

Innovative consulting, design, and production services that inspire learning.

Why Inquiry?

Inquiry designs innovative learning systems that combine pioneering technologies with the latest research on how people learn. Our designers can provide you with a rare combination of experience as innovative educational researchers and successful software developers.

The information revolution has changed how we teach, learn, and work. But while technology continues to advance by leaps and bounds, there has not been a corresponding evolution in software tools to support learning. We need to move beyond tools modeled after business productivity software towards tools that are designed specifically to promote learning.

This innovation in learning technology requires expertise in both learning and technology. Inquiry is uniquely qualified to build these tools.

What We Can Do For You

We offer a complete range of custom software development services to our clients. We provide the pedagogical expertise and the technical implementation expertise for all of your project needs:

- 1. Consulting** services to help you evaluate and select appropriate technology.
- 2. Design** services to help you create integrated technology-based learning environments, such as web-based interactives, standalone software or curriculum activities and materials.
- 3. Production** services that manage the complete process of developing learning technologies, including project management, programming and graphics and multi-media development.

New Tools for New Kinds of Thinking

Our custom software designs feature a wide variety of innovative approaches. Here are just a few examples of the systems we have designed and built for our clients:

Immersive Simulations

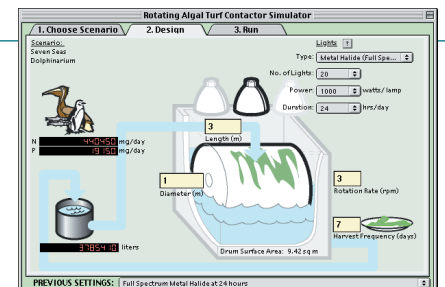
Inquiry creates Immersive Simulations that motivate and challenge learners. Our immersive environments place learners in the role of scientists who actively investigate, design, and solve problems. They are designed to provide learners with both the motivation and the necessary support to explore complex ideas.



Exhibit Designer™ helps students learn about the relationship between animals and habitats as they design and build a zoo exhibit. (Developed for Brookfield Zoo)

Models of Scientific Phenomena

Inquiry works with scientists and subject matter experts to develop new Models of Scientific Phenomena that let students poke, prod and otherwise experiment on things that normally can't be done in a classroom. These models emulate the behavior of real systems, such as human heart cells, the internal workings of slot machines, and captive populations of animals.



The Rotating Algal Turf Contactor™ helps students learn about utilizing natural resources to maintain water quality by designing and running experiments with an algae-based water filtration system. (Developed for Brookfield Zoo)

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The Inquirium Philosophy

Inquirium's philosophy reflects our innovative approach to learning:

Focus on Learning Goals

Technology should be used in the service of well-defined learning goals. We begin the design process by identifying learning goals, and from that foundation seek the best solution and use the most appropriate technology for a given project.

Designs for How People Learn

Our tools incorporate research-based, developmentally appropriate supports—or “scaffolds”—that help novices master ideas and skills that would otherwise be beyond their capacity.

Designs for Social Learning

People do not learn in a vacuum. Our designs make use of collaboration, cultural relevance, community impact, and the sharing of ideas with others.

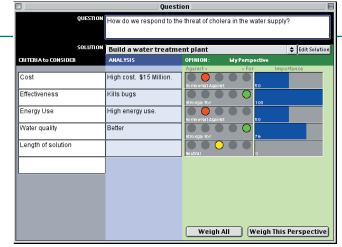
Designs for Lifelong Learning

Our specialty is designing for K-12 and informal learning settings. We have significant experience designing for a number of clients in these settings and are sensitive to the differences involved in designing software for educational, rather than corporate, audiences.

New Tools for New Kinds of Thinking *(continued...)*

Tools to Think With

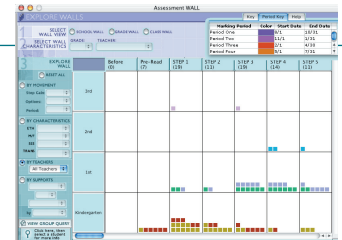
Inquirium creates software environments that provide Tools to Think With. Learners need tools that help them think through problems, explore alternative solutions, and articulate their thinking. Our tools help learners to transform their thinking into tangible objects that they can organize, manipulate, talk about, and reflect upon.



Our SeeSaw™ software allows learners to articulate, explore, and analyze the tradeoffs between alternative solutions. *(Inquirium-owned product)*

Tools to Visualize Information

Inquirium creates tools that enhance thinking by giving people new ways of Visualizing Information. These tools help learners manipulate, view, and analyze text, video, audio, images, and numerical data. How information is used and analyzed varies from problem to problem and task to task. We design our tools to highlight the kinds of information patterns and relationships that learners need to solve each problem and task.



The STEP™ Assessment Visualization helps teachers visually track and analyze student literacy development. *(Developed for University of Chicago)*

The Inquirium Design Process

The Inquirium Design Process is engineered to create quality, pedagogically sound software:

- 1. Design.** *We work with you to define a core set of learning goals, evaluate the context of use, and select an appropriate design strategy that leverages local resources and addresses local constraints.*
- 2. Storyboard.** *We storyboard potential activities and technologies that relate to the learning goals and work with you to refine the design.*
- 3. Produce.** *We use state of the art development environments to quickly build and refine prototypes.*
- 4. Iterate.** *Designing for learning is an iterative process; we believe strongly in engaging you in these repeated cycles of review and redesign.*

Who Are We?

We are researchers, professional educators and technologists experienced in designing and developing complete educational environments for schools, universities, informal learning settings/institutions and corporations. Lead Designers hold PhD's in Learning Sciences and have research experience at institutions such as Northwestern University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California at Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago.

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