

Digital Habitats Community Orientation Spidergram Activity

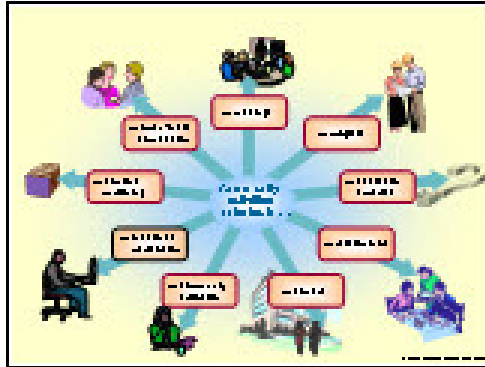
From: Digital Habitats: stewarding technology for communities
Etienne Wenger, Nancy White & John. D. Smith
2009

<http://www.technologyforcommunities.com>

This activity comes out of a chapter in our book that looks at the activity orientations of communities of practice and how this might drive both the technology stewardship and the overall community nurturing and leadership activities.

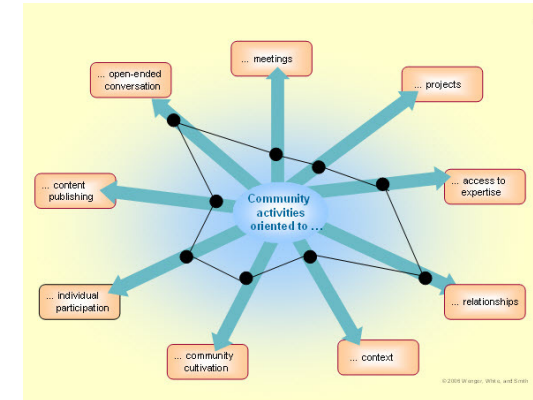
Base material from: Digital Habitats: Stewarding technology for communities
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Community Orientations

what do they mean?



- **Meetings** – in person or online gatherings with an agenda (i.e. monthly topic calls)
- **Projects** – interrelated tasks with specific outcomes or products (i.e. Identifying a new practice and refining it.)
- **Access to expertise** – learning from experienced practitioners (i.e. access to subject matter experts)
- **Relationship** – getting to know each other (i.e. the annual potluck dinner!)
- **Context** – private, internally-focused or serving an organization, or the wider world (i.e. what is kept within the community, what is shared with the wider world)
- **Community cultivation** – Recruiting, orienting and supporting members, growing the community (i.e. who made sure you're the new person was invited in and met others?)
- **Individual participation** – enabling members to craft their own experience of the community (i.e. access material when and how you want it.)
- **Content** – a focus on capturing and publishing what the community learns and knows (i.e. a newsletter, publishing an article, etc.)
- **Open ended conversation** – conversations that continue to rise and fall over time without a specific goal (i.e. listserv or web forum, Twitter, etc.)

What can we do with this?

- Identify where your community is now to assess for community facilitation and technology stewardship.
 - Refocus activities to increase engagement
 - Identify tools and processes to support activities
- Identify where your community wants to go as a planning tool.
- Look backwards and forwards as a reflection tool.

Community Name:

... meetings

... open-ended
conversation

... projects

... access to
expertise

Put a mark on the arrow to indicate how important a particular orientation is to your community. The more important the orientation, the further out on the arrow the dot should be placed. Then draw a line between the dots. See the next example.

activities
oriented to ...

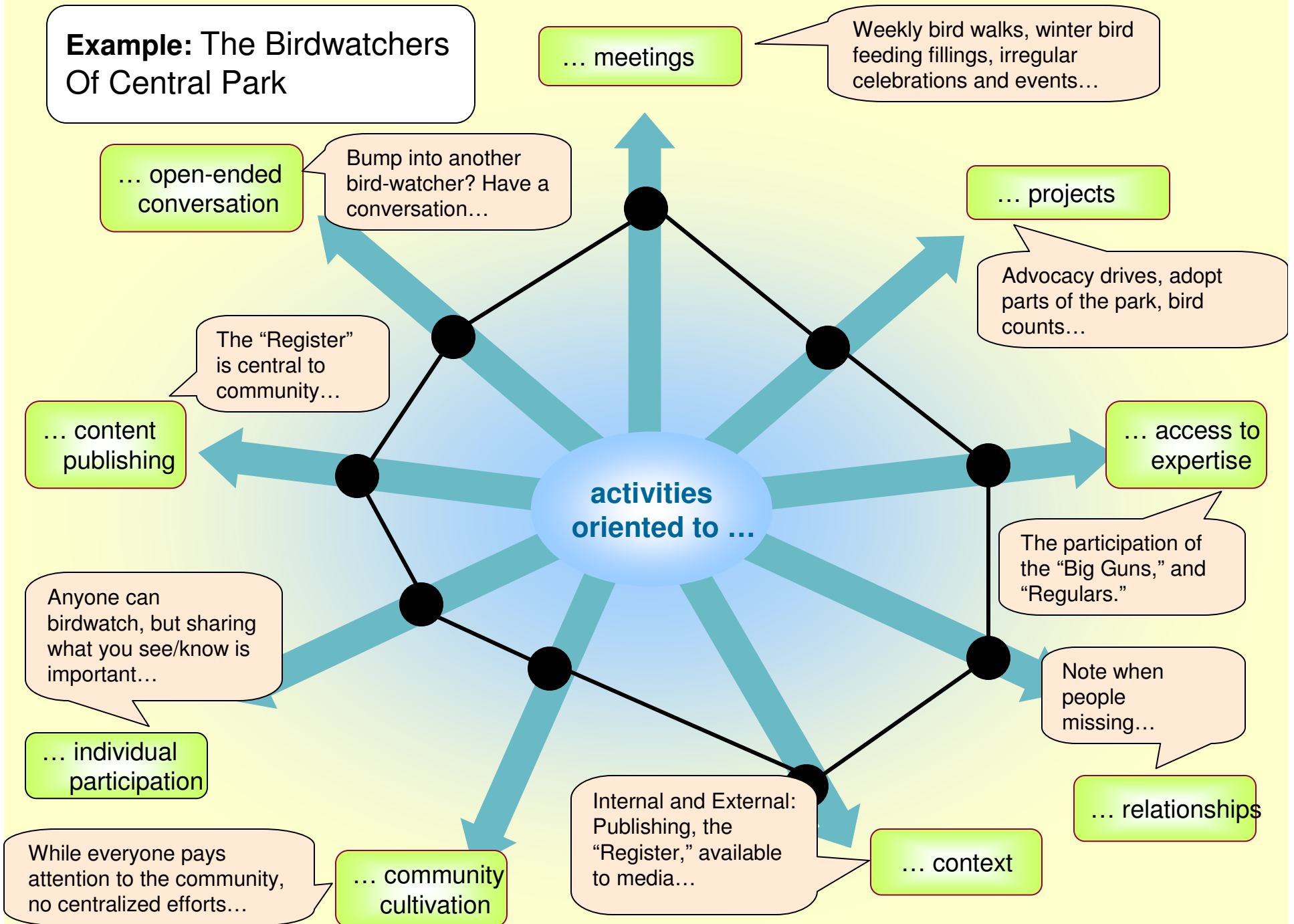
... individual
participation

... community
cultivation

... context

... relationships

Example: The Birdwatchers Of Central Park



Community Name:

... meetings

... open-ended
conversation

... projects

... content
publishing

... access to
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activities
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