

7 Resources

This section includes

- a Useful books, software and organisations
- b Using written or printed material
- c Using the Internet

a Useful books, software and organisations

Books

Judith Bell (1999) **Doing your research project: a guide for first-time researchers in education and social science**

Published by Open University, £12.99

Martyn Denscombe (1998) **The good research guide: for small scale social research projects**

Published by Open University, £14.99
Two excellent introductions.

Martin Hawtin, G Hughes and Janie Percy-Smith (1999) **Community profiling: auditing social needs**

This recently updated publication clearly and concisely clarifies the terms community needs assessment, community consultation, social audit and community profile. It takes the reader through planning the profile, involving the community, making use of existing information, collecting new information, survey methods and collating presenting information. It emphasises the importance of publicising your profile.

Published by Open University Press, £15.99

All three titles are available from Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN. T: 01235 465500 or you can order online at www.openup.co.uk

Laurie Bidwell and Sue Sadler (1999)

Rural community appraisal handbook

This handbook is aimed at rural communities in Scotland who want to carry out a community appraisal: a survey carried out for the community by the community. It includes advice on whether carrying out a survey or

appraisal is for you, how to get the issues out into the open, developing questionnaires for your survey and what to do next.

Available from Rural Community Development Training Partnership, Room C, 102 Northern College, Dundee Campus, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1NY at £10 inc p&p

Mental Health Foundation (2000)

The DIY guide to survivor research

This guide arose from the Mental Health Foundation's Strategies for Living project. It draws on the project's experience of providing training in research methods.

It is written and presented in a straightforward and accessible style and covers: beginning research, steps in research design, different research methods, planning research, interview skills, questionnaire design, data analysis, using the Internet, running focus groups and further reading.

Available from Mental Health Foundation, 20-21 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QL. T: 020 7535 7400, £30 plus £1.40 p&p





New Economics Foundation and Groundwork UK (2000) **Prove it! Measuring the effect of neighbourhood renewal on people**

Tips on carrying out environmental evaluation, taking as examples the impact of Groundwork's Barclays SiteSavers projects. The handbook describes a method of measuring the effect of community projects on local people, on the relationships between them and on their quality of life. It involves local people in both choosing the indicators and collecting data.

Available from Groundwork UK, 85 Cornwall Street, Birmingham B3 3BY. T: 0121 236 8565. A limited number of free copies are available.

Operational Research Society (1998) **Community works**

This volume brings together 26 reports showing community operational research in action. Includes: helping groups and organisations run smoothly; getting the information you need and making sense of it; financial and business planning; planning a campaign; working with other groups and organisations; and evaluation.

Available from ORS, Seymour House, 12 Edward Street, Birmingham B1 2RX, T: 0121 233 9300, £5.50 plus £2 p&p

Julia Stock and Robert Drake (1999) **Data sources for social researchers**

Lists key sources of information and statistics in the UK and elsewhere. Sources cover education, health, social security and disability. Includes a good listing of Internet sites.

Available from Hazeldene Press, 9 Coedelyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA7 9DS, £10 inc p&p

Scottish Centre for Voluntary organisations (1999) **Inside research: a guide to secondary sources in the UK**

Provides basic pointers towards sources of statistical information in the UK. Includes both print and web resources.

Available from SCVO, 18-19 Claremont Crescent, Edinburgh EH7 4QD, T: 0131 556 3882, or online at www.scvo.org.uk/research/Inside.inside

Service First, Cabinet Office (1998)

How to consult your users: an introductory guide

Covers why you should consult, how to make consultation work, choosing the right approach and evaluating your consultation. Methods described include making use of users' comments, meetings and discussions, quantitative surveys, written consultations, presentations and using IT. There are suggestions for further reading, useful contacts and a list of top ten hints.

Available through the Stationery Office (Mail order, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN, T: 0870 600 5522 or www.the-stationery-office.gov.uk)

Software

Compass for Windows

A software package which helps you profile communities and assess the needs of areas. With Compass you can design your own questionnaires, input data, analyse your findings and produce graphics for reports

Available from PRI, Leeds Metropolitan University, Bronte Hall, Beckett Park Campus, Leeds LS6 2YY, T: 0113 283 1749, compass@lmu.ac.uk

Village Appraisals

This software is a questionnaire generation and analysis program. It produces a questionnaire for village, parish or community appraisals and analyses the results.

Available from Countryside and Community Research Unit, Frances Close Hall, Swindon Road, Cheltenham GL50 4AZ. T: 01242 544083

SPSS

A statistical analysis package, useful for analysing quantitative data.

Available from SPSS (UK) Ltd, 1st floor, St Andrews House, West Street, Woking, Surrey GU21 1EB. T: 01483 719201, sales@ssps.co.uk

Pinpoint

Pinpoint helps with questionnaire design, data collection, survey analysis and graphing and charting.

You can download a free working model from www.longman.net/pinpoint or contact Logotron, 124 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 4SZ. T: 01223 425 558. Costs around £500.

QSR NUD*IST

A tool for coding and analysing large amounts of qualitative data, especially in-depth interviews.

For more information on this package, see www.qsr.com.au

CommunityWISE

A CD-ROM containing the ARVAC library database with examples of community research, Community Abstracts (from the libraries of Community Development Foundation and other organisations).

Available on annual subscription (4 issues) from Oxmill Publishing, Croudace House, 97 Godstone Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6RE. T: 01883 343000, info@oxmill.co.uk





Organisations

ARVAC

2d Aberdeen Studios
22-24 Highbury Grove
London N5 2EA
T: 020 7704 2315

arvac@arvac.freereserve.co.uk

Training and facilitation in research for community groups; information on community research; quarterly bulletin for members; conferences and publications

Social Research Association

PO Box 6688
London SE15 3WB
T: 020 8670 5460
admin@the-sra.org.uk

Welsh Voluntary Sector Research Group

c/o WCVA
Baltic House
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FH
T: 029 2043 1700
wcva@wcva.org.uk
A network of researchers

Institute of Social Research

Department of Sociology
University of Surrey
Guildford GU2 5XH
T: 01483 300 800 x 2794
Offers day courses in social research methods

Consumers in NHS Research Support Unit

Help for Health Trust
Highcroft
Romsey Road
Winchester SO22 5DH
T: 01962 849100

Charities Evaluation Services

4 Coldbath Square
London EC1R 5HL
T: 020 7713 5722
enquiries@ces-vol.org.uk
Offers advice and training on evaluation and quality assurance.

Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation

The Poplars
Lightmoor
Telford TF4 3QN
T: 01952 590777
www.nif.co.uk

Runs 'Planning for Real' courses – a process of community consultation and training in community research.

Bradford Community Statistics Project

17-21 Chapel Street
Bradford BD1 5DT
T: 01274 779003

A support organisation for community groups in Bradford. How to access and use statistics.

Community Research Support Service

Policy Research Institute
Leeds Metropolitan University
Bronte Hall
Beckett Park Campus
Leeds LS6 3QS
T: 0113 283 1747
pri@lmu.ac.uk

A free support service for Leeds community groups. Doesn't undertake research but offers advice, information and training

Hull and East Riding Participatory Appraisal Network

c/o Linda Tock, Community Focus
Hull Education Centre
Coronation Road North
Hull HU5 5RL
T: 01482 616616
pranet.comfocus@tinyonline.co.uk
Participatory appraisal is a research technique widely used in international development work. It helps communities take control of the research process.

Folk.us

School of Psychology,
University of Exeter
Perry Road
Exeter EX4 4QG
T: 01392 264660
A network of service users and carers aiming to promote research that is relevant to users of health and social services

Community Matters

8-20 Baron Street
London N1 9LL
T: 020 7837 7887
communitymatters@communitymatters.org.uk
Support for community organisations – publications, advice, training and consultancy

Email discussion groups

An email discussion group is a way of contacting people who share similar interests. You need to register to use them, but once you've done that, you can ask members questions, join in online debates and usually look at archives of past discussions and enquiries. ARVAC has its own discussion group at

volsec-research-arvac@JISCMail.AC.UK

To join it, send a one line email message like this

**join volsec-research-arvac YOUR
FIRSTNAME YOURLASTNAME**

to

JISCMail@JISCMail.AC.UK





b Using written information

Using what others have written can provide you with a context for your own research and back up your findings. The types of written information that may be useful are:

- **Books:** for general background, policy development, subject overviews.
- **Journal articles:** much research is first – or only – published in journals. You usually need to go to specialist libraries for these. Though they can sometimes be hard to track down, you might find the specialised information is just what you need.
- **Web sites:** you will need to be very critical of information gathered in this way. Make sure you are accessing information from a credible source. If you are not an experienced searcher, you may feel daunted by the quantity of information available. However there are lots of tools to help you. These are described in the next section, Using the Internet.
- **Newspapers and magazines:** useful for up to date information and for suggesting further leads. Some specialist papers such as the Financial Times will give accounts of economic issues. Generally, newspapers have clear ideas about what is considered newsworthy. Since reporting in this way is unlikely to be objective it may be useful to read stories from a number of different papers.
- **Records:** extremely useful, especially when they are publicly available. It is worth considering if the records in question are an accurate and complete account of what took place.
- **Diaries that have been specifically kept by respondents as part of the research:** these will be retrospective accounts of what has happened and the associated feelings. Such diaries will provide the view of the author and a personal interpretation. Before using this type of written evidence you need to agree on who owns the completed diary, the author or the researcher.
- **Official reports and statistics:** Be aware whether you are dealing with raw data itself – in which case it may be hard to interpret – or with reports that are using data for specific purposes. Some are used for political purposes, such as waiting list statistics, unemployment figures and homelessness numbers. If the information you are seeking is fairly straightforward there is less likelihood that the final figures will depend on interpretations. Look at the context carefully – especially if you are comparing figures from two different sources. Do they both cover the comparable areas? Or time spans? How were the figures compiled? Who was included? You can often show more by using a series of figures – for example comparing unemployment figures in one area with that of another, or in the same area over a few years.

Sources of written information

Government statistics

Office of National Statistics (ONS)
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
T: 020 7533 5719

The ONS is responsible for carrying out many surveys, compiling official statistics and publishing a huge array of reports. Increasingly ONS statistics are available over the Internet at www.statistics.gov.uk.

Your local reference library will hold many of its publications. Check in the phone book for your reference library– it may not be the nearest one. Usually each borough has a main reference collection with only essential data at branch libraries. The ONS catalogue, is a useful guide to identifying which publications and reports are most relevant for you, and gives full details of how to get hold of them.

The National Census is carried out every 10 years and covers every household in the country. It collates demographic information – population (broken down by gender, age, marital status, ethnicity etc) household and family structure. A range of publications is produced including:

- **County Monitor Surveys: basic census information for each county in England and Wales on all topics covered by the census**
- **borough and ward levels reports are also available**
- **census topic reports. For 1991 these covered topics such as housing, cars, ethnicity and economic activity.**

The General Household Survey is carried out annually using a sample of about 13,000 households. It covers topics such as health, education, employment, housing and family information. Starting in 1971, it shows trends over the last 30 years and its findings appear in other publications such as Social Trends, Population Trends. These publications have commentaries as well as raw data, but because they are based only on a sample, they are only broken down at regional level.

The Labour Force Survey, also annual, generates a huge amount of statistical data and you should use a Users Guide to help you find and interpret the data.

Other useful government statistics include

- **the Family Expenditure Survey**
- **the Registrar General's Decennial Supplements: ONS gathers mortality and morbidity information annually. Every 10 years this is put together with census information and made publicly available as an occupational mortality report and an area mortality report. These are complete records, not samples.**
- **the Longitudinal Study which has followed vital events for a 1% sample of the population since 1971. It is a prime data source for medical and socio-demographic research.**

ONS publications are available for sale through The Stationary Office, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN. T: 0870 600 5522.

Local authorities and regional development agencies

They should be able to provide

- **ward profiles throughout their area**
- **city wide and regional information and statistics.**





written information/ internet

For local authorities it can be hard to know who to approach for what information. Some are more committed than others to making information both available and accessible. The Town Hall or library might produce a guide to what is available and your local Council for Voluntary Service may be able to suggest personal contacts.

Health authorities and NHS trusts

The Director of Public Health publishes an annual public health report for their area. This will be available in your library. While health authorities hold health information at ward level, it may not necessarily be readily available in a user-friendly format, so you may need to persevere and be flexible. For example health regions don't always coincide with local government regions. Think clearly about what you need and why. How precise do you need to be? If you are planning a service for homeless people with drinking problems in a specific area you may need precise figures. But if you are planning a more general service – such as a borough-wide counselling project – a rough estimate of the number of people with a drink problem, based on national figures, would be sufficient.

Charities and other specialist libraries

Many charities have specialist information services and libraries. Your public library should have directories of national and specialist charities. Phone to check whether they are open to the public, and what free publications and fact sheets are available. Many charities now have very informative websites. See the next section.

c Using the Internet

Access to the Internet can help you locate existing research or identify other organisations that have carried out similar research. But it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the amount of information available and frustrated by the lack of structure.

Learn your way around the web

The best way to learn about the Internet is to start using it. Here are some introductory sites.

www.bbc.co.uk/education/webwise

Excellent introduction to using the Internet, even if you haven't seen the TV programme.

<http://home.sprintmail.com/%7Edebflanagan/main.html>

Despite the complicated address, it's worth using this tutorial on how to search the net. It takes you step-by-step through the whole process and shows you how to search without getting a million unnecessary hits.

www.sosig.ac.uk/vts/social-research-methods

A free teach-yourself tutorial on Internet information skills for social research. Includes a tour of selected sites.

www.discern.org.uk

DISCERN helps you assess the quality of health information on the Internet. You can apply its principles to other fields too.

Because anyone can publish information on the web, there's no overall control. To help you find your way around, use

- **search engines. Use the online help provided to get the most out of each search engine.**
- **gateway sites, also called portals, which are compiled by subject experts and include information about a site's content**
- **links useful sites that other organisations have collected for you.**

Search engines

www.google.com

www.altavista.com

www.hotbot.com

www.excite.com

www.yahoo.co.uk

ixquick.com (you don't need to type www for this one)

There are many others, experiment with different ones to find one that suits you and your purpose. If you feel overwhelmed by the amount of US material your search brings up try one of these UK specific search engines.

www.mirago.co.uk

www.ukplus.co.uk

Gateway sites

www.sosig.ac.uk

Aims to provide a trusted source of selected high quality Internet information for researchers and practitioners in the social sciences. Includes tutorials and many other features.

www.regeneration-uk.com

Gateway to over 400 sites dealing with regeneration in the UK.

Links

Here are some of ARVAC's links. As with any list of links, we can only include a fraction of what is available, and inevitably there are gaps. Let us know of any sites that you recommend or if any of these links are not working.

Research methods

www.astoncharities.org.ok/research

This site contains detail of research carried out in Newham in East London, and also practical advice on carrying out local surveys.

www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sru/sru.html

Social Research Update is a quarterly newsletter on social research topics, such as conducting interviews by phone.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/lovas1.html

Home Office Research Development Statistics. LOVAS was a programme of community research in the 1990s. You can use its manual or read the research reports here.

www.bath.ac.uk/carpp/layguide.htm

Lay Person's Guide to Co-operative Enquiry





Statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk

Office for National Statistics.

Comprehensive range of official UK stats, free access to many publications which you can download. Updated daily. It's a huge site, so use the online guides to find your way around. Particularly relevant is www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood which has neighbourhood-level census data, plus information from the Index of Deprivation. You can ask for a profile of your neighbourhood to be emailed to you. New features are continually being added this site.

www.lga.gov.uk/2001Census/index.htm

Information about the **2001 Census**.

www.mimas.ac.uk

Manchester Information and Associated Services is a national data centre with many huge sets of statistics, but access is restricted to people at registered institutions, mainly universities.

www.data-archive.ac.uk

Data Archive is a specialist national resource containing the largest collection of accessible computer-readable data in social sciences and humanities in the UK. You have to register to use this site.

<http://skillsbase.dfee.gov.uk>

Labour market information database, structured for use by both specialists and non-specialists.

Voluntary and community sector organisations

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk

National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Details of all current activities, policy briefings, publications and research programme. Links to other useful web sites.

www.scvo.org.uk

Scottish Centre for Voluntary Organisations has a research section covering methods and Scottish statistics. Also look under the section called 'Four Nations Research Group.'

www.nicva.org

Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action has a research section similar to SCVO's. NICVA produces a directory of researchers in Northern Ireland.

www.wcva.org.uk

Wales Council for Voluntary Action is preparing a directory of researchers in Wales.

www.nacvs.org.uk

National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service. You can contact your local CVS via this site.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu/acu.htm

Home Office Active Community Unit has downloadable publications and details of grant programmes.

www.cafonline.org/research

Charities Aid Foundation Details of its publications and research. Includes lots of data from publications, and downloadable documents. Covers larger voluntary organisations and charities rather than community groups.

www.charity-commission.gov.uk

The Charity Commission has a directory of all registered charities and advice and guidance for organisations (including for carrying out research).

www.dsc.org.uk

Directory of Social Change provides practical information and training in running organisations.

www.volresource.org.uk

Aims to make it quick and easy to get useful information on anything to do with running a voluntary organisation.

Government departments

This section lists those most relevant to community groups, otherwise use one of the first two sites to get to the Department you need.

www.ukonline.gov.uk

New index to government web sites.

www.info4local.gov.uk

Gateway to all local government-related information published on the web sites of central government departments. Contains downloadable documents.

www.scotland.gov.uk/cru

The Central Research Unit of the Scottish Office has a wide programme of research. Most of its findings are available as downloadable documents.

www.the-stationery-office.co.uk

The Stationery Office is the government bookshop and publishing arm. You can order government publications online.

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu.index.html

The **Social Exclusion Unit** site has downloadable versions of all its research reports.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

Home Office Research Development Statistics has publications and details of research programmes, mainly relating to the criminal justice system.

www.laria.gov.uk

Local Authorities Research and Intelligence Association promotes the use of research in local government. Nice site with feature articles, publications list and an active forum for discussion and enquiries.

www.countryside.gov.uk

Countryside Agency. Research reports and publications on rural issues.





Research centres

Most of these sites list their own research projects, sometimes as downloadable documents. They may not deal with individual enquiries.

www.jrf.org.uk

Joseph Rowntree Foundation's site is a major resource for researchers. JRF is one of the largest funders of social research in the UK and is committed to making its research easily accessible. This site contains downloadable versions of all "Findings", 4-page summaries of all research funded by the organisation. You can also order the print version of the summaries (which are free) or complete reports (which are priced) from here. Easy to search the site by topic.

www.natcen.ac.uk

National Centre for Social Research is the largest independent social research institute in Britain. Conducts large-scale research projects for the government and other agencies, eg the British Crime Survey, Social Attitudes, Health Survey for England. Can order publications online and search the whole site.

www.esrc.ac.uk

www.regard.ac.uk

Economic and Social Research Council is a large research funding body. Access to the research is via REGARD, a searchable database.

www.lmu.ac.uk/lbs/pri

Policy Research Institute has a wide range of research on local economic development, lifelong learning, social exclusion, and community development.

www.neweconomics.org

New Economics Foundation. Contains details of its work on participative democracy, local economic renewal and reshaping the global economy. See 'Low Flying Heroes.'

<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case>

Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion carries out research on economic exclusion and income, social welfare institutions, family change and civil society, community and area regeneration. Downloadable summaries and reports to order.

www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/ccs

Centre for Civil Society (formerly Centre for Voluntary Organisation). You can download the publications from the 'Building the Capacity of Small Voluntary Agencies' project here (also known as 'Juggling on a unicycle'). Details of other current research available.

www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru

Social Policy Research Unit. Details of research on social security, health and community care.

www.ippr.org.uk

Institute for Public Policy Research. Centre left think tank. Describes current research projects.

www.demos.co.uk

Demos is an independent think tank. Lists current research and publications, many of interest to community sector.

www.employment-studies.co.uk

Institute for Employment Studies has a wide range of research reports on education, skills and training issues, the labour market and work issues.

www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/CRER_RC
Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations'
 site contains a searchable database of the centre's publications and research programmes and a large collection of non-book material on ethnic issues.

www.ncl.ac.uk/~ncurds
Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies Lists recent research projects at the University of Newcastle.

www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/cucr/research.html
Centre for Urban and Community Research Lists recent research projects on urban regeneration and urban culture, including issues of race and racism, at Goldsmiths College, South London.

www.psi.org.uk
Policy Studies Institute conducts research which will 'promote economic well-being and improve quality of life.' Site lists current projects and publications.

www.glam.ac.uk/regeneration
Programme for Community Regeneration is a directory of regeneration projects and community development organisations in Wales and related research.

www.ids.ac.uk
 Leading centre for research on international development issues.

Regional voluntary sector organisations

Several of these have researched (or are currently doing so) their region's voluntary and community sector organisations.

www.raise-networks.org.uk
RAISE Regional Action and Involvement South East. Includes research about the region.

www.nyfvo.org.uk
North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations. Includes research about the region.

www.cover-east.org
COVER is the East of England regional voluntary sector network.

www.vonne.co.uk
VONNE is the North East regional voluntary sector network. Includes research about the region.

www.netc.org.uk
 The voluntary sector network for the north west region. It is compiling a directory of research in the region.

www.engage-em.org.uk
 Covers the East Midlands.





Online libraries

These are sites with library catalogues online and a facility to order publications.

<http://blpc.bl.uk>

British Library Online Catalogue contains details of everything held in the British Library and explains how you can get hold of them. Essential to use the Guides to find your way around.

www.scie.org.uk

The **Social Care Institute for Excellence** provides several useful services including

- the electronic Library for Social Care
- the caredata knowledge base
- research.web (provided by the Scottish Executive)

"Issues" sites

This is just a selection of sites with either good research/information coverage or particular relevance to community groups. Do let us know of any other sites you find particularly useful.

ARTS AND LEISURE

www.voluntaryarts.org

Voluntary Arts Network

www.creativecommunities.org

Centre for Creative Communities

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

www.ncb.org.uk

National Children's Bureau has a large research department and a library and information service.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

www.community-links.org.uk

Community Links. See the Ideas Annual, a collection of ideas for project development that community groups all over the country have contributed to.

www.selfhelp.org.uk

Self Help Nottingham has a collection of research on self-help (UK-wide and international as well as Nottingham. www.cdf.org.uk Community Development Foundation's site has background information on community development, regeneration and active communities. Can order publications. Details of current research services.

DISABILITIES

www.cafamily.org.uk

Contact a Family helps families who care for children with disabilities or special needs.

www.rnid.org.uk

Royal National Institute for Deaf People's site has an extensive range of factsheets and information.

www.scope.org.uk

SCOPE provides information about cerebral palsy.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

Alcohol Concern has online access to its library plus information on problem drinking.

www.drugscope.org.uk

Drugscope has an online library on all aspects of drug use.

ETHNIC GROUPS

www.blink.org.uk

Black Information Link contains lots of useful information, but is not very easy to navigate.

www.cre.gov.uk

Commission for Racial Equality.

FAITH

www.multifaithnet.org

Self access research, learning information and dialogue tool.

HEALTH

www.kingsfund.org.uk

Kings Fund. Policy and research on health and health services. Has publications to buy online and a Library and Information Service.

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

www.homelesspages.org.uk

Comprehensive guide to information about homelessness. Database of resources, directories, training courses and websites.

www.oneworld.org/groundswell/

The Groundswell Project promotes practical solutions to homelessness involving homeless people.

www.tpas.org.uk

Tenant Participation Advisory Service site has an information section.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

www.communities.org.uk

Communities Online aims to address issues of sustainability, regeneration, social inclusion and healthy economy by focusing on the use of new communications technologies in communities and neighbourhoods.

www.partnerships.org.uk

Partnerships Online creates online communities for neighbourhoods and networks.

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/NorahFry

The Norah Fry Organisation aims to make research accessible to people with learning difficulties.

LIFELONG LEARNING

www.niace.org.uk

National Institute of Adult Continuing Education provides information about current and recent projects. Lots of live discussion lists

www.basic-skills.co.uk

Basic Skills Agency is the national development agency for literacy and numeracy in England and Wales. Has a 'Good Website' guide and a selection of links for more information and statistics

MENTAL HEALTH

www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Mental Health Foundation has a comprehensive information site.





OLDER PEOPLE

www.ace.org.uk

Age Concern England has a 'Facts for You' section with as factsheets, publications and statistics. ACE has a library and information service.

REFUGEES

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

The Refugee Council presents news, media myths, frequently asked questions, plus an Information Centre with national statistics and and legislation.

www.immigrationindex.org/

A gateway site to resources on all aspects of immigration.

REGENERATION

www.regeneration-uk.com

Details of over 400 sites for people interested in regeneration.

www.regen.net

Planning Exchange runs an information network for people working in regeneration and planning. Need to register to use it.

SOCIAL ECONOMY

www.oneworld.org/letslinklondon

LETSlinkLondon locates LETS (Local Economy Trading Schemes) in London.

www.sel.org.uk

Social Enterprise London.

www.abcul.org

Association of British Credit Unions. Includes research and statistics section and good practice guides.

www.can-online.org.uk

A support network for social entrepreneurs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

www.london21.org

London 21 is a user-focused sustainability network for London. Has a searchable database of organisations.

VOLUNTEERING

www.volunteering.org.uk

National Centre for Volunteering site contains details of their current research projects and publications. NCV has a library of research on volunteering and you can ask them to email you a list of what they hold on specific topics.

www.navb.org.uk

National Association of Volunteer Bureaux. You can contact your local volunteer bureau here.

www.csv.org.uk

Community Service Volunteers. This site describes current work. Can order publications.

WELFARE RIGHTS

www.rightsnet.org.uk

LASA (London Advice Services Alliance) provides information for advice workers.

WOMEN

www.wrc.org.uk

Women's Resource Centre

YOUNG PEOPLE

www.nya.org.uk

National Youth Agency provides online access to its library plus information for young people.

UK AND INTERNATIONAL THIRD SECTOR/VOLUNTARY SECTOR RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

www.ssrgeemon.co.uk

Social Services Research Group

www.amrc.org.uk

Association of Medical Research Charities

www.the-sra.org.uk

Social Research Association

www.evaluation.org.uk

The UK Evaluation Society

www.loka.org

Loka Institute (US)

www.istr.org

International Society for Third Sector Research

www.eswin.net

European Social Welfare Information Network

www.arnova.org

ARNOVA: Association for Research on Non-profit Organisations and Voluntary Action (US and international)

www.civicus.org

International

<http://jhu.edu/~ccss>

John Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies

MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS

www.societyguardian.co.uk

The Guardian

www.community-care.co.uk

Community Care

www.bl.uk/services/stb/spiswlfr/digest.html

Welfare Digest on the Web

www.newstartmag.co.uk

New Start

www.regenerationmagazine.com

Regeneration and Renewal

