

Web presence with key statements, addresses, phone numbers and contact people being available information to all.

Issue forum groups who were in contact with the Web designer prior to the Summit, were helped to develop their online resources and given one-to-one assistance both designing and writing their Web page. A wide range of Internet literacy skills was evident in the non-profit sector groups participating.

Reports

Each day volunteer reporters attended a wide range of Issue Forum talks, events and discussions. Short readable articles were produced for editing in the evening. Also reports from the Forums were gathered where available along with administration notices and changes to the schedule. These were compiled into a regular daily Communiqué that was made available in both print and Web format by the next morning. Ten regular daily Communiqués were produced and published both on paper and online through the duration of the Summit. These allowed participants to have a plain accessible overview of the previous day's activities at hand throughout the day as a reference tool. The simultaneous Web publishing and posting to the Listserv of the Communiqué made it accessible worldwide and available as a resource for groups and individuals wishing to contribute to the discussion and Summit in general but without the resources to attend.

The Virtual Summit Web site continues to be hosted by Vancouver CommunityNet and will act as a resource and available archive up until the next summit. Final reports of the Issue Forums and other Summit related activities are continuing to be posted as they are compiled and forwarded to Vancouver Community Network. The resultant archive of documents and links is permanent resource available more widely than the printed copies could ever be.

Conclusions

The key constraint to meeting the goals of the Virtual Summit project was one of time. While time constraints had an impact on many of the activities or both the People's Summit and Virtual People's Summit, they were most evident in organizing training workshops, especially the proposed regional workshops which were not realizable as originally conceived. Instead, regional electronic involvement in the People's Summit was on an individual and group initiated basis and was less formally structured. Local capacity building workshops would have more likely been realized if they were integrated with the Summit as a whole from the initial planning stages. Instead, the capacity of local and regional groups and participants was increased through the activities and more informal learning of people constructing their Web presence or using the Web Cafe.

On a more positive note the Web Cafe was a resounding success, it was used continuously, was able to fill most participant needs and was complimented by most of those who used it. The same can be said for the daily Communiqués. A highly motivated team was able to produce a clean, informative and attractive publication both on paper and online with a twelve hour turnaround. The Virtual Summit Web site also provided and will continue to provide important information. The activities, discussions and