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Exploratorium, San Francisco. (2009). *EXPLO.TV--Webcasts, video clips, and podcasts from the Exploratorium*. Retrieved February, 2009 from <http://www.exploratorium.edu/webcasts/index.php>

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Internet Resource

EXPLO.TV--Webcasts, Video Clips, and Podcasts from the Exploratorium.

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/webcasts/index.php> (reviewed in CHOICE May 2009).

[Visited Feb'09] EXPLO.TV is the online video and audio collection of the San Francisco Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art, and Human Perception. This site features over 500 programs, many of which involve science, although some topics relate to popular culture, art, and history. Examples are wide-ranging and include how bones and teeth grow, highlights from the International Rubik's Cube Competition, the universality of human facial expressions, and an extensive series on the life, geology, and history of Antarctica. All Webcasts are produced in front of a live audience.

The main page lists upcoming Webcasts, recent programs, and featured picks. Visitors also may browse by several headings, the most useful being subject, category (Everyday Science, History of Science, Popular Culture, Popular Science, and Science in Action), and type of broadcast (Webcasts, podcasts, and clips). The site features a search function and archive. Each video or audio broadcast provides brief descriptive information, including the title, summary, and running time in minutes/seconds. Most of the videos are available in Watch Low and Watch High versions, with the only difference being the size of the viewing window, not the overall quality. Viewers must have installed RealPlayer, QuickTime, Windows Media Player, or Adobe Flash Player. The quality of the audio and video is fairly good--not high-grade studio quality, but good enough that one can become immersed in the content. Running time varies. Clips are usually under 3 minutes and podcasts, 5-30 minutes. Webcasts usually last 20 minutes or more, and in some instances over an hour. EXPLO.TV is a wonderful way for children and adults of all ages to learn about a variety of topics, especially scientific ones. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower- and upper-level undergraduates, two-year technical program students, professionals/practitioners, and general audience.

--K.P. McDonough, Northern Michigan University

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