

Sex worker safe space:

Increasing participation in
internet spaces by
marginalised communities

“Making Links Conference”

November 2004



Mainstream Representation of Marginalised Communities

Information that is presented around marginalised communities is often biased, sensationalist and is based on the premise that to be part of a non-mainstream community or group is somehow 'different,' 'strange,' 'weird' and 'unusual.'



WWW = new possibilities for marginalised communities

- We now have the technology to represent ourselves and our communities in our own words
- The www means that we can interact with each other & the mainstream world on our own terms
- We can control the information and the presentation



What does it really mean to have PEER CONTROL?

- Peer Control of site design
- Peer Control of content priorities
- Peer Control of organisational policy
- Peer Control of how the organisation is represented
- www.scarletalliance.org.au



Peer Control is NOT:

- Peer focus groups
- Non-peers researching peers
- Peers writing the material and non-peers editing it
- Non-peers writing the materials and peers reviewing it



Peer Control makes sense...

- Peers having control of pages that are their expertise...
- Peers editing the pages that are most relevant to them
- Example: 'Laws' pages
- www.scarletalliance.org.au



Peer Editing Process

- After the pages are written by peers, they should also be edited and approved by peers
- Example: 'History' page
- www.scarletalliance.org.au



Peers Sharing Information

- Discussion boards
 - Posting information to each other
 - Updating sections of the site via remote location
 - Submitting articles for the site
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- Example: 'Reviews' page
 - www.scarletalliance.org.au





Peer Control = International 'Standard'

- www.apnsw.org
- www.nswp.org

Conclusion..

- Why would you have people who are not members of a marginalised community making websites 'for' a marginalised community?
- Marginalised Communities can do it for themselves.....



Finally...

- If your project is not peer controlled, could it be that you are simply paying lip service to that community....

