News Museum

The Newseum has a long wall that displays the front pages from newspapers around the world refreshed daily. In other words, if you walk in today, January 6, 2010 you will see a wall full of the front pages from today's newspapers from around the world and all of the United States. They are behind large glass cases along a long hallway. At the end of that long walkway is this kiosk. These show digital versions of the newspapers from around the world. As you can see they are touch screens oriented in portrait and are built into the architecture of the space. They are much smaller than the large display cases with the paper front pages in them.



Below is the front screen of the kiosk. This picture shows the "first touch" options that a visitor has. In this picture you can actually see in the reflection the long wall of physical paper front pages behind me...



Below is what appears once you have selected US or International on the previous screen. Notice the alphabet "pager" at the bottom.



Each of the pages is touchable and then zooms in...



In another section of the Newseum they have two long displays that contain the paper front pages from different historical dates. For example, you can see the front pages from some newspapers for D-Day, June 6, 1944. They are in pull-out cases stacked 3 high with a 4th one oriented at an angle to someone walking by. You can see this woman standing in front of a kiosk at 1830, but beside her is the "4th" front page with 3 pull-out drawers under it. So, you could pull out the drawers and look at 4 different front pages at this "station." The kiosk that the woman is using is a touch-screen that again is in portrait orientation. What's notable about this kiosk is that is it meant for one person to operate at a time, but above her head is a much larger screen that shows all the motions and selections of the kiosk in front of the woman. I was standing behind her and off to the side and was able to observe what she was doing on the kiosk by watching the bigger screen above. This was a very crowded section, so people were corralling around and watching the bigger screens that were all above eye level. Right next to this larger screen you can see a projector -- that projector was showing a video on the opposite wall behind me.



In one section of the Newseum they had a feedback kiosk. This one asked do you trust news from blogs as much as you trust the news from major media outlets, or something similar to that. I then typed my answer on the on-screen keyboard. I could see off to the side how many people were saying yes and how many said no and I could read others' comments.



This kiosk front page shows how the Newseum made clear to the visitor what kind of material was on the screen and how to access it -- by touching...

