

Museum robots: Kasparov and Chesster



Participating organisation: [National Museum of Australia](#); Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet), and the Commonwealth Department of Communications.

Kasparov and Chesster are two of the National Museum's newest employees. Their job is to give people from around the world access to laser-guided virtual tours of the Museum. Robot tours allow the remote visitor to control the view of the displays and galleries via the panoramic camera on each robot, and to talk with a tour guide.

A virtual visitor can:

- Control their own view of the galleries – zooming and panning to look where they like, at what they find interesting.
- Discover digital content about objects on display – with hidden images and videos throughout the galleries, exclusively available for virtual guests.
- Respond to and ask questions of the tour guide - all through a web-browser.

Robot tours have been used for schools, community groups, libraries and for staff meetings. Facilities that a group, class, or organisation needs are a broadband internet connection, a webcam, and a microphone.

The Museum robots project is the result of a partnership between the National Museum, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet), and the Commonwealth Department of Communications.

Target audience / community: students and schools, community group. Demonstrating innovation in: remote interactive access to collections.

[Source, Meeting of Cultural Ministers, Digital Technologies Working Party Report Attachment 2 'Projects Demonstrating Excellence in Digital Innovation' June 2015]