What is ChronoZoom?

ChronoZoom is an online time visualization tool that uses the concept of zooming to express the scope of time. You can zoom from a timeline that covers decades to one that covers billions of years. This is something that a timeline drawn on paper could never do!

Problem

The ChronoZoom project team wants to incorporate this tool into the University of Washington courses. But because ChronoZoom has yet to be implemented into the classroom, there is no basis or previous research on its benefits to the student learning experience.

Methods/Evaluation

We conducted interviews with 2 instructors, Focus Groups with 18 students, Surveys on 21 students, and Classroom Observations on 38 total students.

OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

Recommended Improvements:
- Ability to compare exhibits.
- User friendly interface for data entry
- Improve User Interface:
  - Navigation and experience

Teaching Methods

53.7%

DISCUSSIONS

7.1% CHRONOZOOM

“Chronozoom navigation is like dropping your chalk every three words.” ~ Instructor 1

“Appealing interface, but using it becomes difficult” ~Instructor 2

“Looks like floating dots in space and that is the extent, there is no way to see the connections” ~ Students

“Can see very quickly visual and relational information” ~ Students

Overall Feedback

46.4% Negative

53.6% Positive

“The idea of Chronozoom is a very powerful one for getting students to think about different time economies in natural history.” ~ Instructor 1

“It got students to think in terms of specificities in terms of space and time and how they relate to big issues.” ~ Instructor 2