

Abstract

North East Telecentre (NETC) Regional Network Portal

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The NETC Regional Network Portal is a regional medium for local and global participation in regional economic, community and cultural cooperative development.

The Regional Network Portal integrates:

- * awareness, training and technical support
- * public and private access to online services
- * participation and content development.

The Portal has a "community technology interface" to facilitate online:

- * inquiry / research
- * web reading / web writing
- * network / cooperate / aggregate
- * interact
- * transact

Community based Regional Network Portals are unprecedented phenomena to locally manage change, and define new directions for rural and regional communities:

- * reflect a "new space" where self-defining regions are the flip side of globalisation
- * large undertakings - cooperative development across several local governments
- * holistic - interactive blending of sectors and interest groups to cooperatively develop "productive sustainable communities of interests and habitats"
- * new networking culture
- * not for profit / loss community management and ownership
- * interface with three tiers of government

Community based Regional Network Portals will prosper in synergistic alliances with the government and corporate sectors in meeting new challenges for information economies:

- * global and urban / regional competition
- * research and strategic planning
- * awareness and training
- * establishment of Electronic Service Delivery - three tiers of government assistance involving complex compliance issues

- * establishment of locally beneficial e.commerce
- * appropriate infrastructure and technologies

Community based Regional Portal Networks need to combine local self-reliance with cooperative aggregation and mutual support in the community networking sector.