

Document Cameras

If you are like many presenters, you understand the power of multimedia and take the time to create impressive electronic presentations. But, you may be missing one important tool that can add power to your interactive presentations: the document camera.

Document cameras are wonderful tools that allow you to show detailed drawings, 3-D renderings, photos, and more — in many settings, including formal presentations, training seminars, court depositions and hearings, and videoconferences. Whether you're using a document camera in a classroom to demonstrate an intricate biology project or in the boardroom to show new product designs, you have the power to focus the audience's attention on nearly anything. No more transparencies, no more oversized sketches taped to a wall. A document camera lets you show all of those items that don't fit neatly into an electronic presentation.

What is a Document Camera?

Think of a document camera as a 21st century overhead projector . . . sort of. Well, it looks and acts somewhat like an overhead projector. However, unlike traditional overhead projectors that use mirrors and light tables, document cameras use a high-resolution video camera for display. Document cameras also allow you to feed images through multimedia projectors, television sets, or computer screens. So, begin with a basic "overhead projector", add in the capabilities of a scanner, microscope, whiteboard, and computer — and you understand the power of a full-feature document camera.



Document Cameras Make Presentations Interactive

Document cameras come with many useful features for presenters.

- **Zoom**
The zoom feature on a document camera is truly a great benefit. You can zoom on all sorts of text, graphics, and objects. As a rule, document cameras can easily read small 8 point-text, and they are ideal for displaying 3-D objects. You can literally take something as small as a penny and enlarge it so the tiniest features (nearly invisible to the naked eye) are projected and visible to an audience.
- **Image Capture**
Of course document cameras allow you to display documents in real-time. However, they also allow you to capture images just as you would with a scanner or digital camera. This means you can capture images, save them as JPEGs, and retrieve them later. You can distribute captured images easily or add them to electronic presentations.