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A selection of scientific space-related serious games

Mrs. Muriel Riester, Librarian (January 2014)

What are serious games?

Serious games are simulations of real-world events or processes designed for the purpose of solving a problem. Although serious games can be entertaining, their main purpose is to train or educate users, though it may have other purposes, such as marketing or advertisement. The "serious" adjective is generally prepended to refer to products used by industries like defense, education, scientific exploration, health care, emergency management, city planning, engineering, religion, and politics (Wikipedia).

Space-related scientific serious games

Audience: young adults or adults, not juvenile.

A slower speed of light

<http://gamelab.mit.edu/games/>

A Slower Speed of Light is a first-person game in which players navigate a 3D space while picking up orbs that reduce the speed of light in increments. A custom-built, open-source relativistic graphics engine allows the speed of light in the game to approach the player's own maximum walking speed. Visual effects of special relativity gradually become apparent to the player, increasing the challenge of gameplay.



Climate challenge

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/hottopics/climatechange/climate_challenge/

A game where you are president of the European Nations. You must tackle climate change and stay popular enough with the voters to remain in office.



Comet Quest

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/comet-quest/en/>

Game edited by Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Take control of Rosetta (spacecraft launched in 2004) to lead its mission.



Kerbal Space Program

<https://kerbalspaceprogram.com/>

KSP is a game where the players create and manage their own space program. Build spacecraft, fly them, and try to help the Kerbals to fulfill their ultimate mission of conquering space.



Lunar Flight

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/208600/?l=english>

Explore the most realistic and beautiful realtime simulation of 'Lunar Flight' in this unique and challenging game. Experience the heart pounding sense of dread as you deliver supplies to moon bases with only seconds of fuel to spare!



Moonbase Alpha

http://store.steampowered.com/app/39000/?snr=1_7_suggest__13

NASA has once again landed on the lunar surface with the goal of colonization, research, and further exploration. Shortly after the return to the Moon, NASA has established a small outpost on the south pole of the moon called Moonbase Alpha.



Rocket science

<http://www.kongregate.com/games/mofunzone/rocket-science>

Move and rotate rockets to hit planets. Quite easy at the beginning it gets more difficult to satisfy experts.



Universe Sandbox

<http://universesandbox.com/>

Use Newton's law of gravity to simulate the motions of the planets, moons, and stars.



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