A REAL-TIME INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL SEISMOLOGY EXHIBIT

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A museum display installed at the Mission Trails Interpretative Center in San Diego combines a local seismometer with real-time seismic data from nearby seismic stations accessed through the Internet shown on dual monitors. The combination simultaneously provides both interactivity and high quality seismic data from nearby seismic stations and is displayed on one of the monitors. Simultaneously, maps of associated seismicity ranging from local to worldwide are displayed on the other screen using a browser connected to the Internet. This allows a choice of maps and displays, such as the IRIS seismic monitor. Displaying data from several stations on one screen aids in distinguishing earthquakes from noise and demonstrates clearly how seismic waves travel across the region. Another key feature is that the data from the sensor is available for incorporation into regional seismic networks in real-time without requiring any additional work by staff at the museum, thereby providing data for both the interactive display and to supplement local area networks. The display has been operational for several years and viewed by approximately 6,000 people per year.

Figure 1. A picture of the operational exhibit. Note footprints to show people where to “jump.”