ApTIVATE   Ethical IT for International Development

[www.aptivate.org/lobandreport](www.aptivate.org/lobandreport) - are you part of the bandwidth divide?

Meetup

BRIGHTON DIGITALFESTIVAL

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## worldPub Discussion Groups – Host/Table Guide

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worldPub discussions are a slightly irreverent and informal variation on established learning group ideas of *worldCafe* and *knowledgeCafe* groups, adapted for a UK evening networking event context – the pub…  The idea is to facilitate small groups in having engaging and interactive discussions around a theme, harvesting common ideas for the larger group, and helping identify potential opportunities for collaboration.

### The setup:
- Discussions take place at different tables, with ideally no more than 6 people per table (7-8 at a push, more than this tends to inhibit free and open discussions)

### The process:
- Each table identifies 2 or 3 questions related to the event theme that they wish to discuss
- These questions are tackled in progressive rounds of 15-20mins each (longer if desired)
- People should feel free to move around between questions, or at any feet (in the OpenSpace tradition) or stay in one spot, whatever they feel gives them the most from the discussions

### The role of the table host:
- Facilitate *brief* introductions at the start and whenever new people join their table
- Tease out and agree the 2-3 questions for discussion at your table
- Write each question at the top of its own big piece of paper
- Keep everyone talking, try to include everyone at the table
- Encourage everyone to write their thoughts and ideas and suggestions on the paper (or capture things on their behalf if they forget!)
- Encourage people to discuss their own work in the spirit of identifying potential collaboration opportunities
- Keep time – move the group on to new questions or if the discussion is faltering

#### + Harvesting:
- Ensure key themes from discussions are captured (write explanations/summaries on the back in biro if need be)
- Ensure key collaboration opportunities are captured too, with relevant contact person
- Stick the sheets up around the room
- Matt will collect the sheets at the end of the night and write-up and circulate/blog

**worldPub Discussion Groups – Question ideas around Participatory Technology?**

worldPub discussions are a slightly irreverent and informal variation on established learning group ideas of **worldCafe** and **knowledgeCafe** groups, adapted for a UK evening networking event context – the pub…

After the introduction and lightning talks, it is likely you will have loads of questions of your own, which is great!  However, if you are struggling to think of questions to discuss, here are some ideas that might inspire you…

- How do you stop participatory methods being taken over by the loudest voices and the most powerful people/groups?

- How can you make sure everyone can participate effectively – especially the poor, the marginalised, the shy/scared and so on?

- What can you do to make those in power *listen to* and *act upon* what the people participating are saying and demanding?

- Is taking part in a pre-defined process/project *really* participation?

- How do access to technology and 'the bandwidth divide' issues affect people's ability to participate?

- When is technology the problem rather than the solution?