



Extending the impact of Free Knowledge Communities involves growing the number and range of people and communities which share the vision and values, and inspiring action.

Invitation

- Join us on an exciting journey into the world of free knowledge
- to facilitate and catalyse the bid by the developing world to be part of the emerging free knowledge society, and
 - to enable citizens to empower themselves with knowledge for a better and sustainable quality of life.

Free Knowledge resources may be indicated by including the following logo and link on the web site, page or other knowledge resource.



By attaching this emblem I confirm that all associated content is free in the sense described, and is supplied, and may be used in the spirit intended.



Forthcoming Events

21-23 September: Free Knowledge Communities 2: Synergies among existing and new initiatives (tertiary education focus)

30 November - 2 December:
Free Knowledge Communities 3: Consolidation and Synthesis - proposals.

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URLs
<http://communities.libre.org>

"We should never forget as a community that we are the vanguard of a knowledge revolution that will transform the world. We are the leading edge innovators and leaders of what is becoming a global movement to free knowledge from proprietary constraints." Jimmy Wales.

Free Knowledge Communities

Libre Communities

Free Knowledge, Free Culture

Knowledge for All, Learning for all

Enabling communities to empower themselves with
knowledge towards wisdom

Cultural Liberation

Libre Resources

Libre implies freedom to access, read, listen to, watch, or otherwise experience the resource; to learn with, copy, perform, adapt and use it for any purpose; and to contribute and share enhancements or derived works.

Libre Communities Manifesto

We value:

- the members & their diverse perspectives
- the libre resources produced and the associated freedoms
- the ability of communities to collaborate on managing the quality of shared resources
- the opportunity this freedom offers for networked communities to make a difference collectively, towards a sustainable world.



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science and technology
Department of
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EMBASSY OF FINLAND
Local Cooperation Fund
Human Rights and Democracy

- 1 "Explicit knowledge" is knowledge that has been captured in a form representable on a computer (e.g. text, sound, video, animation, executable program, etc.).
- 2 Free as in freedom and free speech: <http://gnu.org/>
- 3 To be developed during the workshops in 2005.

About Libre Communities

In Africa, and much of the developing world, access to knowledge is limited on account of a lack of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure and connectivity; low levels of literacy and awareness of what is available and how to utilise it, and a lack of localised and locally relevant resources.

The initiative strives to lower the barriers by providing basic building blocks to enable communities to empower themselves with knowledge, and develop a free culture.

The initiative augments efforts to provide access to ICTs in developing countries by convening international workshops for targeted collaboration, supporting priority projects addressing gaps in free knowledge and cultural resources and offering pedagogical support and collaboration facilities.

Ultimately, it will be possible for anyone, anywhere, to gain or provide the knowledge required for any purpose through access to knowledge on the web or via a CD or other media.

The initiative stimulates, facilitates and catalyses the growth of communities of shared knowledge to feed innovation systems, and enable a wiser global networked society.

The initiative promotes a holistic sustainability ethic, highlighting social, economic and environmental concerns, and expresses this vision through related initiatives and events. Ultimately, the emergent communities sustain themselves through natural life cycles.

A full concept document is available on request, outlining the principles behind the initiative, the project design and approach, and a framework for participation and collaboration.

Building Blocks

To meet the needs in the developing world, the initiative enables access to localisable frameworks on how to:

- read (in a chosen language)
- access libre resources
- use office software
- localise existing and create new libre resources
- share these resources
- use modern e-learning environments
- collaborate with others in learning, knowledge generation, application and cultural development, and
- select free software for these purposes.

Operating Principles

- Freedom
 - openness and transparency
 - free access to explicit knowledge
 - free licensing
 - open formats
 - free software
 - freedom of association
- Open standards
 - permitting freedom of technology choice (now and in future)
 - diversity (of implementations)
 - co-opetition (balance cooperation and competition)
 - ease of implementation and human readability
- Quality
 - peer review
- Collaboration
 - address the gaps and facilitate synergies among similar initiatives
 - collaborative decision making
 - individual and community empowerment
- Sustainability Ethic (economic, environmental, social long-term, quality-of- life ideals).

Outcomes

Contribute to:

- raising levels of literacy and computer literacy in the developing world
- lowering barriers to certification and qualification
- achieving wider access to free/libre and open source software
- creating easily accessible, locally relevant and localised knowledge resources
- enabling informed, knowledge-enriched collaborative decision making and action.

Impact

- Re-emergence of a culture of collaboration and sharing for the common good in society
- Universal adoption of a strong community-based sustainability ethic
- Establishment of a knowledge society equipped to partake effectively in shaping the future
- Enhanced innovation, general knowledge and 'commons sense' at all levels leading to enhanced quality of life
- Sustainable development through wise decision-making and community action.

Realising the vision

- A Strategic Funders Forum prioritises⁶ and supports projects and activities which:
 - establish or extend the basic building blocks (above), and other relevant knowledge resources
 - accelerate successful use of free software and free knowledge in capacity building
 - catalyse minimally invasive interventions⁷ which facilitate free knowledge communities
 - facilitate and enhance institutional collaboration
 - support on-going activities such as monitoring, evaluation and research.
- Establish nodes to support free knowledge communities, generally using existing infrastructure
 - ingredients of a successful node and its communities:



- Provide the required building blocks (above) - a portfolio of projects.
- Facilitate and catalyse championship in education institutions, and public, private and civil organisations.
- Convene workshops to facilitate the type of collaboration required to realise the vision.
- Engage national education authorities, policy makers, organisations and other stakeholders.

⁶ Prioritisation seeks to maximise impact with keen sensitivity to sustainability.

⁷ e.g. <http://www.digitaldoorway.co.za/> and <http://www.globalvision.org/program/how/how.html>