

Collaborative Systems for Social and Community Change

This mini track deals with the use of groupware and collaborative systems to effect positive social change in and for disenfranchised communities. Disenfranchised communities, which are generally populated with people who are poor or oppressed, tend to be among the last to benefit from new and emerging technologies. Oftentimes, people in these communities are rarely heard when public policy or local decisions are made that might impact their lives. Also, due to a lack of exposure to technology tools to support grassroots movements, ideas of how to use technology to support economic, social and community empowerment are sparse.

This mini track showcases papers that examine or propose uses of technologies, such as collaborative technology, intranets, the Internet, and other web-based technologies to 1) collect data to support public policy change, 2) create virtual communities to improve advocacy efficiency, and 3) create new social networks and relationships for the purpose of positive social change.