

# Youth Community Informatics

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# + What is Youth Community Informatics?

- Help the underrepresented youths to address community needs
- Inquiry-Based Learning
- Learning Digital Technologies : Videos, Photos, GPS data, Online mapping
- Recruit more youths into the library and information science careers from the underrepresented populations



## + Now (2009)?

YCI is working with 14 different sites or community organizations across the state of Illinois.





## Method

### Data Gathering Techniques

- Observations
- Interviews
- Blog Entry Analysis
- Survey Questions

### Technologies Supporting Evaluation

- YCI wiki
- YCI blog

### Events

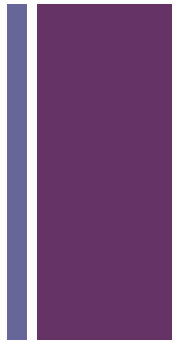
2008 YCI Forum  
 2009 YCI Forum  
 Workshops A  
 Activities at XX  
 Activities at YY

### Informants

People in the YCI sites

### Document

- Yet gathered field notes
- Vignettes
- Meeting reports
- Interim Reports
- Papers



## Ground

### General Information

- Graduate School of Library and Information Science
- 4-H Extension network
- Three year grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- YCI recruits youths into library and information science (LIS) careers
- Serving underrepresented populations

### Stake holders Features

- Youth in under-represented communities
- Chicago, Champaign, Rantoul, East Saint Louis, Ford Iroquois, Virginia

### Educational Setting Features

Mostly out of School setting but some in classroom  
 Collaborative environment with community organizations/schools  
 Digital Technologies

### Evaluation Features

- Several different sites

## Perspective

### Goal

To help underserved communities/youth address their needs through the use of information and communication technologies and to recruit the youth into the library and information science careers

### Evaluators

Professors?  
 Graduate Assistants?  
 Community Leaders?

### Issues

- Is the YCI helping youth actively engaging youth in their communities?
- Is the YCI helping youth to address their needs in community?
- Are the Inquiry Units promoting interconnectedness among the different sites where youth learn?
- Is the YCI curriculum a good way to achieve the goals to the community?

# + Also...

- One of emerging issues we face now is a wide range of diversity across the sites.
  - Rural vs. Urban
  - Local vs. Distant
  - African American Community vs. White Rural Community
  - School vs. Out of school
  - Different Organizational traits
  - Different values/perspectives among the YCI staff



# + TWO CASES



Community Asset Mapping, *Champaign*

Teen Tech Team, *East Saint Louis*



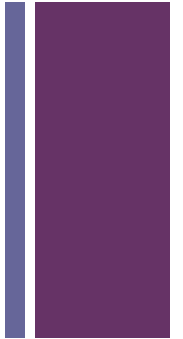
# CASE I: *Community Asset Mapping, Champaign*

E2Y Project (Empowering and Engaging Youth)

African American Youth and Community

Collaboration among four local organizations

African American teens interview business owners, neighbors, community leaders and others to identify and map opportunities/assets for youth in the cities.



# + Mapping Community: Summer 2009

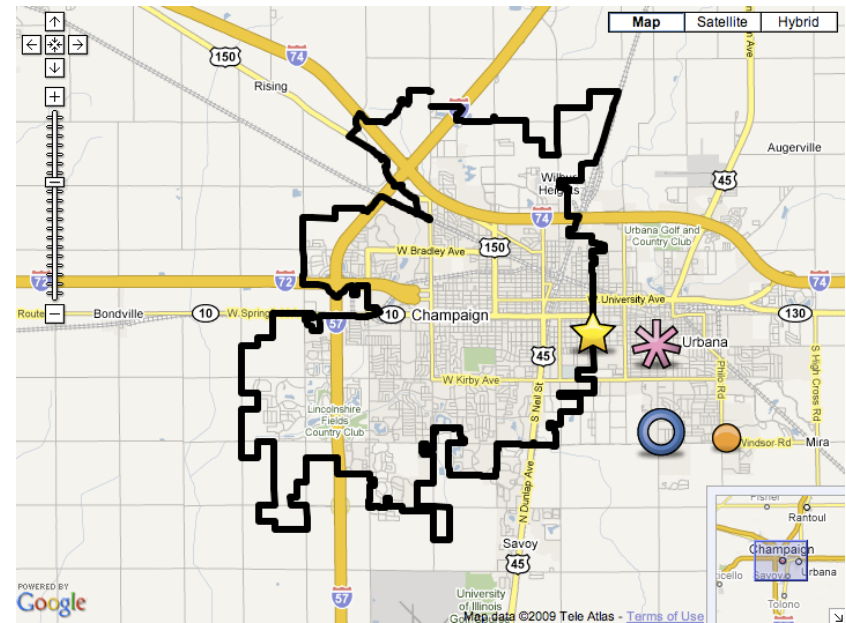
The Northern side of the University  
Campus - African American  
Community

GPS data/ Photos

Videos – Interviews, Reflection,  
Exteriors of sites

Youtube, Google map/ Champaign  
tomorrow project

Electronic/Printable version of Data  
Directory entry





## E2Ystakeholders



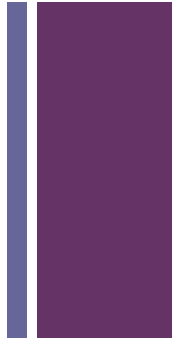
## + More than Mapping

### Transforming the Community

“What do you hope to get out of this project?”

# + CASE II: *Teen Tech Team – East Saint Louis, IL*

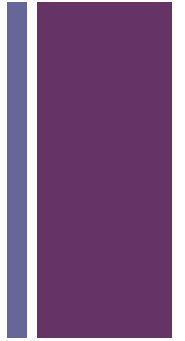
- Teen Tech History
  - Originally a partnership with 2 local groups and UI staff
  - Strongly supported by UI staff
- Focus on skills development and entrepreneurial leadership





## • Negotiating New Partnerships

- Modeling Inquiry learning activities
- Youth-driven topics
- Playing a supportive, but not dominant role
- Encouraging local autonomous decision making
- Encouraging sustainability, increasing local capacity, focusing on teens' inquiry



## + YCI roles:

- Provide support and new equipment to Teen Tech
- Build capacity & sustainability by encouraging local decision making
- Connecting Teen Tech with other local groups





	<b>Asset Mapping</b>	<b>Teen Tech Team</b>
	Local	At a distance
<b>Activities</b>	Mapping	Video
<b>Term</b>	1 Year Program	Ongoing
<b>Funding</b>	RAY grant	Volunteers/Partnerships/UI
	Collaborations among the four different organizations	Connecting community partners in ESL



# Can we expect any changes? & How do we evaluate?



- Particularity in each site
- Evaluation beyond impact/evidence
- Contextualized understanding of values, sets of norms, merits, worths