**The Owl Pro**

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**Introduction**

This paper is an overview of the Owl Meeting Pro and a discussion of whether or not it should be used within public libraries. While the Owl Meeting Pro is expensive, over a thousand dollars in most cases, the technology itself has been helpful in different settings, such as in colleges and academic libraries. The Owl Meeting Pro is straightforward to set up, making it simple for patrons to use in a library with only five or six steps to set it up. It can also be used with various meeting platforms such as Zoom and Google Hangouts; it also supports different add-ons. Many reviews give mixed results on the Owl Meeting Pro technology. The following topics will be discussed to determine whether or not The Owl Meeting Pro should be used in public libraries. These topics will explain the technology, the claim for using technology in this case, and how it would benefit the library with evidence, a counterargument, and a rebuttal.

**Meet the Owl Pro**

The Owl Meeting Pro is a 360°-video conference camera from the company Owl Labs. Its enhanced video and audio features allow meetings to be more extensive and allow for a higher number of participants. The improved 360° camera has enhanced processing power, allows for up to 2X 360° camera with 1080p. It also has 360° speakers, microphones, and faster autofocusing. Another feature is intelligent meeting room capabilities, so when you add the Owl Meeting Pro in a conference room, your space is enabled for an intelligent ecosystem that sets you up with more features and productive applications. Some of its other capabilities are picking up audio at a range of 5.5m, plug-and-play setup, integrated “¼” tripod mounts, may be integrated with Teams, Zoom, Google Hangouts, Slack, GoToMeeting, and others.

This technology can be set up easily in libraries for study and meeting rooms. The first step is to position the Meeting Owl Pro within 6 feet of the intended speakers. Then plug in the Micro-USB and power cables in the ports located on the underside of the Meeting Owl Pro. Next, connect the USB cable into the host computer’s USB port and plug-in power. The Meeting Owl Pro will hoot when you press the power-on button. The next step is to sign in to your video conference platform and select the Meeting Owl Pro as your camera, speaker, and microphone if they are not already chosen automatically. The last thing is Meeting Owl Pro will scan the room for significant movement and voice activity. With the ease of this technology, all libraries could potentially benefit.

**Rationale**

**Evidence**

**Counter Argument**

I looked over some reviews on the Meeting Owl Pro to get some feedback on the cons when it comes to this unique camera. Some of the drawbacks for libraries on a tight budget is going to be the price tag of Meeting Owl Pro, since the device is $999, and with thinking ahead on any device, if any peripheral items need to be replaced, they also cost quite a pretty penny, along with any yearly subscriptions (Juniper, 2021) that may be needed to run the device on the different platforms that Owl Labs says that the Owl Pro works with. Looking over reviews on other issues that could be a pain for libraries is the set up may be easy, since the device is quoted many times as a “plug-and-play" compared to other cameras out there, there are some issues that come with easy, unfortunately. A big one that was found through a Reviewed article by Sara Hendricks mentions, “...the Owl is also highly dependent on the parameters laid out by Owl Labs. It works best when it’s completely unencumbered and placed squarely on a semi-elevated surface in the center of a meeting space. This doesn’t make it much different from most meeting cameras, but it made it, if not difficult, certainly not ideal to use in any space that wasn’t a traditional conference room” (Hendricks, 2019). This could put a huge damper on the potential great aspects of the device, since most libraries are not set up for conference rooms. When looking over the suggested range, Owl Labs had tips for the best experience for Meeting Owl Pro: “up to 8 ft (2.5m) from the Owl for best video performance” and, “up to 18 ft (5.5m) for best audio pickup performance” (Owl Labs, 2021). This might be the biggest issue with libraries who don’t have the extra spaces to meet these requirements. Another issue found by one of Hendricks’ coworkers is troubleshooting, “...the Owl has no pro tools for troubleshooting, which means it can be difficult for someone in an IT or support role to figure out what’s going on if the Owl isn’t working” (Hendricks, 2019). And that is only if there are any IT on staff to help with this issue, since some information organizations may not have the budget in payroll to keep an IT staff person on full time, which could really put the organization in a pickle if something is going wrong, and a meeting, conference or programming is being delayed due to these issues.

**Rebuttal**

**Conclusion**

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