

Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy Bristol University, UK

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/anatomy>

At the University of Bristol, WolfVision VZ-C12³ Ceiling Visualizers and EYE-12 Live Image Cameras are making a crucial contribution to the teaching of anatomy to medical, dental, veterinary, and science students, as well as for clinical training courses for surgeons as part of their continuing professional development.

Installed by Exeter-based GV Multi-media the VZ-C12³ Visualizers are situated in the medical and veterinary dissecting suites in the University's Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy. EYE-12 Cameras are situated in the human dissecting room and clinical training centre, allowing two practical sessions to be run concurrently there. The Centre's Teaching Services Manager, Steve Gaze, explains the reasons for the choice of WolfVision Visualizers: "Anatomical specimens such as cadavers, skeletons and body parts are three-dimensional with deep holes and fissures, containing, for example, nerves, blood vessels and ligaments. With up to 120 students in a class what is projected on the screen has to be seen clearly by all and provide an accurate, detailed representation of the specimens as the students need to understand and appreciate the 3D nature of the objects as well as understanding the dissection procedures involved."



A dissecting room at the Centre for Comparative Clinical Anatomy, University of Bristol.



WolfVision VZ-C12³ Visualizer recessed into a suspended ceiling at the Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy at Bristol University.

Depth of field and clarity are therefore vital, to ensure that sharp, high-quality images are projected. To ensure this, the VZ-C12³ Visualizers have their own integral light source that eliminates the shadows caused by the 3D structure while illuminating the deepest recesses of the specimens, while the EYE-12 units are positioned directly above the cadaveric parts and other specimens and material.

Both systems feature WolfVision's latest Connectivity 2 Software. "This is a major benefit," says Steve Gaze, "as their range of inputs and outputs allows us to configure the Visualizers and cameras into our existing AV and IT systems. As a result, users can easily switch from the live Visualizer feeds to other material held on PCs, laptops and DVDs: for example PowerPoint presentations can be introduced into a session to mix theory with practice."

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The software can record moving images, allowing live video and still images to be directed to PCs and laptops, and used in subsequent tutorials or distributed to students. They can be captured to specific files with the destination being set in the software. This is helping with the cataloguing of all the Centre's specimens.

The connectivity options also include lightboxes to allow the display of radiographs, MRI scans and ultrasound films through the Visualizers and cameras, all accessed via a flick of a switch. Such flexibility was impossible with the previous installation which consisted of a camcorder and PC that meant users had to manually change the feeds: nor was the quality of reproduction ideal.

User reaction has been positive: "We have had no complaints!" Steve Gaze observes. "There is no doubt that our students' learning experience has been much improved: the WolfVision systems have proved to be one of our best investments."