

INTERNET ON THE OUTSTATION


THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
AND REMOTE
ABORIGINAL
COMMUNITIES

ELLIE RENNIE,
ELEANOR HOGAN,
ROBIN GREGORY,
ANDREW CROUCH,
ALYSON WRIGHT &
JULIAN THOMAS

THEORY
ON
DEMAND

A SERIES OF READERS
PUBLISHED BY THE
INSTITUTE OF NETWORK CULTURES
ISSUE NO.:

19



Theory on demand #19

Internet on the Outstation:

The Digital Divide and Remote Aboriginal Communities

Internet on the Outstation provides a new take on the digital divide. Why do whole communities choose to go without the internet when the infrastructure for access is in place? Through an in-depth exploration of the digital practices occurring in Aboriginal households in remote central Australia, the authors address both the dynamics of internet adoption and the benefits that flow from its use. The book challenges us to think beyond the standard explanations for the digital divide, arguing that digital exclusion is not just another symptom of social exclusion. At its heart, *Internet on the Outstation* is a compelling examination of equality and difference in the digital age, asking: Can internet access help resolve the disadvantages associated with remote living?

Internet on the Outstation is the result of a multi-year research collaboration, which included a trial of internet infrastructure, training and maintenance in three small Aboriginal communities (known as outstations). During the research phase, Ellie Rennie, Eleanor Hogan and Julian Thomas were based at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research in Melbourne. Robin Gregory and Andrew Crouch worked at the Centre for Appropriate Technology, an Indigenous-owned research and training organization in Alice Springs. Alyson Wright worked for the Central Land Council, the representative body for traditional owners of the central Australia region.

Printed on demand

ISBN: 978-94-92302-07-6

Institute of
network cultures