

Christoph Heininger



## Nanotechnology in a Science Museum

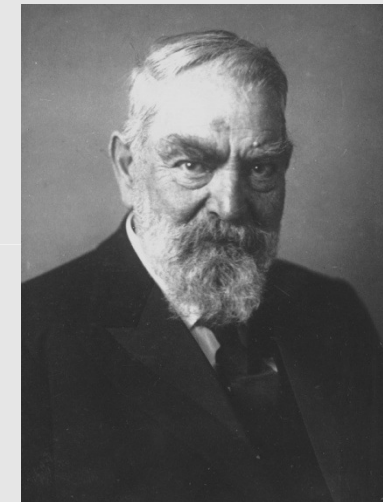
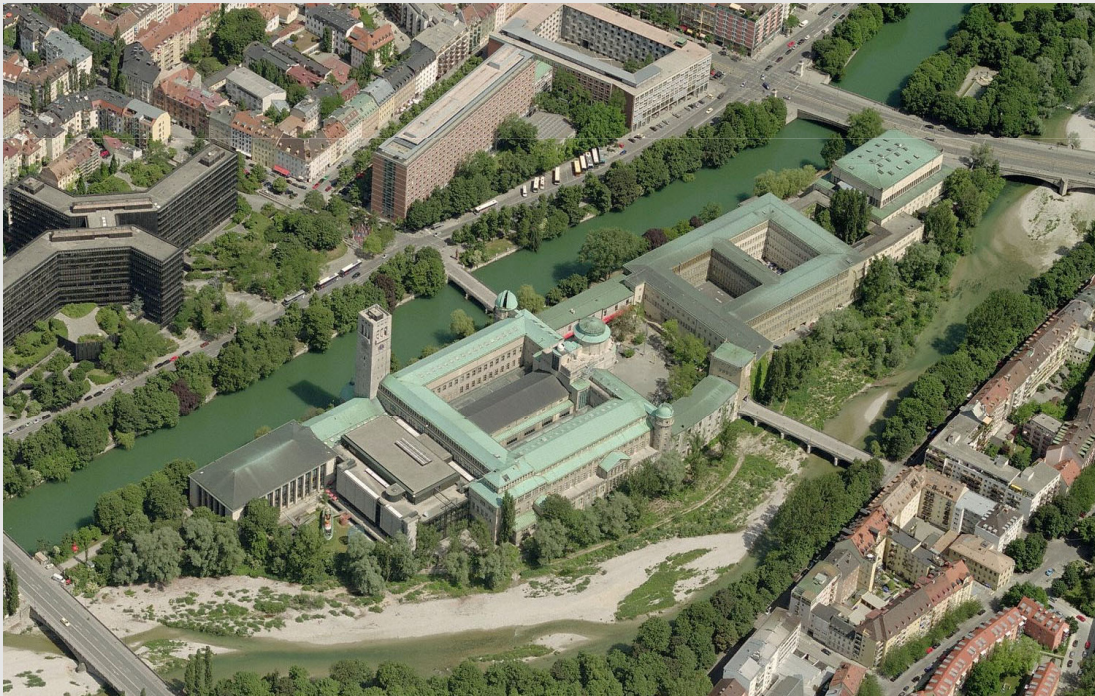
3 August 2012

Erice International School of Science Journalism and Communication

"The holy grail of science museums is  
not to provide someone all the  
knowledge they need, but to inspire  
them, to become a launching point."

John H. Falk

- founded in 1903 by Oskar von Miller
- German Museum of Masterpieces of Science and Technology



Oskar von Miller



## The Deutsches Museum back office



- 100.000 exhibits (20.000 on display)
- 73.000 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space  
(main building: 51.000 m<sup>2</sup>)
- 500 permanent staff, 150 volunteers
- Library with >900.000 volumes, large archive
- Publishing house
- 1.4 million visitors annually
- In-house workshops from bookbinding to carpenter
- Restoration facilities







**Deutsches Museum Bonn:**  
Science and Technology in  
Germany after 1945



**Flugwerft Schleissheim:**  
aerospace exhibitions



**Verkehrszentrum:**  
Mobility and Transportation  
museum

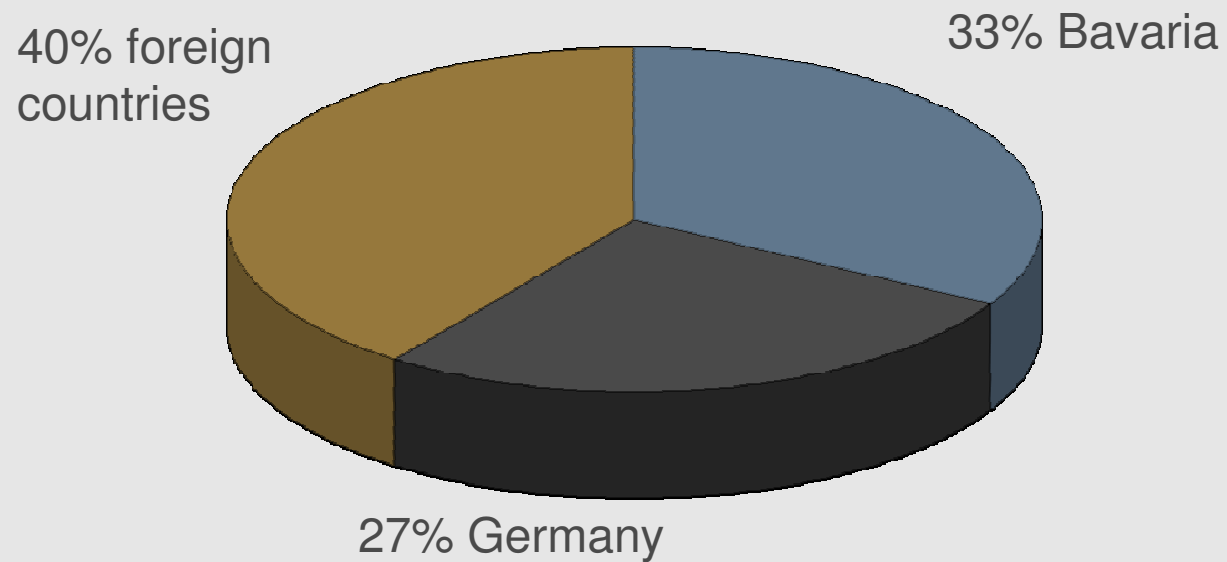


**Deutsches Museum München:**  
Main exhibition and administration



**Lokwelt Freilassing:**  
In collaboration with City of  
Freilassing: railroad engines

## Visitors of the Deutsches Museum

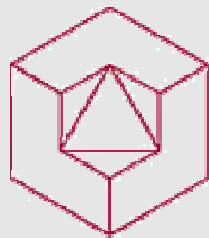


→ 10.000 school classes p.a.

# Research at the Deutsches Museum

Focused on four main topics:

- I. Center for collection and exhibition research
- II. History of technology and science
- III. Science, technology and the public
- IV. Museology



**Rachel  
Carson  
Center**  
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Münchner Zentrum für Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte



# Nanotechnology is

- named by size from  $0,1 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m}$  to  $100 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m}$
- a cross sectional technology
- an often misused brand
- has often a complex theoretical background
- is often difficult to understand, because it contradicts every day experiences



## The „Hall for Automobiles“



Finished 1937

The room is  
structured by  
dominant exhibits

## The „Hall for Automobiles“

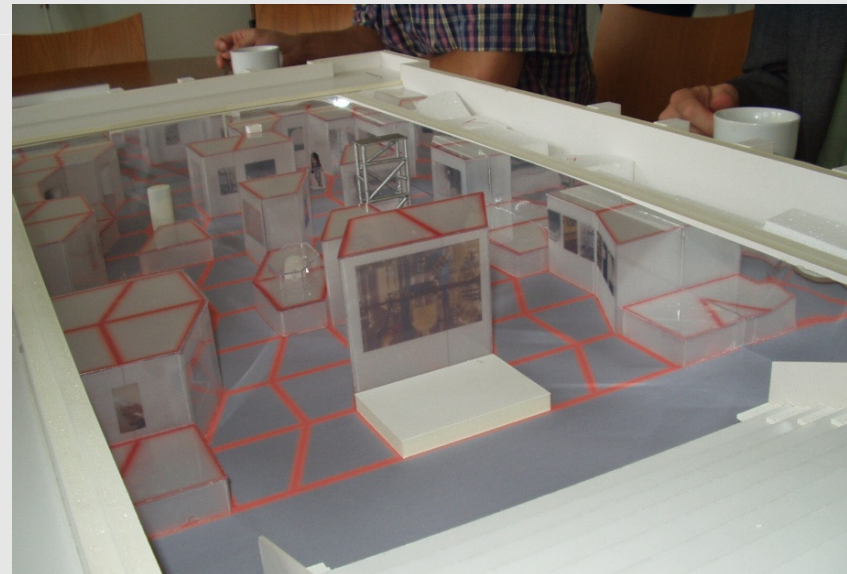
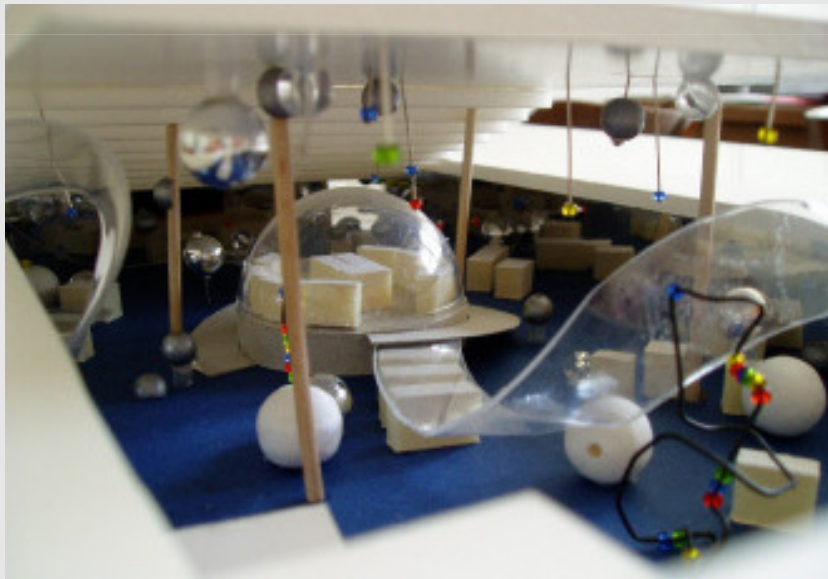


around 1980



## Initial ideas for the Center of New Technologies

- hands-on-experience, exhibition and engagement of visitors
- flexibility and room for events
- Integration of Bio- and Nanotechnology



## The final design



Room now is structured by function and exhibition architecture

Global concept of the CNT:

- Knowledge transfer of complex scientific-technological topics
- Dialogue between science and the public

## Center for New Technologies



Opening: November 19, 2009

2.400 m<sup>2</sup> total area

5 partners from industry, science,  
and politics

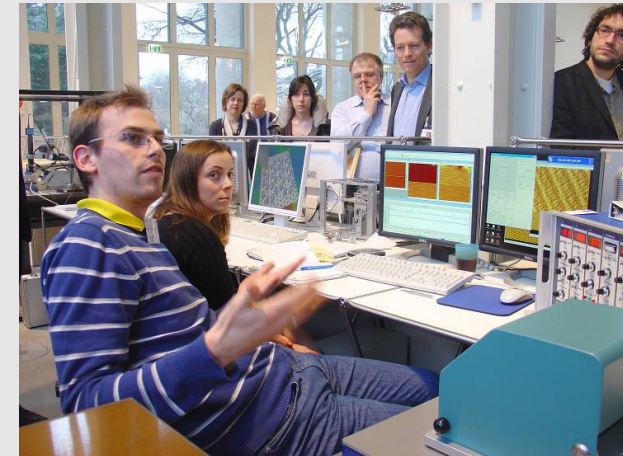
Amgen GmbH  
Federal Ministry of Education and Research  
Max Planck Society  
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft  
Helmholtz Association

- 450 exhibits (core exhibition)
- >50 t steel
- 70 computers, 220 monitors



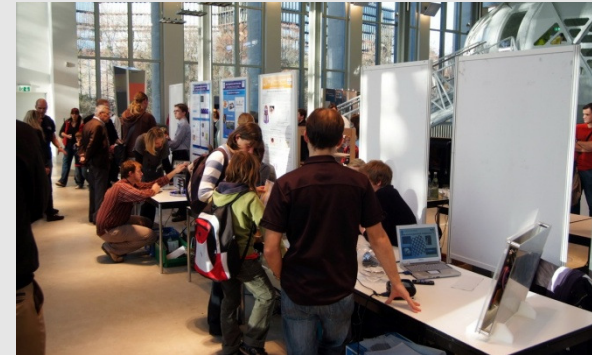
## Open Research Lab

- real nano scientists inside the museum
- do their every day research work
- explain their work to the public
- discussion partner for continuative questions (nanotechnology, research in general, career choice, ...)



## Nanoday of the Nanosystems Initiative Munich (Cluster of Excellence, Nano)

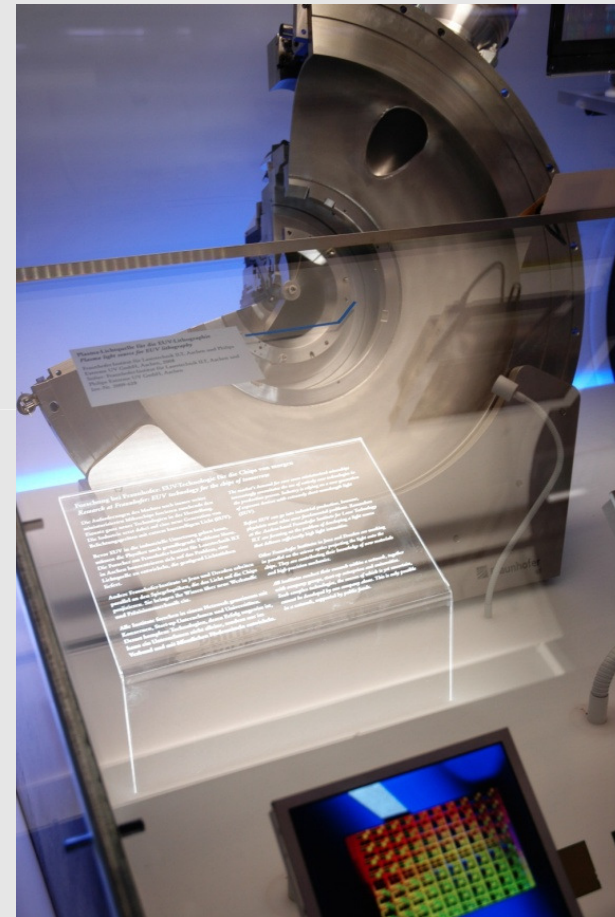
- event program around the nano exhibition
- plenary: talks, shows, kids program
- scientist 'expo' - bringing their experiments inside the museum





## Scientific Partners

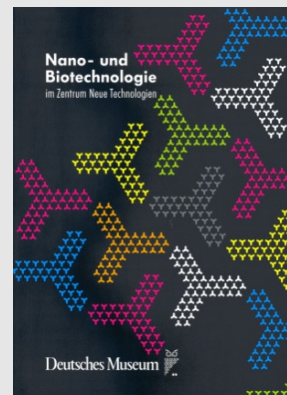
- support in development of the exhibition  
→ “partner-stories”
- theme islands inside the museum  
→ display window to latest research
- joint events inside the CNT  
→ communication with the public



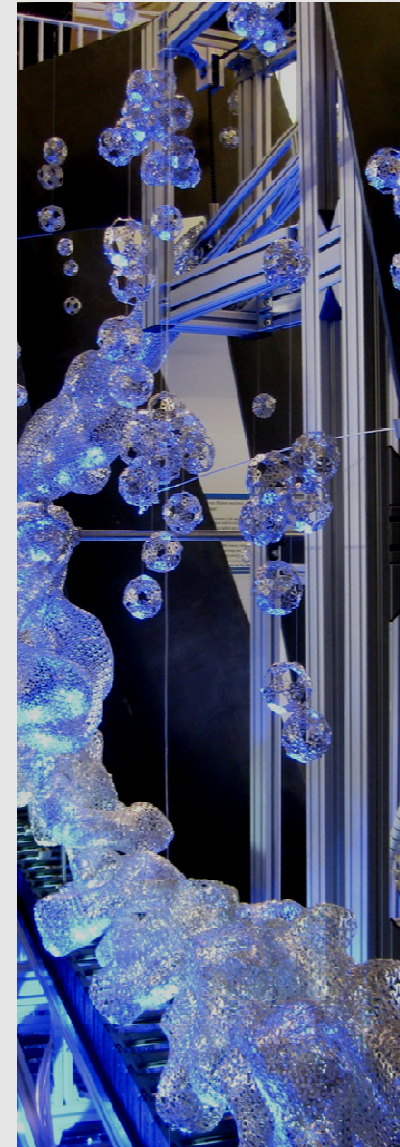


## Main Exhibition Nano- and Biotechnology




- connection of both topics to an integrated exhibition
- basics, research, application, risk-benefits discussion
- shown by original exhibits, interactive media installations and “hands-on” demonstrations
- high flexibility offers the possibility to react on current discussions

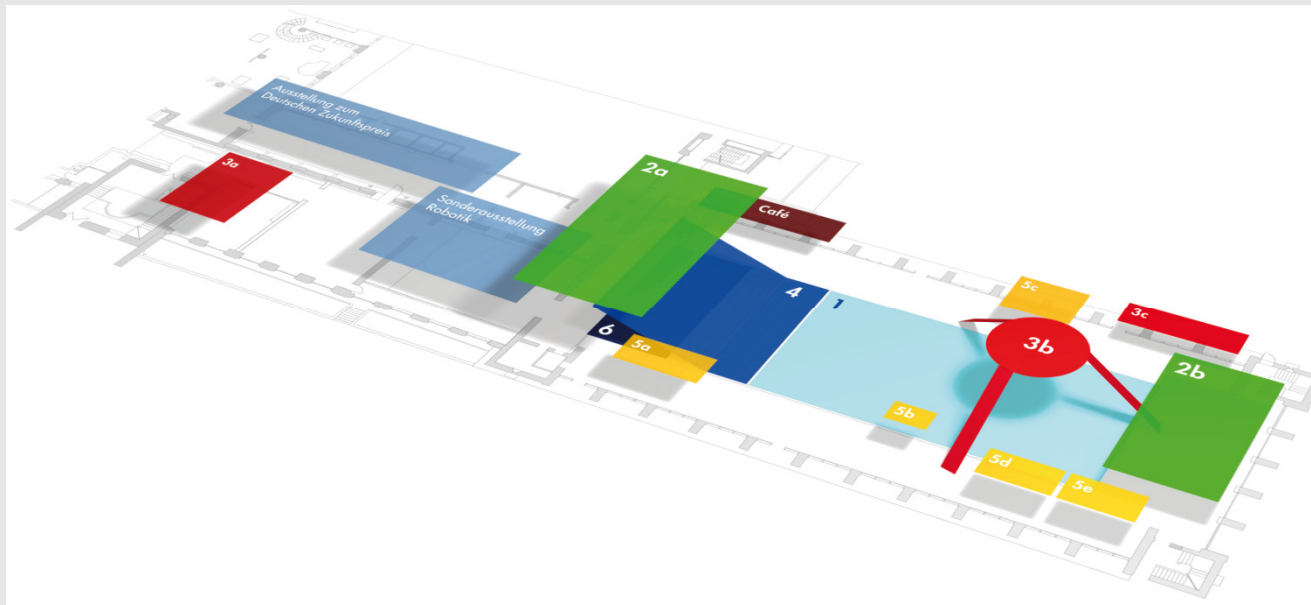


Exhibition catalog



## Elements of the CNT

-  Entrance: Exhibition “Deutscher Zukunftspreis”
-  Auditorium
-  Main exhibition: Nano- and Biotechnology



Deutscher Zukunftspreis



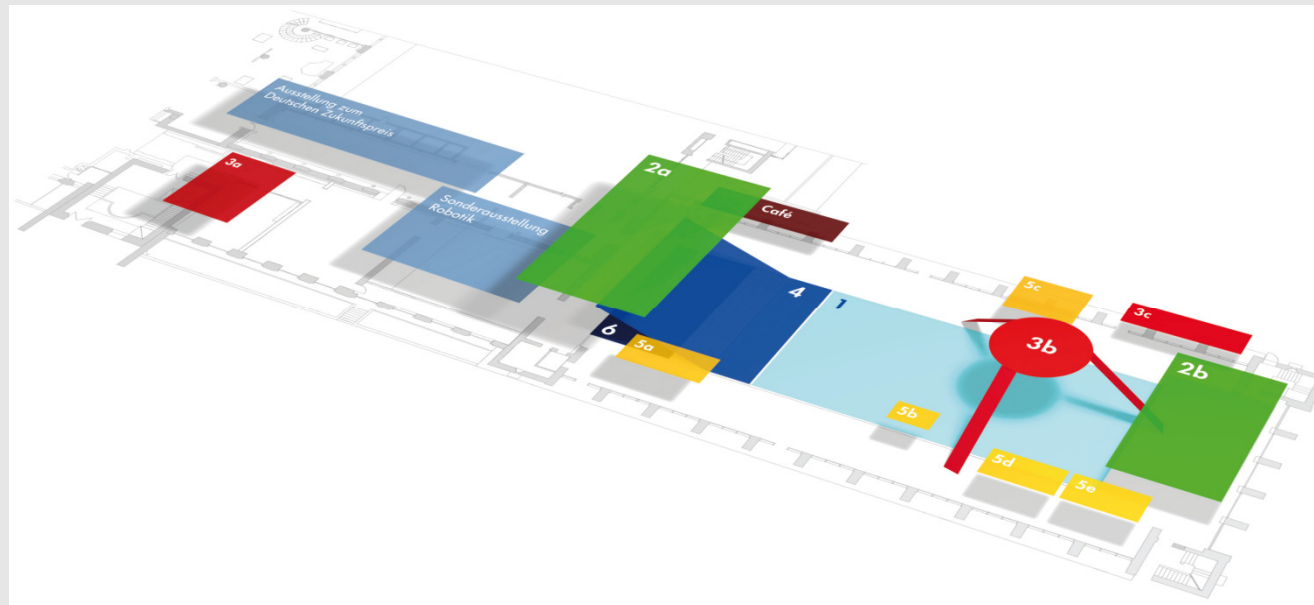
auditorium



main exhibition 18

## Elements of the CNT

- three laboratories (DNA Visitors Lab, Open Research Lab, TUMlab)
- theme islands of the partners
- areas for special exhibitions



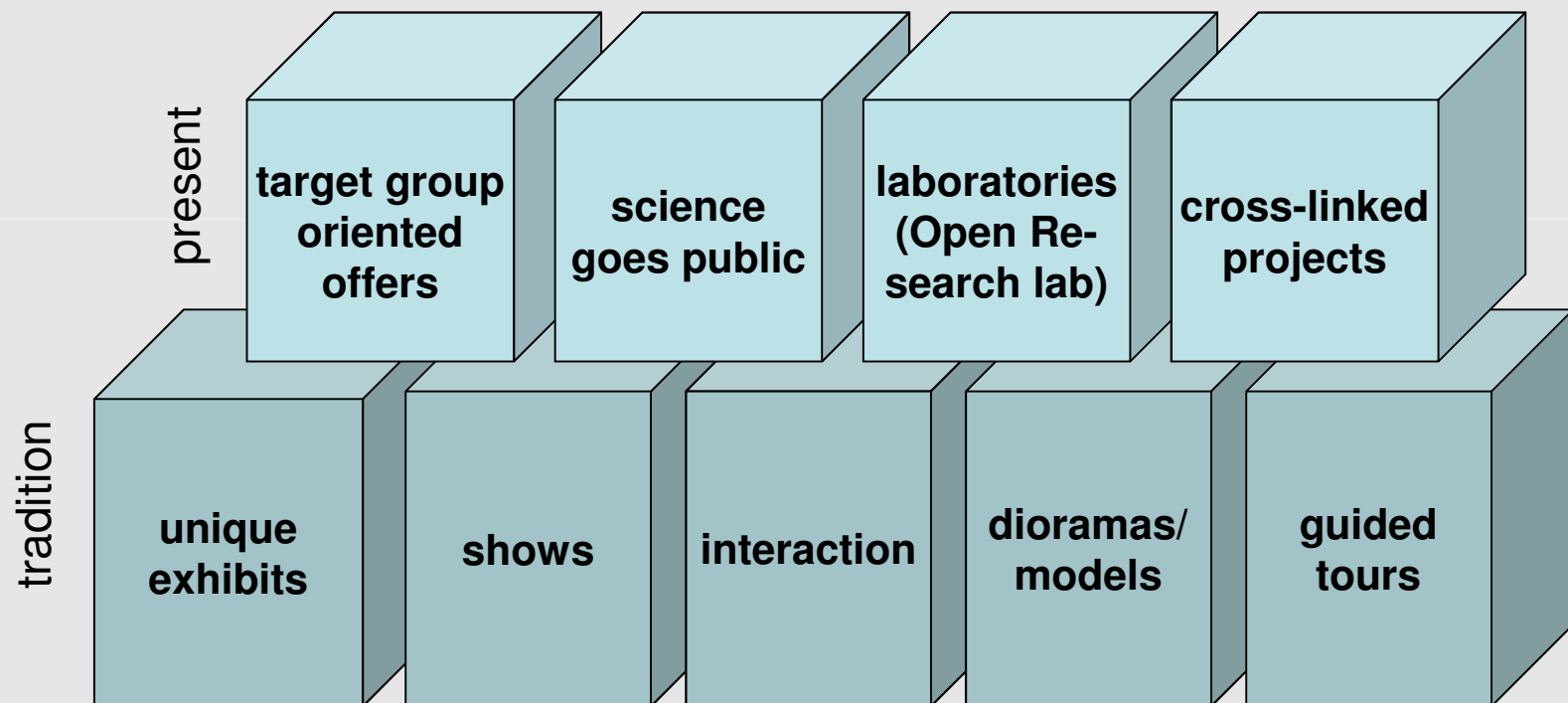
DNA Visitors Lab



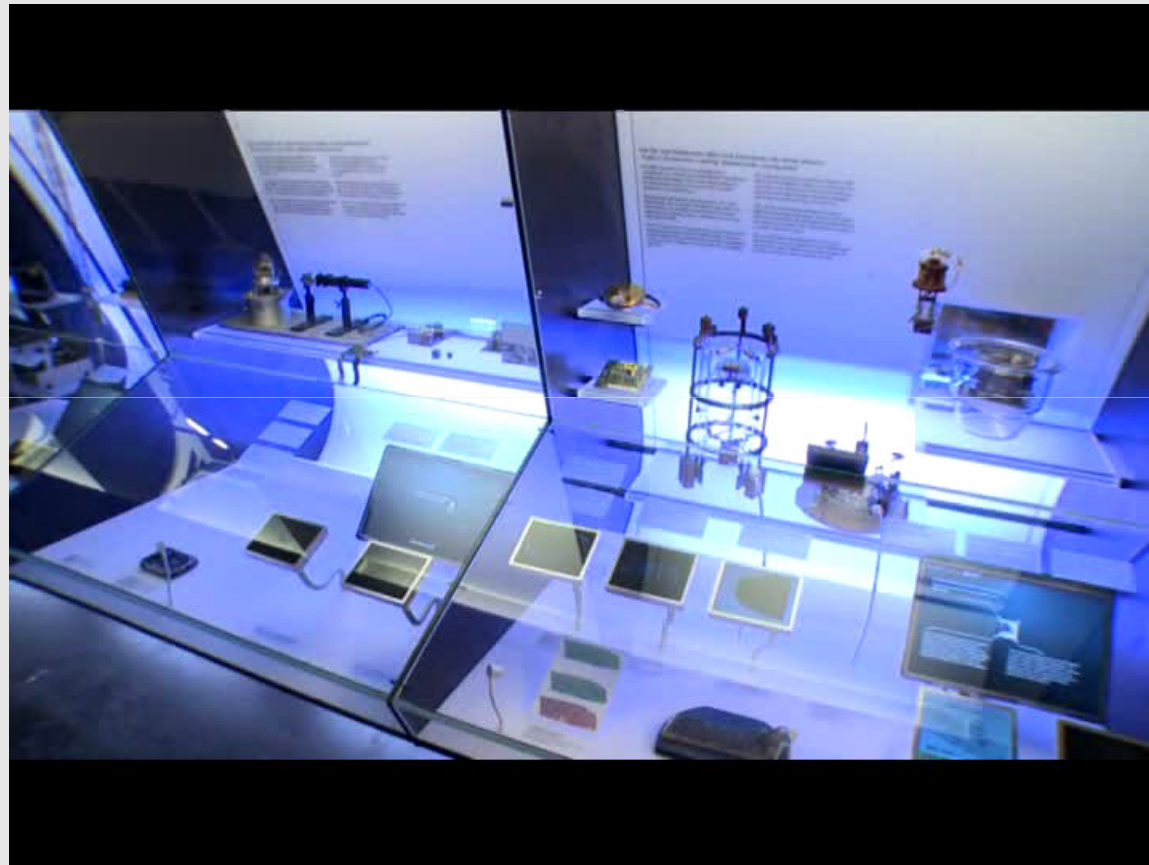
theme island



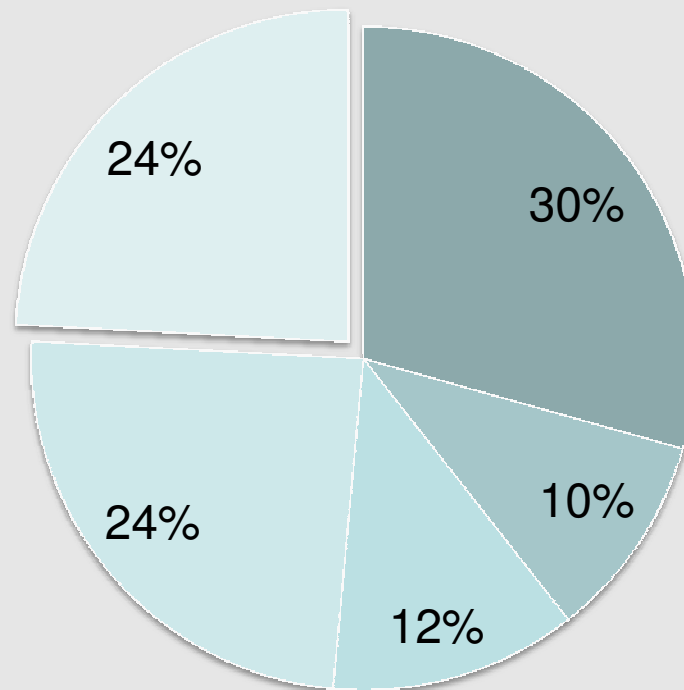
## Building Blocks of Exhibitions in the Deutsches Museum







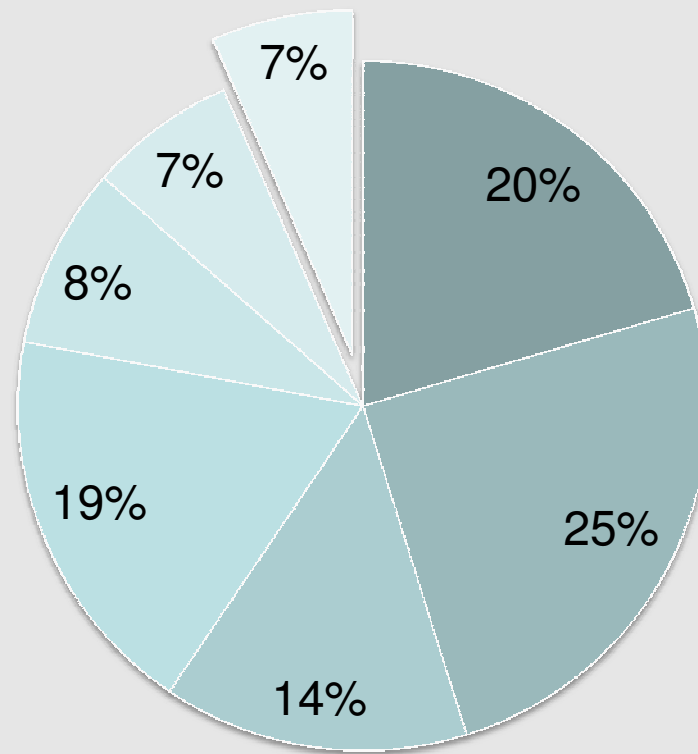
## Visitors of the CNT



### Occupation

- engineering/technical
- science
- humanities/social
- other
- unknown

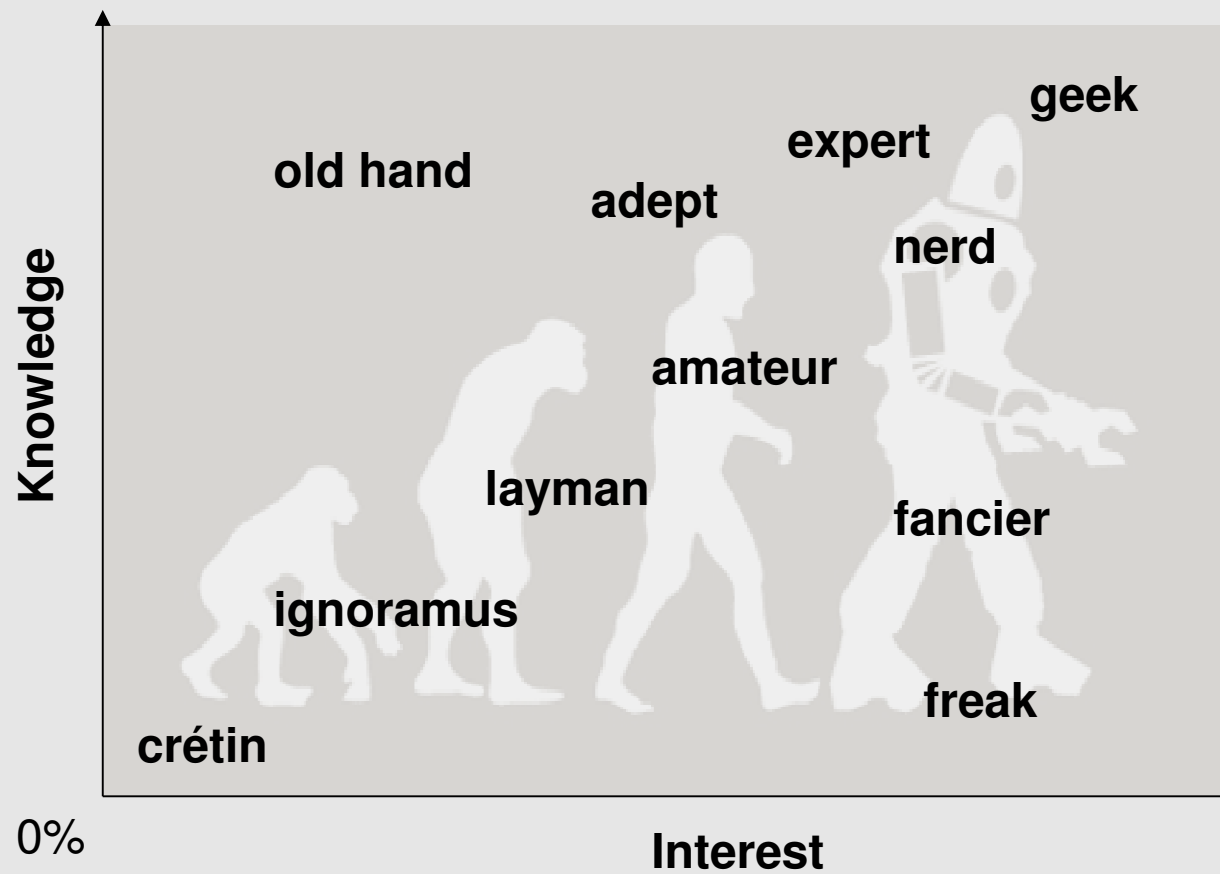
## Visitors of the CNT



### Age Group

- 13-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 and older
- unknown

Whom do you want to adress ?



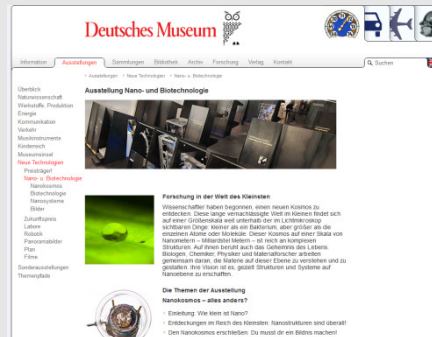


# Escalation Concept

exhibit



web



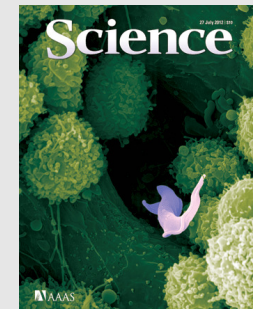
catalog



literature



periodical



In depth information

## **Bonini paradox:**

**As a model of a complex system becomes more complete, it becomes less understandable.**



## Everyday Nano Products

Closes the gap between abstract science and every day life

Provides arguments about the relevance, usability and potential risk of nanotechnology

Introduces the economic aspect of nanotechnology





## Gene Sequencing Machines

Displays tangible the development of tools for nano-, and biotechnology from handicraft work to usable devices.

Shows the metamorphosis from science to technology.

Connects bio- and nanotechnology



## Scanning Probe Microscopy

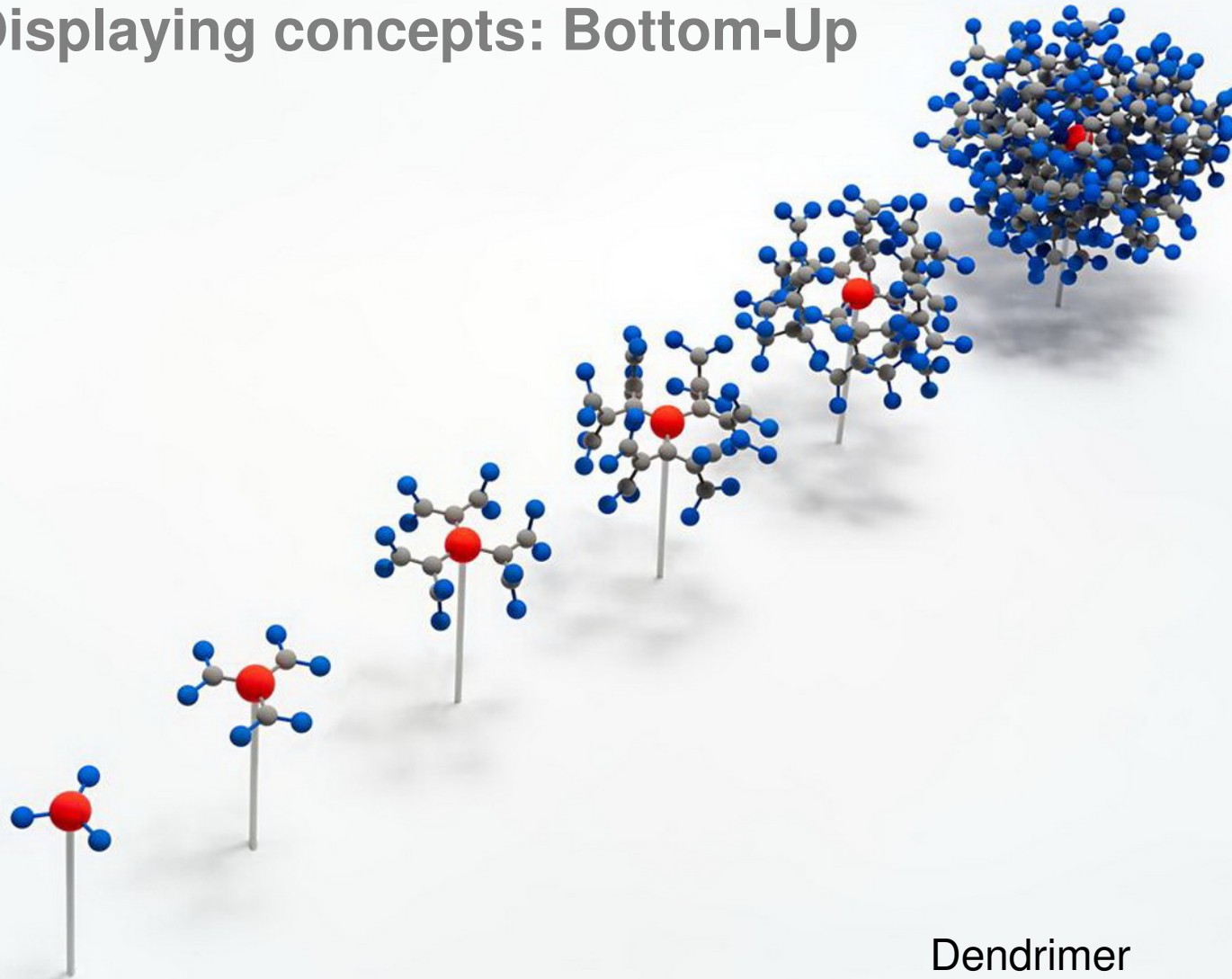
Shows the beginning of a breakthrough Technology, from first idea to Nobel Prize

Many auratic objects with interesting background stories (Nobel Prize, Guinness Book of World Records)

It is an example for the impact of an idea

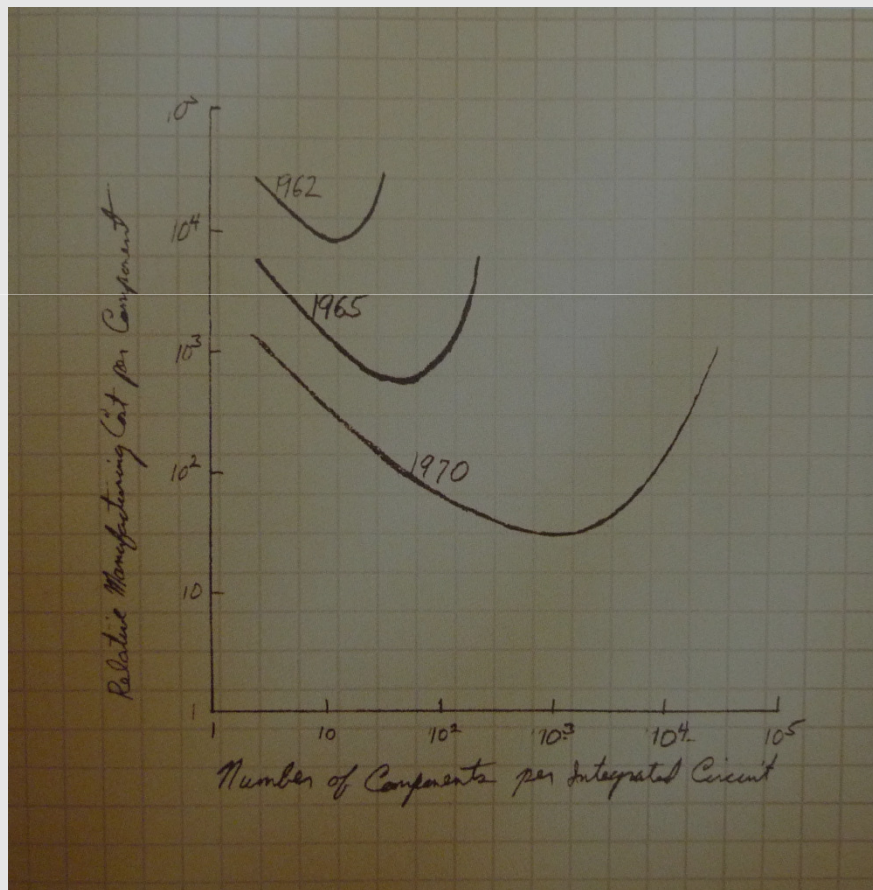
It is the classic tool of nanotechnology

## Displaying concepts: Bottom-Up





## Displaying concepts: top down approach



Micro systems technology  
reaches the nanoworld

process technologies are top down  
strategies, e.g. lithography



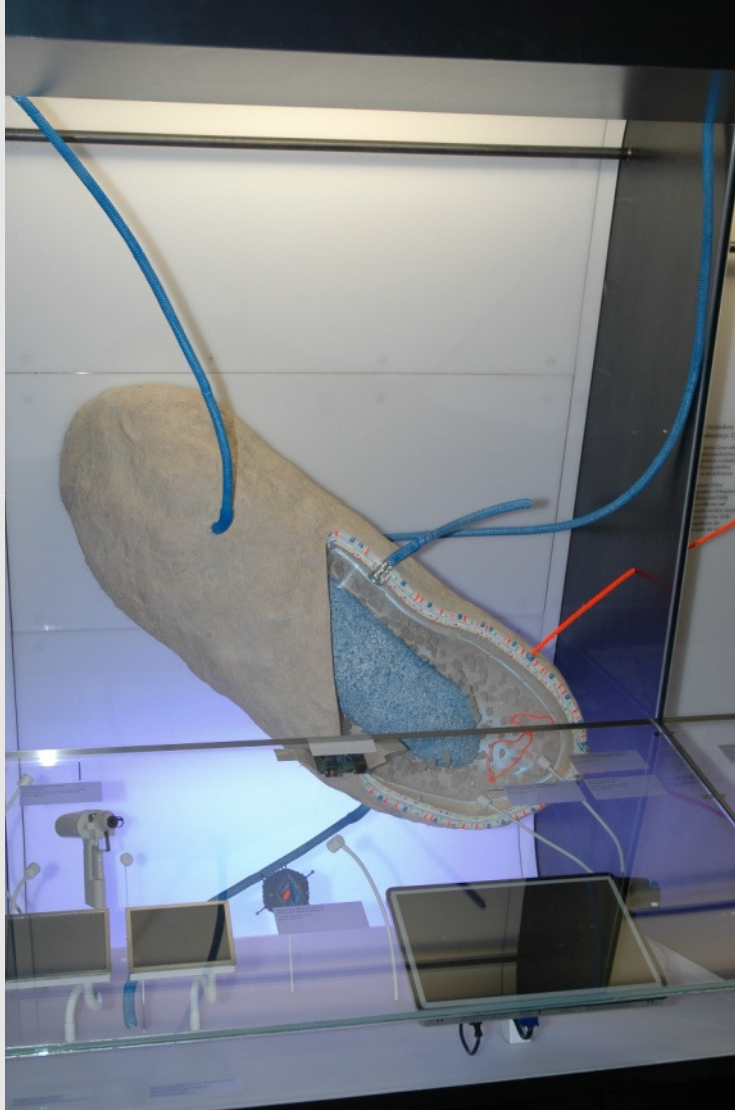
## Dialog Station “genetic test”

Provides arguments in a controversial discussion

Inspires to form an independent opinion

Supports subsequent discussions

Encourages to engage in recent developments



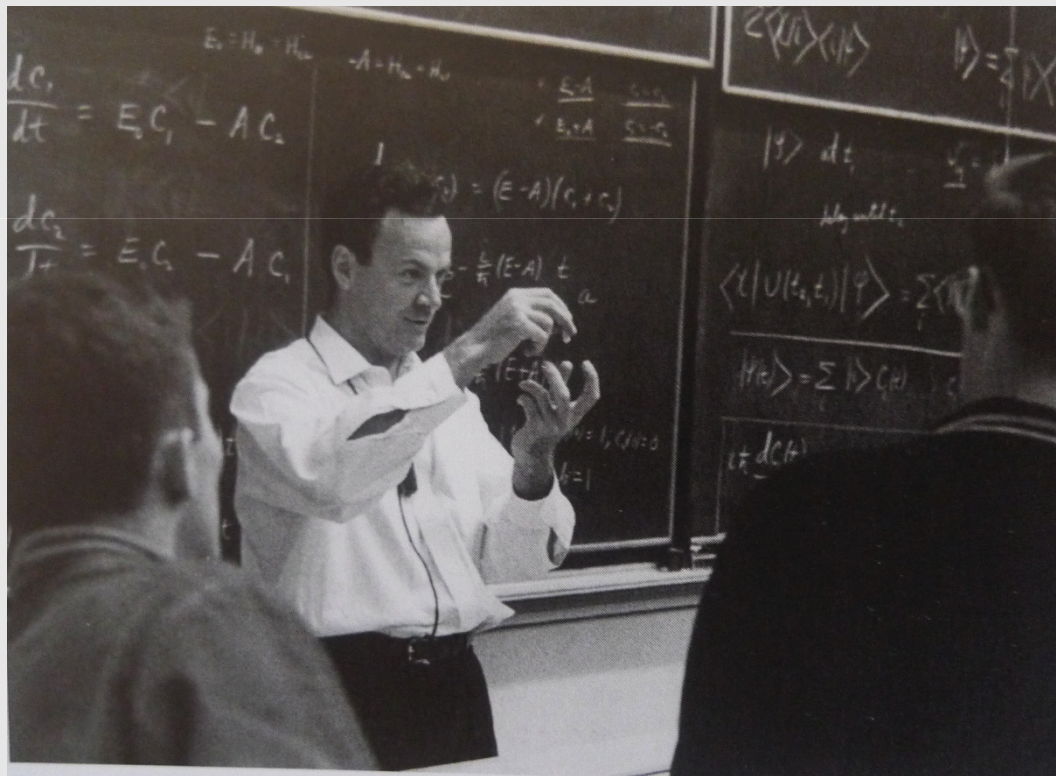
## Models (bacterium)

- virtualizes dependencies,
- makes unseen visible
- eases complexity

But:

Models may cause misconception,  
their perceivability is hooked to the  
predestination of the visitor

## The founders Gallery



Science needs people !

Not a hall of fame, but stories about entrepreneurs, ideas, talents and visions.

Technicians, politicians, scientists, nobel prize winners and visionaires





## Demonstrations (ferro fluid)

Enhance the intuitive comprehension of complex processes

Support a positive attitude to technology by entertaining the observer

Ease the explanation of difficult processes





## The people behind- An Interdisciplinary Team



Dr. Lorenz  
Kampschulte

nanophysicist



Dr. Sabine  
Gerber

biologist



Dr. Florian  
Breitsameter

chemist



Dr. Margherita  
Lasi

biologist



Dr. Frank  
Trixler

mineralogist

[www.deutsches-museum.de](http://www.deutsches-museum.de)

→ DNA Visitor's  
Lab  
(max. 18 pers.)

→ Open  
Research  
Lab



# And finally a message from the Ivory Tower

[www.deutsches-museum.de](http://www.deutsches-museum.de)

**Contact:** [generaldirektor@deutsches-museum.de](mailto:generaldirektor@deutsches-museum.de) or contact me: [c.a.h@web.de](mailto:c.a.h@web.de)

