



proboscis

Diffusion Shareables hybrid digital/material media for publishing-on-demand

Proboscis' *Shareables* are playful hybrid digital/material media tools for easily creating and sharing ideas and information, both visual and textual. Since 2000 Proboscis has been developing and using the two key tools – **DIFFUSION eBooks** and **StoryCubes** – across a range of projects and activities. Proboscis is now developing case studies and examples of their use through residencies with educationalists, community development workers, young people, writers and artists. To make them useable by people with no graphic design skills or access to professional DTP software we have created a prototype online web application – the **DIFFUSION Generator** – which allows people to create and share their own eBooks and StoryCubes.

Proboscis aims to develop the Generator into an open-source *publishing-on-demand* platform for the developing world and people with little or no access to traditional publishing technologies.

It offers some key benefits for this area:

- cheap paper publishing tools that can be distributed digitally via narrow or broadband
- shareable not only digitally but also through photocopying, by hand and postal distribution
- enables local knowledge to be recorded and shared both locally and globally
- ability to create paper eNotebooks that can be completed by hand then captured digitally and re-distributed as digital Shareables
- Shareables are both tangible, tactile objects as well as digital media – they can be made over again always retaining the essence of the handmade and personal touch

Some potential uses:

- locally created teaching and learning resources; stories, histories and poems; manuals and instruction booklets, health information booklets; picture albums; diaries and journals; newsletters; notebooks for workshops and fieldwork;

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Proboscis http://proboscis.org.uk	DIFFUSION eBooks http://diffusion.org.uk
StoryCubes http://proboscis.org.uk/storycubes	DIFFUSION Generator http://diffusion.org.uk/generator



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