom to work with astronomy content, media and the World Wide Telescope (WWT). }
- { Configure Wolbach Library and Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) video walls to work with Kinect and Wii gesture based systems. Also, employ the use of Dragon Speech Recognition software with video wall systems. }

RESOURCES:

- Microsoft Surface table
- 4 * 40" LCD TVs via the SDO
- SDO interactive media lab collaboration with library
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) Library budget for interactive media devices and software (i.e. Dragon software, Kinect, Wii)
- Library meeting space conducive to user experience lab/sandbox
- Collaborations with WWT, Brown, Microsoft Research, SDO and the Chandra X-ray Observatory

COST:

Undergraduate (2nd year or higher): \$9.50 - \$12.50/hour
52 weeks → 10 hours per week → **\$4,940 – \$6,500/year**

BENEFIT: The Wolbach Library's venture into interactive technologies will serve as a test-bed for other Harvard Libraries. After 3 months, the library plans to hold a presentation/demo of our work to the Harvard Library community followed by a project website. The intent of the website will be to provide do it yourself instructions to not only Harvard Libraries but also libraries around the world. Towards the completion of the project, another presentation/demonstration will be given. The project will be student led with Wolbach Library staff offering support.

MEASUREMENT:

- Completion of 2 presentations and project website.
- Positive feedback and interest from the Harvard Library community.

ACTION: Hire an SEAS undergraduate student under the FWSP from SEO to drive the development of interactive technology at the John G. Wolbach Library.

