

insufficient interest to warrant these special activities. Instead participants were intent on solving their more immediate problems with the medium. The conference was focused on civil participation in discussions around APEC. This participation was of primary concern to participants.

Lack of knowledge of the software package or general forgetfulness meant that many participants left their email configuration and files on the terminal after they had finished working. The next user would often change the configuration to meet their needs but the terminals accumulated personal email throughout the Summit. These personal documents were available for any participant to peruse. This could be solved by a combination of reconfiguration and education.

Simple instruction and resource sheets provided with each computer would have enhanced a wider and more extensive use of the online resources available at the Web Cafe. Even while the Virtual Summit home page was located on the screen of each terminal, many participants did not understand it's use or relevance until they were shown.

There were a few requests from participants to link their own laptop computers to the temporary network, we were unable to do this simply. If two or more ports were configured so that people with their own laptop computers could have utilized the Web Cafe without adding to the resources needed some of the peak period congestions would have been relieved.

Email list

Listservs allow a group of individuals separated by considerations of space and time, but connected by a common interest, to maintain a space to discuss and develop individual and collective ideas. Email sent to the People's Summit on APEC listserv `apexforum-l` was forwarded to all those who had actively subscribed to the list.

The listserv was particularly important prior to the Summit for information and registrations, and for those who reside outside of North America where the World Wide Web is not so accessible. The contents of the listserv often mirrored that of the web site so as to provide a simple text accessible version of the Summit proceedings.

Email messages to the list included background documents, opinion pieces, current articles published elsewhere, registration and Summit information, discussions of APEC issues and other related discussions.

Listserv archive

Vancouver Community Network implemented and installed an archiving mechanism to the `apexforum-l` listserv. The messages sent to the list were subscribed to and automatically archived to as consecutively numbered set of simple Web accessible documents. The archived messages were not stripped of their headings and addressing information so the source and contact information of each message would be transparent to researchers.

The listserv archive is located at <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/summit/doc/> and contains