

## Casing an Informal Learning Exhibit

On a vacation this week with my family, I visited the Valor in the Pacific Museum at Pearl Harbor. I was delighted to see that not only are many of the exhibits brand new, they make great use of various technologies ranging from a hands-on decryption machine to audio devices that cue information with codes, to a very well-done 3-screen multimedia video presentation. Even the 'boring' static maps had overlaid textures and Braille for low-vision visitors that aligned with what sighted visitors could see. It occurred to me that this would aid a sighted visitor in helping a non-sighted visitor to experience the map.

Most visitors seemed to be immediately engaged by the hands-on aspect of the exhibit, and I think the multimedia aspects of it kept their interest. The featured video presentation (with 3 screens) packed the tiny theater for each showing. The video summed up the idea of what I think the exhibit was meant to communicate. Throughout, it showed the attack on Pearl Harbor from both the Japanese and American sides, and introduced information I had never before heard. The presentation used a timeline metaphor to tie together the events of December 7th, to illustrate how quickly it all happened.

