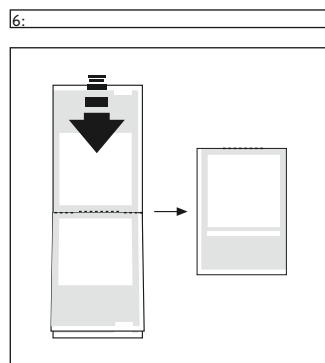
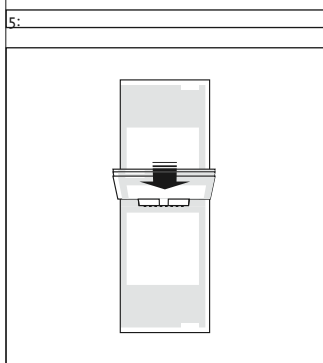
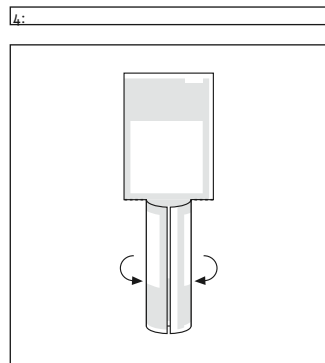
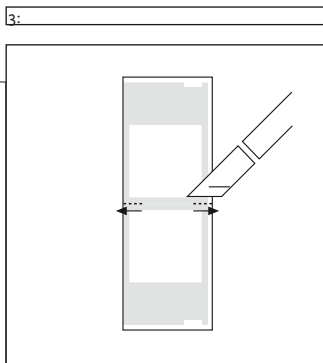
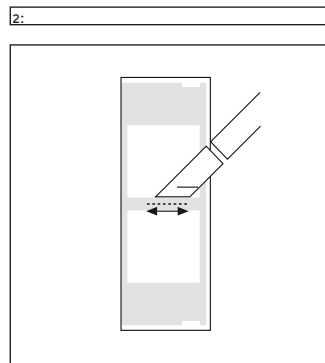
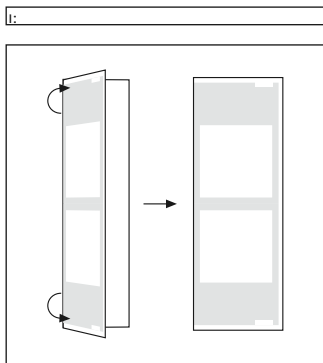


Construction



- 1: First, fold each A4 sheet in half along the vertical axis.
- 2: Using a craft knife or scalpel, cut a horizontal slot along the centre dotted line of the first A4 sheet. (pages 1/2/13/14)
- 3: Then cut along the dotted lines on all the other sheets. Make sure to cut to the very edges of the paper.
- 4: Stack the folded sheets in ascending order with the even numbers at the top. Curl the bottom half of the second A4 page (pages 3/4/23/24).
- 5: Thread the curled page through the centre slot of the first A4 page. Repeat this process with the third (pages 5/6/21/22), fourth (pages 7/8/19/20), fifth (pages 9/10/17/18), and sixth A4 sheet (pages 11/12/15/16) with the even pages in ascending order.
- 6: When all the pages have been threaded through, check the pagination. Finally, fold the booklets in half along the horizontal axis.

Team:
Gail Bradbrook
Kevin Harris
Paul Makepeace

We have a problem with a green space behind the houses. The kids are noisy and use it for a skate park. Some residents want to get rid of it, some want to be conciliatory, some want organic gardens. Others want a garden that's easy to move around in and no cat shit. Nobody came forward with a process until the local councillor appeared. He conducted meetings with local residents, met the kids as well...now that he's invested with all this knowledge he has to synthesise the views and distribute the results, plus provide an e-space for the sharing of views amongst residents. We also went on a study visit to another local garden to see how they resolved it. However we were then invaded by people from another area and they left condoms and needles in our garden so now we're going to have to secure it.

Housing & Neighbourliness Scenario
This group was tasked with imagining uses of public authoring within a social housing area to promote neighbourliness.



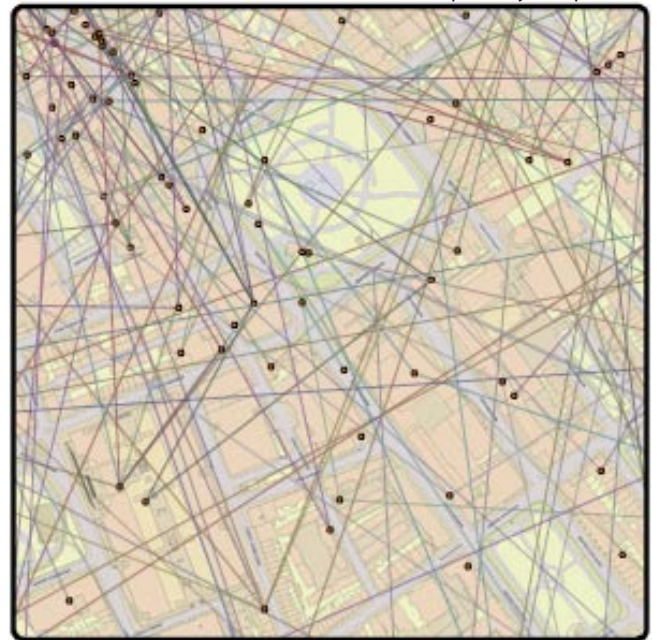
SOCIAL TAPESTRIES

**Social Tapestries Creative Lab
Event Documentation**

**London School of Economics
September 2004**

DIFFUSION

Snapshot of an Urban Tapestry
<http://trial.urbantapestries.net>





PROBOSCIS

The event was facilitated by:
Alice Angus, Giles Lane & Sarah TheWall of Proboscis

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Zoe Sujan, London School of Economics
Simon Ruffie, Digital Studios, University of Cambridge
Mike Marlow, Sound Events
Paul Makepeace, Realprogrammers
Jonathan Lavenhol, Imagination
Catherine Herman, independent researcher
Kevin Harris, Community Development Foundation
Mark Freeman, Ordnance Survey
Don Foresta, Marcel Network
Jennie Carroll, University of Melbourne
Gail Bradbrook, Citizens Online
Cindy Bartello, Learning & Skills Council

Participants

www.diffusion.org.uk

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www.urbantapestries.net/socialtapestries.html

Documentation by Giles Lane & Sarah TheWall

September 2004
Creative Lab Event Documentation
London School of Economics

SOCIAL TAPESTRIES

Introduction

As part of Proboscis' continuing research into social, cultural and creative implications of *public authoring*, a Creative Lab was organised at the London School of Economics. Creative Labs are small transdisciplinary events for brainstorming and bodystorming issues as part of a research process.

The Lab brought together a range of viewpoints and disciplines to explore the possibilities of the convergence of mobile technologies and geographic information systems. It explored and devised scenarios of actual uses of such systems and initiated some potential collaborations between participants.

The process of exploring and discussing these social and cultural issues and uses was:

- Introduction to the Social Tapestries research programme
- Social Tapestries imagine and discussion session
- Breakout discussions on key issues and group reporting
- Experience devising and roleplaying use-scenarios for specific communities
- Distillation of ideas from the day

This eBook documents the findings from the day.

* *Public Authoring* is the term Proboscis has adopted for the practice of people mapping and sharing local knowledge.

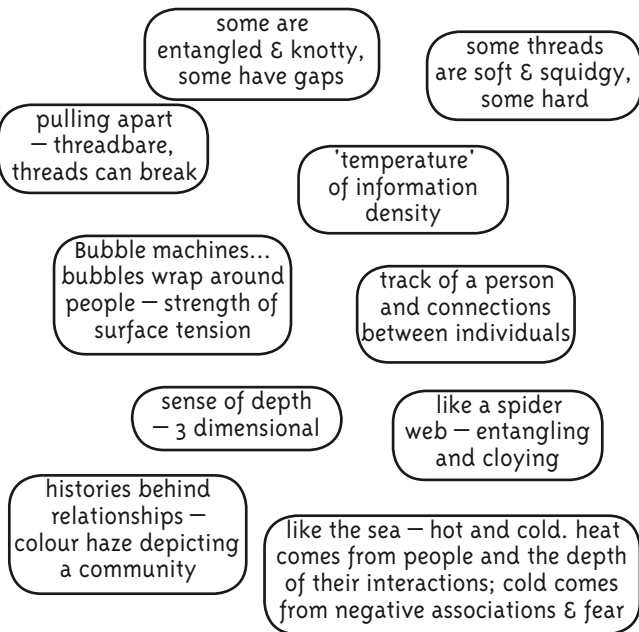




Imagine & Discussion

Imagine a Social Tapestry: what does it look like? what does it feel like? Who is part of it? what places or things are part of it? Does it have texture, taste or smell?

The participants came up with the following metaphors and visualisations:



Grassroots	national community orgs	central government	Public
local businesses	local businesses	local government	Private
community workers	local community groups	police services	national businesses
youth workers	utilities services	social services	transport providers
local residents	fire services	ambulance services	local residents
	schools & colleges	development agencies	

Stakeholders:

The final discussion also identified many of the key stakeholders for whom public authoring and social tapestries could add value to existing activities and services. It was also anticipated that new opportunities for knowledge gathering, mapping and sharing would lead to additional benefits and services across traditional boundaries between the grass-roots, private and public sectors.

Final Discussion: Key Stakeholders

- Group Discussion: Citizenship**
- Public Authoring presents an opportunity to develop active citizenship methodologies at a local level with a focus upon the specific development needs and changes of a particular geography – e.g. a subsection of a Local Authority area.
- The benefits of such methodologies would be:
- A recognition of experts within local communities.
 - Raised expectations by inhabitants of local services.
 - Micro-communities of users that learn & teach, work intergenerationally, share interests and present a transparent structure of participation and outcome.
 - Evidence of technology appropriation and reflecting variations vs. expected use
 - Local issues as the start point for active citizenship.
- The risks that would need to be countered include:
- Reduced confidence in a local authority should a project fail
 - Technology provision that would not be overloaded by a good uptake of a system
 - Any apathy relating to the futility of participation and wasted effort for little visible change
- For such methodologies to be successful the following would need to be in place:
- A local authority stakeholder leading a project
 - Institutional change enabling local participation and transparency of resulting improvements.
 - Learning loops within a system to enable grassroots development

Final Discussion: Key Benefits

The final distillation of ideas and concepts from the day outlined the three key benefits that the participants agreed that public authoring and social tapestries could bring to local communities:

Testimony

Public authoring provides a dynamic new way of valuing the local knowledges and experiences of communities, not only from an external point of view, but also for the individuals contributing themselves – a kind of self-validation and empowerment. This process of declaration and engagement could lead to a greater sense of people investing in their own environment and community along the lines of "I belong to and want to affect this place..."

Depth of Consultation

As a platform for broadening the catchment of opinions and input beyond the usual interest groups, it offers public agencies a much deeper consultative process enabling more considered thinking to filter back, not just initial thoughts (as public meetings often only result in). It also enables local organisations (like schools/colleges etc) opportunities to enrich links to the local community.

Visualising & Mapping Change

Public authoring also offers a unique opportunity to visualise and map (both visually and chronologically) how the actions and efforts of a local community result in short and long term change. This could lead to a greater understanding and sense of value for local people in the processes of collaborative action, documenting their own efforts as well as the improvements and changes they have enabled.

Team:
Jennie Carroll
Jonathan Lavenhol
Mike Marlow

We started a mapping campaign – do you know how many drug dealers there are and how much mess they make? If we (concerned residents) can map the problem then we can take it to the local council as evidence ... so that we show that money is required to improve things. In principle the Council agree that something needs to be done, they just don't know what or where. If we map the issues for a year that should be sufficient data upon which to develop plans. We propose a partnership operation with the local primary care trusts and the police. This mapping campaign is the first step towards positive actions to regenerate the area. We would also like a community lead policing scheme – residents could provide information to the police on the issues they are facing and the locations and details of problems. It could also be the mechanism through which the police respond.

This team was tasked to imagine uses of public authoring for local government, whether improving communications between citizens and councils or for improving support and services for council workers.

Government Scenario

Group Discussion: Urbanism

This discussion looked at issues that can be seen to be in flux or demonstrate considerable variations within the wide & overall definition of 'urbanism' and would need to be considered in the development of uses of public authoring.

The issues discussed were:

- The types of 'urban' such as: the dense West End where multiple sources of stimulus overlap each other, versus the uncertain and empty spaces which lack stimulus.
- The types of changes of 'urban' – topographic, social, economic, cultural.
- Positive and negative memories of 'urban' and how definitions have changed from Victorian slums and squares of town houses to modernist planner/architect dictated uses of space to loft living & gated communities.
- How individuals determine their markers of safety and use this as a radar mechanism to determine how comfortable they feel in a locality. Such markers are location specific and cannot easily be translated e.g. markers in Bloomsbury will be different to those in Hackney.
- What is 'authentic' urban vs. what is contrived?
- Tuning in and out – the things that interest you, the difference between a memory of a street and the photographic evidence of a street.
- The different memories of those who've lived in an area a long time vs. new entrants... and whether technology can assist in the development of trust.

Public authoring therefore has the potential to:

- Enable new and different voices to be heard
- Asynchronous & anonymous participation methods could appeal to quiet & introverted members of a community enabling them to be heard as easily as the loud & extroverted.
- Show how a single individual operates with multiple identities in various subsections of a community
- Create micro-communities with shared interests & activities – Use time differently
- so that participation is no longer an accident of place, so that memory is not lost if it is not recorded, so that the linear march of time is complemented with other perspectives that give a broader coverage and connect multiple understandings of single events.

Traditional methods for eliciting communication from individuals (such as a public forum, focus groups or interviews) offer only limited time windows and are biased in favour of extroverts. Alternative methods of soliciting responses from members of a community could be beneficial in obtaining responses from a wider range of inhabitants.

Public authoring presents new ways of communicating within a local community. An individual only has a visible presence to the community when they communicate with persons within or organisations that represent the community.



Team:
Cindy Bartello
Mark Freeman
Lucy Wood

We started by thinking of the sorts of postings an individual might make relating to education for adults perhaps? In this thread an individual was fed up with their career and wanted something more outdoors-ish. A local education worker has spotted this and has added a pocket to this thread on their adult education college saying that they are offering courses in gardening and funding to attend. By following the thread the individual was able to find out more. Then the residents nearby saw this and as they are revamping their community garden they offered him a job. Another thread related to evening lectures: there was a guest speaker giving a talk on Papua New Guinea. Johan wanted to go but needed a lift. Before putting up a pocket he needed to work out where to put it where others (who might be able to give him a lift) might see it. The location of the talk didn't make sense so he put the pocket on the British Museum and linked it to the location of the talk by the thread. He didn't want to put the pocket over his house as he didn't want others to know where he lived but he thought he'd put another pocket asking for a lift on a corner near his house so that those who go past this area might see it.

Education Scenario
This team was tasked with exploring the possibilities for using public authoring in education: from schools to local adult education and lifelong learning.

Group Discussion: Confluences of Thoughts

In discussing the issues raised in the groups the following common topics and key words became apparent:

Voices

different to those in public meetings, suited to those who communicate more slowly or might require assistance (e.g. those with learning disabilities, depressed, disenfranchised etc) offering a new parity between these groups and the 'usual suspects'.

Identity

sense of existence mattering if you have recorded your ideas and experiences, how identity empowers, declaring identity to others, how identity(ies) builds up/evolve, how people are perceived via their communications, why people take more care as they become visible in a community.

Agency

empowerment resulting from new voices being heard, new identities emerging and participation appreciated.

Making Sense

how to filter and make sense of:
an increasing volume of authored information, presences evolving over time, building up a past, persistent voices, shared memory, opportunity for variety & discussion, need for authenticity and how this is lost if there is no history.





Team:
Don Foresta
Catherine Herman
Simon Ruffie

Culture & Regeneration Scenario

This team was tasked with exploring the creative possibilities for public authoring – how arts and culture could be woven into improving the quality of our experiences of the local environment.

We skipped over a lot of the obvious institutions & activities such as linking information services or outputs from schools & museums, artists visiting schools etc. We did use it for proposing where public art might be cited and asking residents to respond by standing in places they'd like art, photographing sites and leaving comments in those places.

A mural was completed but the residents weren't consulted so they pissed on it – UT would enable the consultation next time. A great number of cultural events were organised and signposted via UT.

Introduction to Bodystorming Experience

Bodystorming Experiences are designed to assist in the demonstration and testing of ideas and concepts by simple and quick paper prototyping and role playing.

For this Experience the group divided into 4 teams, each role-playing a different kind of community or interest group. The participants used Post-it Notes to leave local annotations over a map of the Kings Cross/ Bloomsbury/ Holborn area of Central London. Through these imagined identities, the groups devised scenarios of use for public authoring technologies that addressed the local environment. The groups began by defining their own social and cultural boundaries and interests, then developed ways to interact across the map, building bridges and finding points and opportunities of contact (sometimes tension) between their imagined communities.

As facilitators, our key observation of this process was how easily participants took on and reinforced their group's identity, and how this quickly built up a barrier to 'outsiders'. The process was successful in demonstrating how easy it is to imagine tensions and areas of conflict between different communities and their interests, and just how hard it can be to create opportunities that bridge these differences in an open and collaborative way.

