

Blacksburg Electronic Village Collection

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1992-2006



Title Statement

Blacksburg Electronic Village CollectionBlacksburg Electronic Village Collection, 1992-2006 Ms.2006.018

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
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Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2008 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-09 07:04:01 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2006.018

Unit Date

1992-2006

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection includes papers, including correspondence, in-house publications, presentations, press clippings, and external reports, relating to Blacksburg Electronic Village, an experimental online community network connecting the town of Blacksburg, Virginia.

Creator

Blacksburg Electronic Village

Extent

0.7 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Blacksburg Electronic Village Collection was donated to Special Collections in 2002.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Blacksburg Electronic Village Collection commenced in October 2006 and was completed in November 2006.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Blacksburg Electronic Village Collection, Ms2006-018, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History

The concept of an online community network for Blacksburg, Virginia originated in 1991. An outreach project of Virginia Tech, the Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV) would seek to bring Internet access to the entire community. Collaborative efforts during the next two years among Virginia Tech, the town of Blacksburg, and Bell Atlantic of Virginia prepared the town's information infrastructure by installing digital switching equipment and a fiber backbone. The first beta test of BEV software--including Internet, e-mail and gopher clients--occurred in Spring 1993, and BEV was formally launched in October 1993.

Linking individuals, government agencies, commercial enterprises, and community organizations through fiber-optic technology, BEV was among the earliest online community networks and received international attention. By 1997, more than 80 percent of the community's residents had computers--many of them connected to the Internet through Virginia Tech's modem pool--and Blacksburg was dubbed by the press "the most wired town in America."

By 1996, the Virginia Tech modem pool was becoming overloaded, and users not affiliated with Virginia Tech were required to switch to independent Internet providers. BEV continued to work with local individuals, the town of Blacksburg, and non-profit organizations, providing website development and support, e-mail accounts, and civic websites, among other services. However, in the mid-2000s, many options in the private sector became available for website design and hosting in this region, along with many free, user-friendly services for email and group communications. BEV moved to complete its shift away from email and hosting services and to devote resources to new, more forward-looking initiatives. As a result, BEV retired its remaining client services at the end of 2015.

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials relating to Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV), an experimental online community network connecting individuals, government agencies, businesses and organizations in Blacksburg, Virginia. The collection contains such materials as correspondence, BEV in-house publications (including brochures and fact sheets), presentations (consisting largely of overhead transparencies), clippings from magazines, newspapers, and newsletters; and a few reports issued by external organizations and agencies.

Separated Material

The following videocassettes were separated to the Rare Book Collection:

- BEV in the News [199-?]. Video 2559 Media Spec
- BEV on *Today*, 1995. Video 2566 Media Spec

- Blacksburg Electronic Village, 1994. Video 2598 Media Spec
- Blacksburg Electronic Village, [199-?]. Video 2569 Media Spec
- [Blacksburg Electronic Village on Swiss Television], [1995?]. Video 2568 Media Spec
- Epcot Journey to Discovery, 1995. Video 2571 Media Spec
- Gateways: Information Superhighway/BEV, 1996. Video 2615 Media Spec
- Ireland's Information Age Town, 1997. Video 2575 Media Spec
- Microsoft NECC Keynote & Video 1997. Video 2626 Media Spec
- Scientia Program 54, [199-?]. Video 2617 Media Spec
- The Site: Blacksburg Electronic Village, [1996]. Video 2616 Media Spec

Related Material

See the following items in the Rare Book Collection:

Cohill, Andrew Michael and Andrea L. Kavanaugh, ed., *Community networks: lessons from Blacksburg, Virginia* (Boston: Artech House, 1997) TK5105.83 C66 1997 Large Spec

Cohill, Andrew Michael and Andrea L. Kavanaugh, ed., *Community networks: lessons from Blacksburg, Virginia*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Artech House, 2000) TK5105.83 C66 2000 c.2 Large Spec

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Montgomery County (Va.)

Science and Technology

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1992-1997

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

In-house publications

Promotional publications

Unit Date 1994-1997, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

"Community Network Briefing Book"

Unit Date Apr 1999

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"Community-based Broadband Telecommunications Infrastructure"

Unit Date Mar 2000

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

"Community Network Development Guidelines"

Unit Date Apr 2001

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

"Blacksburg Electronic village: the Missing Years (1979-1993)" by Mathew Mathai (revised)

Unit Date Apr 7, 2006

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

"Telecommunications for Neighborhoods and Communities: Four Key Areas of Investment" by Andrew Michael Cohill

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Public presentations

Appalachian Health Care Conference

Unit Date 1997

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Abingdon, Virginia

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"Building a Community: Blacksburg Electronic Village"

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

"Municipalities in Cyberspace" (Maryland Municipal League)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Unidentified presentations

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Audiocassettes

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

"Bev and More"

Unit Date Mar 1, 1994

General Physical Description note [2 items]

"Bev and More"

Unit Date Mar 22, 1994

General Physical Description note [2 items]

"Bev on MDR Leipzig"

Unit Date Aug / Sep 1995

Magazine clippings

Unit Date 1992-1994

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Unit Date 1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Unit Date 1996

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Unit Date 1997-2001

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Newspaper clippings

Unit Date 1992-1994

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Unit Date Jan-Feb 1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Unit Date Mar-Dec 1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Unit Date 1996

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 1997

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit Date 1998-1999, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Newsletter clippings

Unit Date 1992-1999

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

External reports

Unit Date External reports

Council on Library Resources**Unit Date** 1993**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Dynatech Corporation****Unit Date** 1995**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Gifu [Japan] Prefectural Government****Unit Date** [1997]**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Scope and Contents note**

["Overseas Situation Survey on the Subjects of Specified Local Area"]

National Association of Partners in Education**Unit Date** 1996**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Scope and Contents note**

["Integrating Telecommunications Technology Into Education: the 21st Century Challenge for Partners Navigating the Four Cs of Change"]

Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**"Infrastructure Needs of Manufacturing Incubators: IT Recommendations"****Unit Date** n.d.**"Infrastructure Needs of Manufacturing Incubators: Regional Strategies"****Unit Date** n.d.