

New museum experiences for persons with learning difficulties

Germany - PIKSL Laboratories, In der Gemeinde leben gGmbH and Antonia Eggeling Design

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The project aims to make content (e.g., museum exhibitions) more accessible for people with learning difficulties and to open it to a broader public. The hardware is fully accessible and was developed following universal design guidelines. It enables people with disabilities to receive and consume information, and at the same time allows interaction with the public.

QUOTE:

“Adventure Museum proves that the removal of barriers for people with learning difficulties provides additional value for society as a whole. At the same time, it creates possibilities for innovative business ideas.”

—Mr. Tobias Marczinik, Head of PIKSL

FACTS & FIGURES

- The project included the training of five experts on the use of the “sound carrier scarf” – an audio guide that features a barrier-free design and intuitive functions.
- To date, the project has been piloted at one museum exhibition in Düsseldorf.
- The system was presented at the “Rehacare” fair as audio guide system

PROBLEMS TARGETED

This project targets the inclusion and accessibility of people with learning difficulties who wish to enjoy the experience of visiting a museum more fully, as well as provides future business ideas for museums in general. Conversations with experts in the fields both of museum planning and people with disabilities have provided input to create a new way to experience a museum visit.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

Museums can enlarge their audiences through the use and distribution of “sound carrier scarfs” – a hardware device that enables the simple and understandable dissemination of content not only for people with learning difficulties but all visitors. The device features a barrier-free design and intuitive functions that represent a significant improvement over a regular audio guide. This new audio guide

rests on the shoulders of the visitor like a scarf and has easy function keys. Moreover, people with learning difficulties have had direct input in the design of the device, making access to museum content simpler and easier for everyone.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The workshop concept, which has been developed together with people with learning difficulties, is adaptable for other contexts when accessible content is required. It brings together area experts and people with learning difficulties to develop specific products and devices. The concept of the “sound carrier scarf” is scalable and can be transferred to other projects and technologies. The sound scarf can be purchased or rented and has commercial potential.

Photo: Yes

Life story: Yes

CONTACT

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