

One-to-one training often included a brief tour of the Virtual Summit Web site and instructions on the resources available and how to navigate the site to take advantage of the currency of the material.

Invitations were sent out to a select group of organizations in developing countries to host regional workshops, which could develop skills, and content that could contribute to the Summit in an organized formal manner. Unfortunately, largely due to the short time available these workshops did not happen as planned. There were however informal contributions to the Summit from overseas but these necessarily had less impact than a more organized input.

Web Cafe use

The Web cafe was used heavily except outside of regular day and evening hours. There were frequently queues of participants waiting for an available terminal. On many occasions, groups of individuals worked at a terminal together, collaborating on their particular project. After the first day of the Summit, terminal time was sufficiently sought after that notices were posted on each terminal with suggested time restrictions for each user.

The terminals were used to research information and view sites of organizations working on associated issues. Many of the sites visited with information on the Summit and related issues were available as links from the Virtual Summit Web site. The terminals were also used design documents that were later put up on the Summit web site.

Daily activities and reports were sent, by out of town participants, to home groups and input received toward future positions. The configuration made it simple to send Web page and background documents by email.

The computers of the Web Cafe were also used extensively as word processors for composing and producing daily reports. These documents were printed for proofing etc. and also submitted for publication via email.

A shared laser jet printer was installed to spool and produce printed material from all the terminals. Much of the material printed was either reports and writing of participants or printed versions of material found on the Web that could be read at leisure away from the terminals. Documents from those not able to attend were on occasion printed for copying and distribution.

Vancouver Community Network complemented it's provision of help and assistance to participants with a display and information table where participants could register for email accounts, get help or learn more about the role of Community Networking in the public sphere

Problems

More formal and structured workshops would perhaps have worked well if they were integrated into the Summit schedule and publicity at the planning stage. As an addition to the wide and interesting range of People's Summit activities there was