

CI Lab Notes

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Prairienet and community networking: An annotated bibliography

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This Lab Note is a working bibliography, prepared as part of a book we are researching and writing about Prairienet. Other authors include Paul Adams, Ann Bishop, Karen Fletcher, Greg Newby, and Martin Wolske. Prairienet is the 15-year-old electronic community network in Champaign, Illinois initiated by faculty at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. The book project formed part of the graduate-level course LIS490CIC Community Informatics Corps, taught in Spring 2008 by Kate Williams.

In preparing the bibliography, we looked for books, journal articles, dissertations, and national, regional and local newspaper articles. Searches were done in the library catalog and databases at the University of Illinois. Search terms centered on "Prairienet" and "community network." To turn up additional items, Personal contacts were made and footnotes followed.

[gb] indicates books available on Google Books. [pdf], [htm], and similar indicates file formats for items found in databases or online. Quote marks indicate where annotations include text from the item itself. Resources are coded according to how much they discuss Prairienet and related organizations or individuals. Small superscript numbers indicate: ¹item focuses only or in depth on Prairienet or related individuals; ²item mentions same; ³item makes no mention of same, discusses community networks or related phenomena.

This bibliography is a work in progress; if you know of missing items, we would appreciate hearing from you at the address below.

Books

²Bajjaly, S. T. (1999). *The community networking handbook*. Chicago: ALA Editions. A how-to for libraries on collaborating with community organizations, providing access to electronic information, and making the library a favored access point; mentions Prairienet as a resource. [gb]

²Battle, S. L., & Harris, R. O. (1996). *The African American resource guide to the internet and online Services*. New York:

McGraw-Hill. Guide to finding Internet services specifically for African Americans; mentions Prairienet as a resource.

¹Bishop, A. P., & Van House, N. A. (2003). *Digital library use: Social practice in design and evaluation*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Research studies on digital libraries and from social and technological perspective. What do DLs mean to users? First chapter co-authored by Ann Bishop; includes discussion of Afya project.

- ³Bruce, B. C. (2003). *Literacy in the information age: Inquiries into meaning making with new technologies*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association. Discusses how to prepare students for living productively in the digital age and what learning experiences can best prepare students for achieving literacy. [gb]
- ¹Butler, M. A., & Kingma, B. R. (1996). *The economics of information in the networked environment*. Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries. Discusses issues of access and cost. Contains articles on contemporary librarianship and the operating costs of digital librarianship; includes an article by Ann Bishop that discusses PrairieNet. [gb]
- ²Campbell, D. R., & Campbell, M. (1995). *The student's guide to doing research on the internet*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co. Instructional guide for students doing research; mentions PrairieNet as a resource.
- ¹Christensen, K., & Levinson, D. (2003). *Encyclopedia of community: From the village to the virtual world*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Discusses different concepts of community and a variety of subjects; mentions the PrairieNet and the PrairieKNOW project. [gb]
- ³Cohill, A. M., & Kavanaugh, A. L. (1999). *Community networks: Lessons from Blacksburg, Virginia*. Boston: Artech House. Case study on Blacksburg, VA.
- ¹Consalvo, M., & Association of Internet Researchers, Internet Research Annual. (2004). *Selected papers from the Association of Internet Researchers*. New York; Oxford: Peter Lang. This is a "Best of" for papers presented at the first three conferences of the Association of Internet Researchers; contains a research paper on PrairieNet.
- ¹Contractor, N., & Bishop, A. P. (2000). Reconfiguring community networks: The case of PrairieKNOW. In T. Ishida & K. Isbister (Eds.), *Digital cities: Technologies, experiences, and future perspectives* (pp. 151–164). Berlin; New York: Springer. [pdf]
- ²Drake, M. A. (2003). *Encyclopedia of library and information science*. New York: Marcel Dekker. Reference book covering a variety of topics; mentions PrairieNet in the context of the SisterNet project. [gb]
- ³Durrance, J. C., & Pettigrew, K. E. (2002). *Online community information: Creating a nexus at your library*. Chicago: American Library Association. A how-to guide for librarians on using the Internet to provide digitized community information to local audiences. Describes methods, hands-on tools, and best practices developed in libraries for building a community information site. Contains case studies of other community info sites and discusses research by PrairieNet co-founder Ann Bishop. [gb]
- ²Hales-Mabry, C. (2003). *Cooperative reference: Social interaction in the workplace*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press. A librarian's guide to working with co-workers, patrons, and outside organizations; lists PrairieNet as a "notable" library-supported community information network. [gb]
- ³Hick, S., & McNutt, J. G. (2002). *Advocacy, activism, and the internet: Community organization and social policy*. Chicago: Lyceum Books. Does not specifically mention PrairieNet, but discusses the internet as a tool for instigating social change and how technology affects communities. Written from a social work perspective.
- ¹Ishida, T., & Isbister, K. (Eds.). (2000). *Digital cities: Technologies, experiences, and future perspectives*. Berlin; New York: Springer. Contains a variety of community network case studies. Contains article by Ann Bishop and Noshir Contractor entitled Reconfiguring Community Networks: The Case of PrairieKNOW. [gb]
- ²John, N. R., & Valauskas, E. (1994). *The internet troubleshooter: Help for the logged-on and lost*. Chicago: American Library Association. How-to guide for navigating the internet; mentions PrairieNet and other Freenets as resources.
- ³Khosrowpour, M. (2006). *Cases on the human side of information technology*. Hershey, PA: Idea Group Pub. Case studies on how organizations have handled human issues in IT; purpose is to assist educators and employers in creating IT policy; includes an article by PrairieNet co-founder Greg Newby. [gb]
- ³Marshall, S., & Taylor, W. (2003). *Closing the digital divide: transforming regional economies and communities with information technology*. Westport, CT: Praeger. Contains case studies of how technology improved economic, social, cultural, and political conditions in a number of vastly different communities; no mention of PrairieNet. [gb]
- ²Molz, K. R., & Dain, P. (1999). *Civic space/cyberspace: The American public library in the information age*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Examines the challenges and opportunities presented by technologies, public policy, the economy, and cultural trends. Contains interviews, reports, and surveys of libraries discussing their role in the emerging national information infrastructure. PrairieNet is listed as a "notable" library-supported community information network. [gb]
- ¹Pea, B. (1995). *The PrairieNet companion: The essential new user's guide to PrairieNet*. Champaign, IL: Andrew Pea & Co. The PrairieNet handbook.
- ³Schuler, D. (2006). *New community networks: Wired for change*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co. Outlines the development, design, and implementation of community networks. Also contains case studies of successful community networks.
- ³Schuler, D., & Day, P. (2004). *Shaping the network society: The new role of civil society in cyberspace*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Describes how communities can use technology to overcome their challenges, and discusses the importance of focusing on community partnerships that engage researchers and activists. No mention of PrairieNet; may have other community networking examples. [gb]
- ²Seiter, C. (1994). *The internet for Macs for dummies*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. An instruction manual for novice Macintosh users of the internet; mentions PrairieNet as a resource.

²Servon, L. J. (2002). *Bridging the digital divide: Technology, community, and public policy*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub. Discusses problems of unequal access to IT in the U.S.; has a chapter on CTCs and Prairienet is listed on a timeline as part of a Freenet wave in 1993. [gb]

³Thioune, R. M. (2003). *Information and communication technologies for development in Africa*. Ottawa, ON; Dakar, Senegal: International Development Research Centre; Dakar: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa. Discusses the operation and effects of telecenters in Africa (Prairienet is involved in ctc-like initiatives in Africa). [gb]

²United States Department of Education. (1994). *Strong families, strong schools: Building community partnerships for learning*. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Education. Discusses community building from an education perspective; Prairienet is briefly mentioned as a member of a parent's organization. [gb]

Journal and conference proceedings articles

¹Bishop, A. P. (1999). Making digital libraries go: Comparing use across genres. *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Digital Libraries*, 94–103. [pdf]

¹Bishop, A. P., et al. (1999). Information exchange networks in low-income neighborhoods: Implications for community networking. *Proceedings of the ASIS Annual Meeting*, 36, 443–449.

¹Brennan, P. F., et al. (1991). The use of home-based computers to support persons living with AIDS/ARC. *Journal of Community Health Nursing*, 8, 3–14.

¹Casting a wider net. (1997). *American Libraries*, 28, 25. Describes the award of a TIAAP grant to Prairienet. [pdf]

¹ERIC/EECE's Internet services. (1995). *Emergency Librarian*, 03158888, 22. Describes how to use Pnet to access ERIC articles. [pdf]

¹Greene, C. (1996). A good trowel on the World Wide Web. *Horticulture*, 74. Describes the Garden Gate, an information resource on Prairienet. [pdf]

¹Kwon, N. (2002). Influences of demographic characteristics of community network users on their perceptions and use of the network. *Proceedings of the ASIST Annual Meeting*, 39, 326–336. [pdf]

¹Kwon, N. (2005). Community networks: Community capital or merely an affordable internet access tool? *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 56, 812–823. [pdf]

¹Kwon, N., & Onwuegbuzie, A. J. (2005). Modeling the factors affecting individuals' use of community networks: A theoretical explanation of community-based information and

communication technology use. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 56, 1525–1543. [pdf]

¹Kwon, N., & Zweizig, D. L. (2006). Use of community information and communication technologies (ICTS): Explaining the use of community networks with demographic factors, psychological factors, and alternative service accessibility. *Library Quarterly*, 76, 81–106. [pdf]

¹Newby, G. B., & Bishop, A. P. (1996). Community system users and uses. *Proceedings of the ASIS Annual Meeting*, 33, 118–126. [pdf]

²Pettigrew, K. E., et al. (1999). Approaches to studying public library networked community information initiatives: A review of the literature and overview of a current study. *Library and Information Science Research*, 21, 327–359. [pdf]

¹Richter, B., & Fischer, M. J. (1995). Public domain. *NetGuide*, 2, 157–158.

²Savolainen, R. (1998). Use studies of electronic networks: A review of empirical research approaches and challenges for their development. *Journal of Documentation*, 54, 332–351. [pdf]

²Yu, L., et al. (1999). Community networking: Development, potentials and implications for public libraries. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 31, 71–83.

Theses and dissertations

Quote marks indicate excerpts from theses or their abstracts.

³Avis, A. W. (1995). *Public spaces on the information highway: The role of community networks*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Calgary. [pdf]

³Cho, H. (2006). *Explorations in community and civic bandwidth: A case study in community wireless networking*. Unpublished master's thesis, York University. This thesis attempts to gain insight into recent proliferation of what it calls "urban Community Wireless Networking." It uses an "ethnographic, case study approach" by interviewing members of Wireless Toronto, a CWN group.

³Clark, N. E. (1998). *Give us this day our daily bits: Rebinding the local community on the Internet*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Iowa. [pdf]

³Fedak, H. (2007). *Connecting virtual communities and geographic communities: Toward a new path of journalism in Bluffton, South Carolina*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Kansas. "With the advent of the Internet, the spread of citizen journalism and changing revenue models, print newspapers are struggling. As a result, they've had to innovate and adapt to the changing conditions." The author looked at "why the organization started the online and print products, what the organization was trying to achieve with those efforts, how it measured the results, and how the Web site's citizen bloggers view and use the community network." [pdf]

- ³Glaser, J. F. (2000). *The roles and competencies of community network practitioners*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Texas A&M University. [pdf]
- ³Guy, N. K. (1996). *Community networks: Building real communities in a virtual space?* Unpublished master's thesis, Simon Fraser University. (Full text not available from Proquest.) [htm, abstract only]
- ³Herwick, M. S. (2001). *Shaping public access technology: The development and use of a metropolitan community information system*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Portland State University. [pdf]
- ¹Lastra, S. (2006). *Making sense of community informatics: The development and application of the Community Event Research Method*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This dissertation attempts to accomplish the research goal of designing a community Information and Communication Technology (ICT) system for a diasporic community in a major U.S. urban city. [pdf]
- ³Longan, M. W. (2000). *Community and place in cyberspace: The community networking movement in the United States*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Colorado at Boulder. [pdf]
- ³Luke, R. A. (2005). *The hidden curriculum of Web portals: Shaping participation in online networks*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Toronto. "This thesis examines several types of web portals, and theorizes the informal learning commensurate with a public pedagogy of popular culture." [pdf]
- ¹Kok, A. J. (2003). *Situated evaluation of an interorganizational collaboration*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. [pdf]
- ¹Kwon, N. (2002). *Modeling the factors affecting individuals' use of community networks: A survey exploration of community information and technology use behavior*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison. [pdf]
- ¹Mazzini, R. (2004). *A content analysis of activist group use of dialogic tools on the World Wide Web*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of South Florida. "This study is a quantitative content analysis of activist groups' use of dialogic tools on Web sites. The study was done in order to understand how activist groups use the Web to communicate with their publics in comparison to for-profit corporations." [pdf]
- ³McDonald, M. D. (1995). *The public health communications toolbox: The role of the intelligent network and the sciences of complexity in advancing health and human prosperity*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of California-Berkeley. [pdf]
- ¹Merkel, C. B. (2002). *Uncovering the hidden literacies of "have-nots": A study of computer and internet use in a low-income community*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. [pdf]
- ³Morgan, J. C. (1997). *Community ties and a community network: Cupertino's computer-mediated CityNet*. Unpublished master's thesis, San Jose State University. [pdf]
- ¹Pinkett, R. D. (2002). *Creating community connections: Sociocultural constructionism and an asset-based approach to community technology and community building*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As community technology and community building initiatives move toward greater synergy, there is a great deal to be learned regarding how they can be mutually supportive, rather than mutually exclusive. This thesis sheds light on the possibilities inherited at this nexus. [pdf]
- ³Prell, C. L. (2003). *The design and diffusion of a community networking technology, and its relationship to social capital*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. [pdf]
- ³Roberts, R. A. (1996). *The diffusion of innovation: Dualities of one electronic free community network*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Oregon. [pdf]
- ³Ryan, E. A. (1996). *Creating a rural community network: A case study*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of New Brunswick. (Full text not available from Proquest.) [htm, abstract only]
- ³Strickland, C. (1998). *In the shadow of the sacred mountain. The intersection of technology and community development: An ethnographic case study of creating a community network in Taos, New Mexico*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, The Fielding Institute. [pdf]
- ³Thomas, C. D. (1991). *Exploring community empowerment, in planning practice and theory, through a community computer network: A case study of the Seattle community network through the eyes of three fictional characters*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Manitoba. [pdf]
- ³Thompson, P. A. (1997). *Toward a public lane on the information superhighway: A media performance analysis of the Community-Wide Education and Information Service Initiative*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Utah. [pdf]
- ³Virnoche, M. E. (1999). *Communications equity and information technology: A study of a community network and the experiences of the groups that it served*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Colorado at Boulder. [pdf]
- ¹Webb, P. R. (1998). *Computing cultures: Information technologies and narratives of self*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Includes a chapter on Prairienet. [pdf]
- ²Williams, K. H. (2005). *Social networks, social capital, and the use of information and communications technology in socially excluded communities: A study of community groups in Manchester, England*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Michigan. "This study investigates grassroots community groups in low-income or (more specifically) socially excluded areas using information and communications technology (ICT) and the social ties that support their ICT use."

How and to what purpose do groups not expected to use ICT—because they are formed from ‘digitally divided’ populations—in fact do so? Who or what helps them use it?” [pdf]

³Wivagg, J. R. (2002). Communications technology and community research in the community network planning process: A case study of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Baylor University. [pdf]

²Wright, L. M. (2005). The rise and fall of community networking in the United States. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison. [doc] full text not available in Proquest

National newspapers

³Farah, Samar. (2001, February 6). Black history gives depth to high-tech lessons. *The Christian Science Monitor*. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2001/0206/p16s1.html>. Last week, 30 students were the first to graduate from the Martin Luther King Jr. After-School Program in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood. The result of a partnership between Harvard University and the Ella J. Baker House, run by the local Azusa Christian community, the program gives children from some of the city’s poorest, largely minority areas access to a computer, the Internet—and African-American history. Think Microsoft PowerPoint meets Reconstruction. [pdf]

³Fleishman, G. (2006, January 19). Advocates of wi-fi in cities learn art of politics. *The New York Times*. [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/19/technology/circuits/19wifi.html?sq=Addressing more than just the building of a sort of ad-hoc vigilante wi-fi network, this newspaper article explores one community’s attempt to get everyone to participate and help to install wireless in their homes and businesses to share access. The politics thicken as large corporations attempt to prevent this from happening.](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/19/technology/circuits/19wifi.html?sq=Addressing%20more%20than%20just%20the%20building%20of%20a%20sort%20of%20ad-hoc%20vigilante%20wi-fi%20network,%20this%20newspaper%20article%20explores%20one%20community’s%20attempt%20to%20get%20everyone%20to%20participate%20and%20help%20to%20install%20wireless%20in%20their%20homes%20and%20businesses%20to%20share%20access.%20The%20politics%20thicken%20as%20large%20corporations%20attempt%20to%20prevent%20this%20from%20happening.) [pdf]

³Greenman, C. (2000, May 18). Life in the slow lane: Rural residents are frustrated by sluggish web access and a scarcity of local information online. *The New York Times*. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F01E5DA163AF93BA25756C0A9669C8B63&scp=4&sq=%22community+network%22&st=nyt>. This article gives many testimonials to the limitations of broadband for those that live in rural communities. It also references several solutions, including the Mendocino Community Network, which offers free service to nonprofit organizations to better help disadvantaged groups connect to the web. [pdf]

³Long, W. R. (1999, March 4). For neighborhoods in many cities, virtual community centers. *The New York Times*. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9500E1D61E3CF937A35750C0A96F958260&scp=16&sq=%22community+network%22&st=nyt>. A Denver company called E.Central is offering neighborhoods in 11 metropolitan areas access to an internet tool that residents can use to communicate among themselves and with local governments. The system, which is called Neighborhood Link (www.neighborhoodlink.com), sets up online neighborhood websites that include web pages for the neighborhood association and for other groups and individuals,

as well as areas for notices and announcements, newsletters, interactive discussions and links to various city officials and departments. It’s all easy to use and free. [pdf]

³Paton, D. (2000, August 07). Western town goes from timber to telecommuting. *The Christian Science Monitor*. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2000/0807/p3s1.html> The story of a small community of Forks, Washington, and their plan to embark on a high-tech makeover that will include the local school district, hospital, telephone company and a program from Washington State University. The effort has been dubbed the ‘Integrated Community Network’ and focuses on enabling townspeople to expand their horizons and help provide jobs. [pdf]

³Schwartz, J. (2002, October 30). A lack of money forces computer initiative to close. *The New York Times*. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E05E4D7123FF933A05753C1A9649C8B63&scp=13&sq=local+%22digital+divide%22&st=nyt>. When Stephen M. Case, then the chairman of America Online, and many other high-technology executives announced an initiative called PowerUP less than three years ago, they said that their donated millions would help bridge the “digital divide” between rich and poor. Unfortunately now it is time for transition and all of the previously sponsored centers will need to become self-sustaining. [pdf]

Regional newspapers

³Anderson, H. J. (1990, January 21). Meeting by modem—Hinsdale South and soviet students get to know each other bit by byte. *Chicago Tribune*. How the development of translating system for keyboards on Mac helped connect two different worlds—the Soviet Union and the U.S. [pdf]

³Associated Press. (1991, September 22). Peorians make connections with computerized calendar. *The Pantagraph*. Reports on one of four other community computer networks in the nation—all in Ohio—but Heartland is the only independent one. The others are owned by a university, hospital, library or telephone company. [pdf]

³Associated Press. (1996, January 26). Churches praise benefits of putting word on the web. (1996, January 26). *Chicago Tribune*. Champaign churches use networks for outreach. [pdf]

³Balz, D. (1986, May 30). Signing on to the world of the computer bulletin boards. *Chicago Tribune*. Before there were community networks, there were the community billboards. This is the story of Chicago’s very own bulletin board believed to be the first and developed by two men on the North Side. [pdf]

³Blankenhorn, D. (1990, March 18). Bulletin boards buck viruses, hackers become an industry. *Chicago Tribune*. The selling of bulletin boards, precursor to subscriber internet. [pdf]

³Blankenhorn, D. (1992, November 8). Computer bulletin boards cross line from hobby to business. *Chicago Tribune*. Profit becomes entangled in what was considered a free and public service. Businesses see potential. [pdf]

³Eckert, T. (1995, October 17). Heartland paves electronic path to Springfield. *Peoria Journal Star*. Adding Springfield to the community networks allows the network to someday add state governmental access to documents, etc. to citizens for free over the web. [pdf]

³Finnegan, L. (1993, September 18). Gore cites Peoria computer network—Vice president calls heartland Free-Net part of information revolution. *Peoria Journal Star*. Gore talks about the virtues of the Free-Net system and heralds Peoria's model. [pdf]

³Fitzpatrick, M. (1999, January 11). Web towns refocus sites in the early '90s, community networks went on-line but had little real direction, and many failed. Today, scaled-down versions give residents information they can use. *Chicago Tribune*. How technologies were replaced, yet there were still areas where information could be disseminated from “the ground up.” [pdf]

³Herrmann, A. (1995, March 18). Religion finds its niche on the internet. *Chicago Sun-Times*. Northwestern journalism students and the religion bulletin boards that spawned across the campus. [pdf]

³Lilley, V. (1998, August 25). Heartland being run by network of volunteers online information provider still sees a need for its services. *Peoria Journal Star*. Volunteers help keep the service free, as despite the lack of activity, there are still users who depend on the service of the free community network. [pdf]

³McCracken, D. (1993, November 21). Plugged-in artists—the wave of the future: If you can't join'em modem. *Chicago Tribune*. How artists in the Chicago area stay connected within their discipline on bulletin boards and chats. [pdf]

³Miller, M. (1992, December 14). Computer vandal takes byte out of heartland Free-Net: Student keeps 'cracker' from doing too much damage to files. *Peoria Journal Star*. University of Illinois student rescues the Free-Net from a hacker. [pdf]

³New program opening nearly 80 new doors for heartland users. (1994, February 27). *Peoria Journal Star*. Program grants easier access to the Free-Net in Peoria. [pdf]

³New York Times News Service. (1986, August 8) Computer information systems are the party line of the future. *Chicago Tribune*. Reports on an electronic club with hundreds of members globally. [pdf]

³Peters, T. (1993, October 4). Spinning “Webs of personal relationships in cyberspace.” *Chicago Tribune*. Reports on the highlights of the Virtual Village known as the bulletin board. [pdf]

³Reid, T. R. (1992, August 2). Welcome to the expanding “Network Nation.” *Chicago Tribune*. Reports on the expansion of bulletin boards and how it is connecting people. [pdf]

³Smothers, M. (1994, October 28). Heartland Free-Net to change name—Central Illinois computer network will make announcement Tuesday. *Peoria JournalStar*. More on the name change that allowed the network to stay independent. [pdf]

³Smothers, M. (1994, November 2). New name, service for computer system. *Peoria Journal Star*. The actual name change takes place and Peoria distances itself from the Free-Net genre, while still remaining free to the public. [pdf]

³Sulski, J. (1990, November 18). Crackdown on crime is raising question of computer rights. *Chicago Tribune*. The question of what can be freely exchanged over the bulletin boards is raised in this article. [pdf]

³Sulski, J. (1990, November 18). The rise of bulletin board systems. *Chicago Tribune*. Details the proliferation of the bulletin board system and how computers connect. [pdf]

³Taylor, M. (1991, January 7). Users say computer network is muzzling their give-and-take. *Chicago Tribune*. The fight for what can be said and at what price services should be granted on bulletin boards begins to rear its head. [pdf]

³Vogrin, B. (1991, September 26). Peoria model for computer network—Heartland Free-Net enjoys great success during first 18 months. *Peoria Journal Star*. Peoria's Heartland Free-Net was the first independent Free-Net in the U.S.; this article is an update after 18 months. The others were in Ohio and run by various agencies. This was completely grassroots. [pdf]

³Wickert, D. (1994, November 29). Let your fingers do the picketing//Cat strike takes to info highway. *The Pantagraph*. How the free community network changed the public domain for many members of a rural community and how information was passed from one user to another. The internet community was as vibrant as the actual town. [pdf]

³Witmer, Stephen. (1994, October 11). Heartland computer system expands—Grants provide funds for added phone lines, more hard disk capacity. *Peoria Journal Star*. Reports on move to allow the Free-Net greater mobility and the desire not to join the Ohio Free-Nets and instead remain independent. [pdf]

Local newspaper (The News-Gazette, Champaign, IL)

²Cook, A. (1999, January 2) These seniors make themselves at home. *The News-Gazette*. Circle of Friends adult day care center provides services to senior citizens, including community networking via Prairienet-donated computer. [pdf]

¹Kline, G. (1997, December 7). Casting the net for new computer users. *The News-Gazette*. Prairienet hosts discussion forums to encourage community participation. [pdf]

¹Kline, G. (1998, March 24). Prairienet offers dialogue about area via newsgroups. *The News-Gazette*. New “newsgroups” service allows Prairienet users to exchange community information. [pdf]

¹Kline, G. (1998, April 23). Look for whole new look for Prairienet. *The News-Gazette*. Prairienet to offer graphical browser in addition to text-based interface. [pdf]

¹Kline, G. (1998, August 31). Organizations team up to teach computer basics. *The News-Gazette*. Community Networking Initiative offers training and computers to local residents; overseen by UI, PrairieNet and Urban League. [pdf]

²Kline, G. (1998, September 30). New Web site offers social services data. *The News-Gazette*. With help of PrairieNet, Carle releases HelpSource Web site, offering health care and social services information. [pdf]

¹Kline, G. (1998, October 7). PrairieNet hopes to raise \$100,000 by end of year. *The News-Gazette*. Ads planned to get necessary funds. Various services discussed. [pdf]

¹Kline, G. (1999, May 14). Lakeside Terrace on 'wired' list. *The News-Gazette*. 1 Community Networking Initiative [PrairieNet] plans to place 1,000 computers in needy homes and to set up 10 public access sites. [pdf]

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The CI Lab organized a December 2007 test-drive of the new XO laptops at Champaign Public Library Douglass Branch, guided by software developers from the College of Education. Join campus and community experts and others at our third eChicago symposium, April 2-3, 2009.

The Community Informatics Lab is a research facility opened in January 2008 in order to study the interaction of local communities and information technology in the tradition of the bench sciences, with a physical lab space for multiple projects. Its goal is to perfect current methodologies and develop new ones. Current projects include eChicago (ethnic communities and technology use), TOP Data Archive (creating and using an archive of 600+ community technology projects), eBlack (creating and using two online datasets regarding African American Illinois and African American Studies), Pnet 15 (reviewing the 15 year history of PrairieNet), and Community Technology on Earth (coding and analyzing documented instances of community technology).

The CILab looks forward to becoming a research tool available for faculty and students studying local communities or carrying out research in local communities. We welcome inquiries and visits from across the university, the state, and beyond. A Wednesday night pot luck dinner during the semester is open to all.

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