Community Informatics Assignment 2: Case study

In a small team, carry out a case study of a public computing site and bring a team write-up (roughly 10 pages) and oral presentation to class. Due Wednesday, July 27.

The ten sites have agreed that you can come and learn from and about them and they have a copy of this assignment. A list of sites will be provided and assignments made to each team.

You will use methods of observation, participation, interview, and questionnaires as appropriate to learn about your site. Expect to visit the site at least three times, once at the beginning to introduce yourselves to your site contact and work out a schedule for your research visit or visits, and once at the end to show your contact your draft report and get his or her feedback and suggestions.

Topics to learn about and to cover in your report include:

1. Identity (name of the site, public presentation or manifestation)
2. Context (physical and social environment)
3. History (when established, by whom, key moments of growth or change)
4. Organization (the social organization of the site: who is the staff and what is their expertise, academic or work background)
5. Structure (the physical and network resources of the network: hardware, software, location, spatial size and layout, hours)
6. Process (how do they attract users/customers? Is there an intake process? Is there a fee? What services are delivered?)
7. Users (who uses it? How many people over the period of a week?)
8. Utility (what do people use it for?)
9. Policy (what is the government or other policy governing this site)
10. Sustainability (what sustains the site? To what extent is it stable?)

We encourage the use of photography and videography, where feasible, to help the report and the class presentation come alive.