

Mapping community connections

Workshop on practice & potential

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Tasmanian ACE Conference 2006

Introduction

- The basic technique
- Underlying assumptions
- Participant experience
- Presenter's experience
- Uses in research literature

Particular usefulness

- Delineating learning sites
- Conceptualising networks
- Identifying sample populations of learners
- Identifying the nature of linkages
- Identifying how organisations interact
- Quality assurance ('qualitative auditing')
- Other uses?

Networking and learning theory

- Social capital (networks, trust, reciprocity, collaboration, shared norms)
- Learning & social capital
- Competition and collaboration
- Conflict theory ('blockages')

The basic diagram (Handout A3)

- Outwards from one source/ organisation
- Links (by their strength)
- Competition
- Blockages
- Other organisations and linkages
- Preserving geographical relativities
- Identifying discontinuities
- Including isolates
- Try it ... *with A3 sheet, two colours*

Elaborations

- Separating internal & external links (bridging & bonding social capital)
- Using standard check lists for different themes and organisational types
- Triangulating and validating using other starting points or diagrams

Questions

- What do the diagrams mean?
- Are they replicable?
- What are their strengths?
- Limitations & weaknesses?
- Improvements & elaborations?
- Examples of application?
- Are they the method or only a part of it?
- Other questions?