

# STATE OF THE NATION'S WEBCAMS

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## OBJECTIVE

Thousands of webcams available to the public are operated by STEM organizations, such as zoos, museums, and government agencies. However, as of yet no research has quantified any aspect (cognitive, behavioral, or emotional) of viewer outcomes. Our objective is to build foundational knowledge about basic aspects of STEM webcams in the United States (US) from the perspectives of both practitioners and viewers.



*This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant 2005869*

## A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in STEM Learning and Education

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**Phase 1:** *Inventory webcams* operated by US-based STEM organizations.

*Determines what is available for viewers to learn from.*

**Phase 2:** *Survey practitioners* of webcams. Tests hypotheses regarding webcam program objectives, operations, and evaluations from the perspective of program operators or practitioners.

*Describes operators' intended learning outcomes for their viewers.*

**Phase 3a:** *Survey likely viewers* of STEM webcams. Tests hypotheses regarding viewing practices, and perceived outcomes of viewing.

**Phase 3b:** *Interview viewers* of STEM webcams. Qualitatively assesses hypotheses to gain in-depth perspectives of selected interviewees and to identify unintended outcomes.

*Describes viewers' experience and perceived learning outcomes.*

### PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

**85%** of webcams in STEM Life Sciences category  
**57%** of viewers watch because to learn something new  
**75%** of viewers said STEM webcams were influential to their interest, knowledge, or how they felt about a topic

### FUTURE RESEARCH

Engage in experimental design research to test working hypotheses of how webcam viewers' interest, knowledge, or behavior towards webcam subjects change as they engage in webcam activity

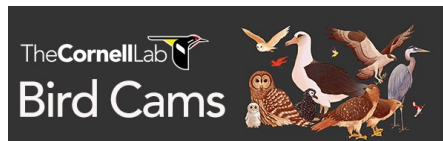
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