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VIRTUAL SPACER MUSEUM – PUBLIC OUTREACH ON A LARGE SCALE

**Abstract**

The paper will present a novel approach to space outreach activities – a virtual space exhibitions. The virtual space museum, where users can explore and enjoy various images of celestial bodies taken by amateur astronomers, as well as 3D models of space memorabilia collected by space enthusiasts. The virtual space museum aims to promote public interest and education in space science and history, as well as to celebrate the achievements and heritage of space exploration. The article highlights the outreach aspect of the virtual space museum, as it can reach a wider and more diverse audience. Moreover, in a country lacking a dedicated space museum, it is the only solution for the need to allow the public access to space artifacts, even on a remote mode. One of several advantages of the virtual space museum over traditional (and physical) museums is the ability to and foster a sense of community, cooperation, and collaboration among space lovers. The article also emphasizes the people-to-people distinguish angle of the virtual space museum, as it showcases the creativity and passion of ordinary people who contribute to the space culture and knowledge. The article concludes by suggesting some possible ways to enhance the user experience and the impact of the virtual space museum. By using the already existing networks of space educators in Israel, as well as the support of Israel space agency, the virtual space museum first exhibition is only the first step towards international cooperation at a global scale.