

Website Design

• A website is a great way to let people know about important issues, and about projects and events you are organizing. It's also a good way to connect people over long distances. Here are some things to think about when building a website...

1. Getting a web page

- If you're on a low budget, you can get a web space from sites like these:

Brinkster www.brinkster.com

Freeservers www.freeservers.com

Free Site www.thefreesite.com

FreeWebSpace www.freewebspace.net

Geocities www.geocities.com

She Made This www.shemadethis.com

Tao Communications www.tao.ca

Community web networks and college/university networks also often offer free web space.

- If you can afford it, you can get your own domain name registered. That means getting a personalized site, e.g. www.yourname.com. You also need a service provider, or web host, who will display your site. For info on how to do this, go to <http://www.cybersolidarity.com/basics.html>, or <http://www.budgetweb.com/budgetweb/>.

2. What to put on your website

- A description of you/your group and the work you do
- Contact info
- Resources on issues you work on
- Events listings
- Articles, poetry, images related to your work
- Links to similar groups or individuals
- Anything else you think would be useful in getting your message across!

3. Web page design

- You can design your website with the help of a program such as Microsoft Front page Express or Dreamweaver. If you don't have access to any web publishing program, you will need to know HTML (Hyper Text Mark-up Language), which is the programming language for most websites. For info on HTML, go to www.builder.com/Authoring/Basics or <http://freespace.virgin.net/r.cawley/lessons.html> or http://216.147.98.109/support_htmlbasics.html.





- Make your website interesting and interactive with tools such as: chat rooms, images & graphics, counters (see how many people visit your site), message boards etc. Get these tools for free from <http://www.webmastertoolscentral.com/> (click on "utilities") or <http://www.megawebtools.com/> .
- Stick to a simple but eye-grabbing layout and design that you don't have to wait for hours to download. For info on design basics, go to <http://www.dreamink.com/design1.shtml> or <http://www.efuse.com/Design/> .

4. Promoting your website

- Once your website is ready, you need to be sure people can access it through different Internet search engines like www.google.ca and www.yahoo.com. To find out how to promote your site, go to www.promotion101.com or http://www.bizmove.com/website_promotion/WebsitePromotion.htm

For other useful hints on web design, go to:

<http://www.idealist.org/getting-started.html>

<http://www.netaction.org/training/>

<http://www.techsoup.com>

