

## What is the Difference between Virtual Exhibit and PastPerfect-Online?

Version 5:

PastPerfect provides two optional products for sharing your collections online. Each is designed with a different approach to sharing your collections on the Web. Here is a quick review of both products to help you decide which best meets your goals.

Both products provide an easy-to-use interface that guides you through the process of creating your site. They require no HTML knowledge for the user, so anyone can share their collection online. With both you can:

- Select the records and data fields you would like to have display on the Web.
- Automatically create low resolution images for the Web (leaving the original images in PastPerfect unchanged).
- Select to automatically watermark the online images.

But for all that they have in common; they are as different as night and day!

Virtual Exhibit (VE) is designed to share exhibits of your collection online, which allows the museum to tell a story and illustrate that story with catalog records. VE now uses Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) in the design of the Web pages. This enables you to customize the VE site to meet your needs. At the completion of its export process it creates the final HTML files. These files get hosted at your own Web server. You have the ability to create CDs and DVDs of your exhibits to share with patrons, educational institutions, etc. Virtual Exhibit is the fastest, easiest, and least expensive way to create online exhibit based on your PastPerfect data. Examples of Virtual Exhibit websites can be viewed at <http://www.museumsoftware.com/ve5.shtml>.

PastPerfect-Online (PPO) is for the museum that wants to share thousands, tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of records with the world. PPO has research tools that allow Web visitors to explore your collection in a multitude of ways. It is capable of searching and displaying results efficiently. It also has the option of having automated Web based email forms, so visitors can provide feedback, request image copies and share links with friends. Examples of PPO websites can be viewed at <http://www.pastperfect-online.com>. PastPerfect-Online sites are hosted on our Web server and pricing is based annually on the number of records you wish to upload.

Both products have advantages and disadvantages. VE is inexpensive with a one-time cost, while PPO has an annual fee for the hosting services. PastPerfect-Online provides advanced search tools but is not designed to set up structured exhibits. Virtual Exhibit allows you to tell a story by highlighting collections, but does not have the search capabilities. Using both tools together may be the best answer for a complete online presence.

If you have any questions, please contact our Support Office at 1-800-562-6080. Thank you for using PastPerfect!