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## The Biology Curator

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Title: A Points Standard For Audio-Visual Presentations: A Rating System For Slide Presentations

Author(s): Simmons, J.

Source: Simmons, J. (1995). A Points Standard For Audio-Visual Presentations: A Rating System For Slide Presentations. *The Biology Curator*, Issue 4, 6.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/784>

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females benefiting from multiple partners to increase their reproductive successes. The importance of choice is illustrated to good effect with a reconstruction of the display ground or lek of a wading bird, the ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*, where the female has come to choose a mate from the many displaying males. This section also features an audio-visual programme, which allows you to hear the songs and calls of birds from around the world.

Bird Biology is a spectacular mix of the old favourites and the new, and will provide an interesting and popular insight into the often bizarre biology of the birds of the world.

*Andrew Kitchener, Natural History Department  
National Museums of Scotland,  
Edinburgh*

[The above is reproduced, with thanks, from an article which appeared in the National Museums of Scotland's *Reporter* for autumn/winter 1994]

#### A POINTS STANDARD FOR AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS: A Rating system for slide presentations.

[*Editors Note: This talk was given last April at the Manchester Conference on the Value and Valuation of Natural History Collections. I thought those members of BCG who were unable to attend might appreciate reading it*]

It is suggested that from next year, all speakers have to submit audition videos in advance of giving an audio-visual presentation. Everyone starts with 1000 points. A score of 500 is needed in order to be permitted to speak. You have been warned!!!!

- 100 Use of any of the following buzzwords: buzzword, bottom line, target date, cost-effective, interface (as a verb), human resources, state-of-the-art, impact (as a transitive verb)
- 50 Blaming slides/lighting/collections/museum/planet on director/curator/collections manager/janitor
- 500 Opening with "I want to take you on a little slide tour of my museum, which has never been represented at these meetings before"
- 100 Use of any of the following phrases:
- "Let me tell you a little bit about my background."

- "Let me tell you a little bit about my museum."
- "As I was putting this talk together last night..."
- "Why did I put this slide in here?"
- "This talk made sense when I put it together."
- "I know that slide is in here ; somewhere. Well, we'll just get to it later."
- "Oh! Forgot that slide was in here."
- "I should have used this slide earlier."
- "What is this? Oh, this is a closer view of the object in the previous slide."
- "Now, this is an SEM shot...wait, maybe this is the topo map."
- "I should have used this slide for the last point. I guess I forgot to forward it, eh?" {Americans: read "eh?" as "huh?"}
- 1000 Saying "Oh! My God!" and staring at the screen for more than 5 seconds.
- Saying "Well, I guess that everyone has days like this, huh?"
- Saying "I was going to write my talk up in advance, but I decided to wing it instead. I know you'll understand."
- 5000 Saying "The next speaker's not going to be here, so they asked me to put a few slides together for you."
- 20 Dropping notes.
- 50 Saying "oops" after dropping notes.
- 5 Dropping microphone.
- 100 Knocking over lectern.
- +100 Choreography after knocking over lectern.
- +15 Each minute under the time limit.
- 100 Sunset slides
- +10 Musical background
- 20 Soft jazz musical background
- 50 Use of overheads
- 500 Combining slides and overheads without practising the use of either
- +10 Use of videos
- 20 Slide upside down or reversed
- 50 Stopping talk to flip slides
- 100 Telling audience that slides are upside down or reversed
- 20 Slide with vast quantities of data in illegibly small type
- 100 Telling audience that it is not expected to be able to read such a slide
- 20 Underexposed or overexposed slides
- 100 Informing audience that slide is too dark (or light) to be seen

- 75 Trying to convince audience that slide is not overexposed, but is instead archival
- 200 Slide of something dark floating in a pan of indeterminate liquid with someone's finger pointing to an indeterminate feature.
- 100 Group shot of entire staff looking uncomfortable and artificially posed
- +100 Group shot of entire staff looking entirely too comfortable and artificially relaxed
- 50 Inappropriately dirty pictures
- +100 Appropriately dirty pictures
- +500 Appropriate phone numbers
- 50 Aerial shot of building from satellite orbit level

#### AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION

- Photo of any living relative (photo of cute child will result in a 2-year suspension)
- Photo of pet
- Photo of speaker's cluttered desk
- Photo of food
- Photo of museum parking lot
- +100 Cartoon no one has seen before
- +100 No overheads
- 50 Thumb or lens cap in photo
- 75 Out of focus
- 100 Misidentification of slide taken by speaker
- 100 Going back to any previous slide
- 200 Leaving slide up on screen until it melts
- +100 Handouts
- +200 Snacks
- +500 Taking audience to bar
- 500 Spending too much time in bar before presentation
- 10 Taking the first 5 minutes to show slides of work area 66 when talk has nothing to do with it
- +1000 Taking the first 5 minutes to give audience drink vouchers to use in bar when talk has nothing to do with it
- 10 Forgetting name of the organization to which speaker is speaking.
- 10 Giving a boring talk
- +50 Admitting the talk is boring

*John Simmons, Collections Manager, Herpetology, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas USA, and Sally Shelton, Director, Collections Care and Conservation, San Diego Natural History Museum, PO Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112, USA.*