

SOS Explorer™: Interactive Visualizations for Museums and Classrooms

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SOS Explorer™ (SOSx) is a flat screen version of the popular Science On a Sphere® (SOS). The software takes SOS datasets, usually only seen on a 6-foot sphere in large museum spaces, and makes them more accessible. The visualizations show information provided by satellites, ground observations and computer models. More information can be found at http://sos.noaa.gov/SOS_Explorer/

SOS Explorer™ was developed by the Exploratory Visualization and Outreach (EVO) section of NOAA's GSD which is also the home of Science On a Sphere® (SOS). Wanting to build off of the success of SOS and expand the reach of SOS into classrooms and homes as well as museums who don't have the physical space for a full Science On a Sphere®, developers created a flat screen version of SOS called SOS Explorer™ (SOSx).

Several factors came together at the right time to lead to the development of SOSx. After field trips to see NOAA's SOS, many teachers asked how they could bring the same experience of viewing global data into their classrooms. Most of the teachers didn't have a budget for installing SOS into their schools and needed other options. A flat screen version that could be displayed on computer monitors and projectors seemed like an obvious solution.

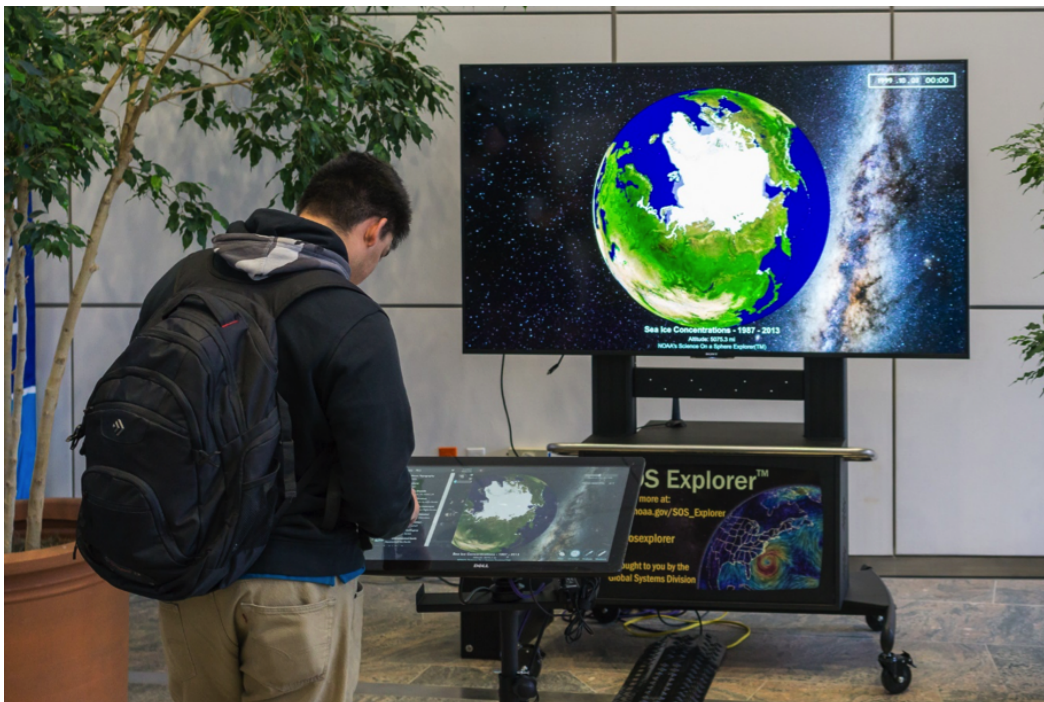


Figure 1. A visitor experimenting with the SOSx in the David Skaggs Research Center lobby.