



Community characteristics & orientation

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Instructions

Research the community you are most interested in exploring using links from the UN Sustainable Goals website (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>) and others. In your exhaustive research, answer the following.

Community characteristics		
Community life-cycle (current state)		
Where is your community in its life-cycle?	What you need to focus on:	Special needs
<input type="checkbox"/> Just forming Need basic tools to connect, but not sure from there	Research and/or discuss the potential of some basic tools with members, explore what ideas it might give them, and see what they might bring in with them.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-designing Information stage, but with a strong sense of what it wants to accomplish	Contribute ideas to the design. Analyze systematically the implications of their community design for technology, infrastructure, and technology skills.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growing & restless Ready to add new functionality to its tool configuration	Try to make this a community reflection and self-design event. Does their restlessness suggest a major change, such as a transition to a new platform?	In more developed countries the gay community fairly developed and are a fully self-designed. Members of this community are struggling to keep up because of the harsh treatment they receive by their environment. The gay community as a whole is restless as they are all trying to function equally, but with major deviation on environments.
<input type="checkbox"/> Stable and adapting Just needing some new tools	How much disruption will the community tolerate? How will the new tools be integrated into or affect existing practices?	
Constitution		
Diversity: How diverse is the community?		
Topic	Your notes	



What are the different types of members and what are their levels of participation?	<p>The types of members are pretty diverse. To group the community in different levels of participation.</p> <p>Questioning – low levels of participation.</p> <p>Closeted – High levels of participation in a private setting or in a setting separate from their personal setting. This sub group may expect medium to low participation level during in-person public settings.</p> <p>Out – High levels of participation.</p>
How spread apart is it in terms of location and time zones?	This community is worldwide. Therefore, time zones are wildly varied. Live communication/participation will only be accessible for a subsection of this community.
What language(s) do members speak?	This community may use multiple languages as it will encompass all of the members worldwide. Majority of the members do speak or understand English.
What other cultural or other diversity aspects may affect your technology choices?	Homosexuality is looked down upon in some cultures. User interface should have a unique colour scheme and design to stand itself individual.

Openness: How connected to the outside world is your community?

Topic		Your notes
How much do you want to control the boundaries of your community? Does your community need	<input type="checkbox"/> To be private/secure <input type="checkbox"/> Open boundaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both private & public spaces	Homosexual men needs both private and public spaces because the community members are at different stages of comfort regarding to their expressions. Public spaces are needed to share learning experiences.
How does your community need to interact with other communities? Do you need common tools for sharing and learning with them?		Again this is varied. In developed countries homosexual men does not need a special way to interact with other communities besides common orientations. Those members who are less fortunate would need to repress their identity. Common tools for sharing is almost essential to interact with other communities.

Technology aspirations

Technology savvy, tolerance, & constraints: What are your community's technology interests and skills and patience thereof? What are the constraints imposed by technology factors?

Topic	Your notes
How interested is your community in technology?	Very interested. It is almost an integral part of the community.
What is their capacity for learning new tools?	Their capacity for learning new tools is medium. By this I mean they are good at adopting tools that contain low to medium complexity.
What is the range of skills? If their interests and/or skills are diverse, could it cause conflict or distraction?	The range of skills and interests are diverse. This could cause some distractions in a sense of audience retention. A design may be TOO catered to homosexuality and can cause others to turn away.



How tolerant are members of the adoption of a wide variety of tools?	Not very tolerant. Members can be accustomed to different tools in a medium amount of time sequentially.
How many technological boundaries are they willing to cross, e.g. sign in to more than one web-based tool, learn to use new tools, or give up old favorites? This helps you understand what level of integration you need.	They are very sensitive to technological boundaries. I would say at max one boundary such as signing in. If an implementation of an auto log in that would be better. They hate learning a bundle of new navigations and software conventions.
What are your members' technology constraints (e.g., bandwidth, operating systems, etc.)?	Majority of the members have a strong affinity to Linux based operating systems (Apple ecosystems) simply because of the strong user experience that apple offers.
How much time are members able to be online and from where (office, home, field)? Some people have limited online time, or are able to be online only in specific locations. Others are always on. Very diverse situations can affect participation	<p>This community is mostly connected to the internet majority of the time. The device that they mostly use are mobile devices.</p> <p>Majority of the community connect to other members in a leisurely fashion to build casual relations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this scenario members are online in a personal (home) or social settings (public spaces).

Community orientation

Relevance to community: Use the range from 0 (no relevance) to 5 (high relevance) to determine what matters most to the community. Look at these from the perspectives of the different types of members (under "constitution"). Also discuss the "value-added" to each member group

0	1	2	3	4	5	Orientations	Variants	Key activities/your notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meetings Many communities place a great emphasis on regular meetings where members engage in shared activities for a specific time. Meetings, and the visible participation of members, assert the community's existence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face/blended <input type="checkbox"/> Online synchronous <input type="checkbox"/> Online asynchronous	This orientation is varied on the sub culture apparent in their settings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open-ended conversation Some communities maintain ongoing conversations as their primary vehicles for learning. Open-ended conversations are common when a community is co-located and people keep the conversation going as they "bump" into each other.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single-stream discussions <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-topic conversations <input type="checkbox"/> Distributed conversations	This orientation exists in this community in a form of single-stream forum posts.



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Projects In some communities' members want to focus on particular topics, go deep, and collaborate on projects to solve problems or produce useful artifacts. Learning is not just a matter of sharing knowledge or discussing issues. Members need to do things together in order to develop their practice. Projects usually involve a subgroup within the community	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice groups <input type="checkbox"/> Project teams <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instruction	This orientation exists only in the space of activism sub groups. I will not focus on this subgroup
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Content Some communities are primarily interested in creating, sharing, and providing access to documents, tools, and other content. Valuable and well-organized content is a useful resource for members	<input type="checkbox"/> Library <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structured self-publish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open self-publish <input type="checkbox"/> Content integration	This orientation is in the form of social media post and other informal shared media.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to expertise Some communities create value by providing focused and timely access to expertise in the community's domain, whether internally or externally. Communities with this orientation focus on answering questions, fulfilling requests for advice, or engaging in collaborative, just-in-time problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/> Questions & requests <input type="checkbox"/> Access to experts <input type="checkbox"/> Shared problem solving <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge validation <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship & mentoring	Majority of the community does not have access nor seeks this orientation. This orientation takes place as seeking advice from wiser members.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relationships Some communities focus on relationship building among members as the basis for both ongoing learning and being available to each other. This orientation emphasizes the interpersonal aspect of learning together. Communities with this orientation place a high value on knowing each other personally, emphasizing networking, trust building, and mutual discovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecting <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing about people <input type="checkbox"/> Interacting informally	This is the main device of orientation for this community. However, it is stunted on established social stigmas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual participation Learning together happens in the context of a group, but it is realized in the experience of individuals. People bring different	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Levels of participation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personalization	This orientation is prevalent as majority of the members learn from introspection after learning from experiences.



						backgrounds, communication styles, and aspirations to their participation in a community. People have different levels of commitment, they take on different roles, and they use tools differently	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual development <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-membership	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community cultivation Some communities are happy with loose self-organization and unplanned evolution, while others thrive on attention to community cultivation. They have a need to reflect on the effectiveness and health of the community to make things better, joined with a willingness to work on it	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic governance <input type="checkbox"/> Strong core group <input type="checkbox"/> Internal coordination <input type="checkbox"/> External facilitation	This community is too broad too have a strong community core
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Service context In some cases, serving a specific context becomes central to the community's identity and the ways it operates. They may live inside an organization, whose charter their practice needs to serve. They may have a mission to provide learning resources to the world or to recruit members widely. Or they may seek interactions with other communities whose domain complements their own	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization as context <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-organizational <input type="checkbox"/> Other related communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public mission	This is mostly prevalent in activism subcultures.

Scratchpad (other interesting insights, questions/answers, etc.)

The community of interest is homosexual men. There are large sub groups within this community (such as activists, less fortunate homosexual men). Unless stated, these responses are catered to non-activist members who are in more welcoming environments.