

Public Access Computing Ecosystem Data Collection Instruments

Ricardo Gomez, University of Washington
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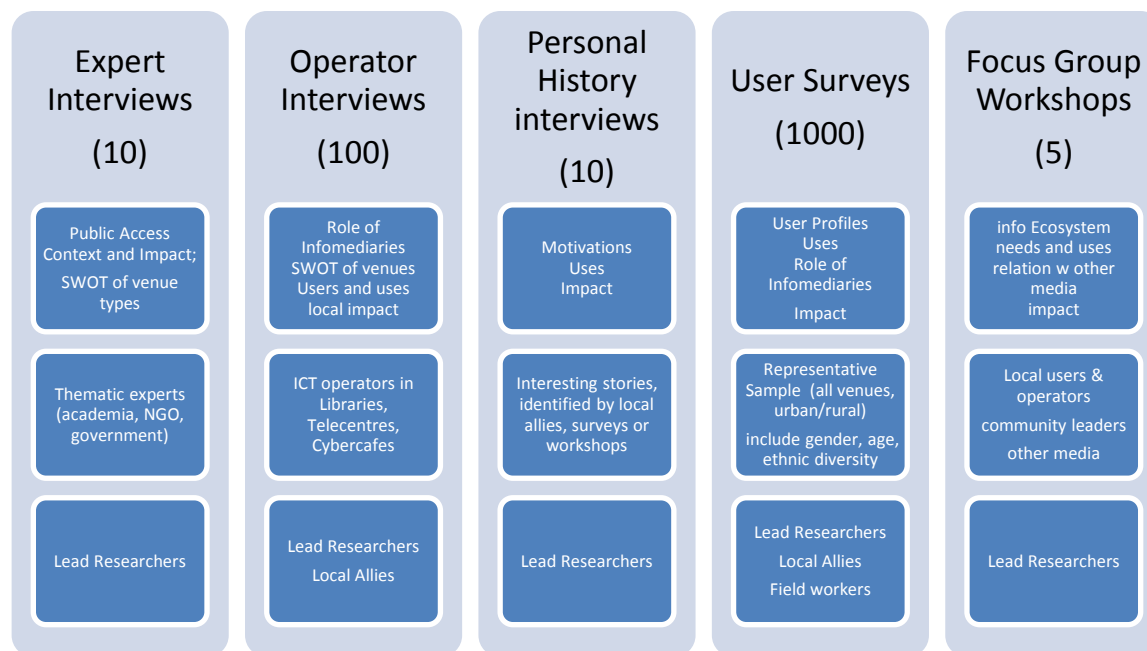
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Overview

This document contains the data collection instruments used in the in-depth study of public access computing in Colombia. It is offered as a sample tool to adapt by others who want to do similar studies elsewhere, as long as you mention the source.

This is the schematic representation of the set of instruments. Each one includes the number of respondents we used, main purpose, selection criteria, and who conducts them.



Contents

1. Expert Interviews	3
2. Operator Interviews.....	4
<u>Operator Interview Guide</u>	5
3. Personal History Interviews	8
4. User Surveys.....	9
<u>User Survey Instrument</u>	10
5. Focus Group Workshop.....	12

1. Expert Interviews

Number of Respondents: 10

Selection Criteria:

5 Thematic Experts: experts in field of public access ICT from academia, NGO or government, with expertise on telecentres, libraries or cybercafés. Balance between sectors and areas of expertise. Expertise based on publications, personal knowledge, and/or participation in local networks.

5 Community Leaders in grassroots communication activities in each region, selected by researchers based on their knowledge of the region and its cultural dynamics, their ability to help identify and convene participants for workshops and operator interviews, and their proven ability to help organize logistics for local focus group workshop in each region. These local leaders will help structure other data collection activities, and also be informants as regional experts.

Interview Guide:

Unstructured, conversational interview; taped, transcribed and anonymized. This is a sample of the topics to cover. Aprox duration: 1 hour

Introduction, purpose of the study, permission to tape, voluntary participation, verbal consent.

- Based on your experience and research, what is the context (environment) in which public access ICT initiatives take place in the country / region? What helps, hinders performance?
- Who are the main users of these centers? What do you think they are looking for and how are they using ICT in public access centers? What are similarities and differences in users and uses across different types of centers (telecentres, cybercafés, public libraries)?
- What are the main strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for these types of public access centers? How do they contribute to human development?
- What is the future of public access computing? Where is this going? How can they be strengthened?
- Closing remarks

2. Operator Interviews

Number of Respondents: 100

Selection Criteria:

20 per region, balance between urban & rural. In each region, balance between 3 types of venues (telecentres, cybercafés, libraries). Attention to gender, age, ethnic inclusion

Selected by Local Allies, based on their understanding of distribution of venues, types of users and of uses, to include wide variety of experiences, size, location and populations served.

Interview Guide:

Structured Interview guide, for interviewer to tape and transcribe or take field notes and prepare written account following interview guide. Aprox duration: 30 min.

Operator Interview Guide

Interviewer:

Date:

Location:

Type of Venue:

Code for Interviewee:

Description of study, voluntary participation, verbal consent.

1. Questions about Venue

Type of venue

Telecenter type: name:	Library	Cybercafe
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Location of venue

Region: _____	Urban: city _____	Rural: municipality _____
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How many computers are available (and in working order) for users?

What other technology services are available?

What other services are offered?

Number of computers	
Other information technologies offered (circle if offered)	Fax Phone Photocopier Printer Scanner Game consoles (Xbox or similar) Long distance calling (skype or similar, webcam: yes no) Other _____
Other services offered (circle if offered)	Food & beverage Computer Training Other training (non-computer): _____ Child care Meeting rooms Books, magazines, periodicals Other information resources: _____

2. Questions about Information and Content

What is your perception of information people most seek at this venue (estimate)?

___% Education	___% Health	___% Agriculture	___% Government services	___% Entertainme nt	___% News	___% Personal	___% Other: _____	___% Other: _____
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What is your estimate of ICT activities users most frequently do at this venue?

___% Email	___% Chat	___% Web browsing	___% Blogs & social networking	___% Commerce & business	___% Phone or webcam	___% Games	___% Other: _____	___% Other: _____
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What is your assessment of the frequency of use at this venue (approximate estimate)?

___% First time	___% Rarely (less than monthly)	___% Occasional (about once a month)	___% Regular (about 2-3 per month)	___% Frequent (about once a week)	___% Daily (about every day)
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What do you feel are the biggest barriers for users accessing information at this venue?

<input type="checkbox"/> Location, distance	<input type="checkbox"/> Hours of Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Operator's Lack of training	<input type="checkbox"/> User's Lack of training	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough computers	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough services	<input type="checkbox"/> Not in right language	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough speed and quality connection	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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3. Questions about Users

Number- approximately how many people use this venue each day (on average)?

Number of users per day	_____
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Do you have a database of your users? Do you register your users?

Gender - Approximately what percentage of users are male or female?

___% Male	___% Female
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Education Level - formal education completed by users (your best estimate):

___% no formal education	___% elementary only	___% up to high school	___% Tecchnical	___% College or university	___% Undergraduate studies
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Income - What is the approximate percentage of users that are from high/med/low income brackets (estimate, relative to general population in the region)?

___% High	___% Medium	___% Low	Don't know/NA
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Age – What is the approximate percentage of users from each of these age brackets (estimate)

___% Children (under 15)	___% youth (16-25)	___% young adults (26-35)	___% Adults (36-45)	___% Mature Adults (46-60)	___% Seniors (61 and over)
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Ethnicity (If applicable): What is the approximate percentage of users from different ethnic groups?

___% group _____	___% group _____	___% group _____
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4. Questions about Infomediary role

What are the relative strengths of weaknesses of this center in relation to other types of centers in the city/municipality? (compare telecentre, library, cybercafé)

How do you learn about the information needs of users in your community?

What are some specific actions / behaviors you do to help better serve local information needs?

What other activities could you do in this venue to better serve the information needs of the users?

5. Questions about Perceived Impact

In your experience and observation, how does public access to ICT change people's lives?

How does public access to ICT help users get better employment/income?

How does public access to ICT help community development?

6. Questions about Future

What is the future of public access computing in this center or in this city/municipality?

Other comments:

Thanks, Closure

Interviewer remarks:

3. Personal History Interviews

Number of Respondents: 10

Selection Criteria:

10 individuals (users, maybe some operators), selected because of their personal experience as discovered by Local Allies, operators or survey respondents. Compelling personal history of transformation, motivation, or vision of ICT for development.

Personal History Interview Guide:

Unstructured, conversational interview; taped, transcribed and anonymized. This is a sample of the topics to cover. Aprox duration: 2 hours

Introduction, purpose of the study, permission to tape, voluntary participation, verbal consent.

- How did you start using ICT? When? What made you get started?
- What has changed in your life as a result of using ICT in public places? Probe for intangible impacts, self esteem, aspirations...
- How do you think others in your community can better make use of ICT in public access places?
- How do you think public access places can better serve the needs of people in your community?

Closure, Thanks

Interviewer remarks:

4. User Surveys

Number of respondents: 1000

Selection criteria: Representative sample, roughly 200 per region; attention to gender equity, and distribution of different types of venues, and of rural/urban venues. Attention to inclusion of age variables (elders), and ethnic variables where relevant.

Procedure:

This is a very short survey questionnaire that can be quickly answered verbally by users of public access venues, and notes taken by researcher or field worker.

For each type of venue (ie, public libraries, telecentres, cybercafés), researcher visits the location at least once for about half a day; interviewer selects users (one out of every three or four would be OK) as they exit the venue and invites to spend a few minutes answering these questions. Researcher gains consent, takes note of answers, thanks the respondent, and counts another three or four users exiting the venue to identify next potential respondent. Ideally, researcher would survey at least 20-30 people at each venue, preferably more.

The first set of questions is close-ended, requiring only a quick answer from a set of options, plus an open ended question in the end. Answer to open ended question should be preferably taped, if respondent consents. The second set of questions, which includes demographic data, is optional depending on willingness and time.

User Survey Instrument

Survey Number		Interviewer	
Venue Type		Venue Name	
Location (City/municipality, Region)		Urban/Non-urban	

Introduction, consent to participate

1. How often do you visit this location?

<input type="checkbox"/> First visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely (less than monthly)	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally (about once a month)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regularly (about 2-3 visits per month)	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (about once a week)	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily (about every day)
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2. If you came here looking for specific information, what kind of information were you seeking? (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government services	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> News	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
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3. If ICT services are offered, what ICT activities do you most frequently do at this venue (check most frequent, up to 3)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Chat	<input type="checkbox"/> Web browsing	<input type="checkbox"/> Blogs & social networking	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce & business	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or webcam	<input type="checkbox"/> Games	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
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4. What do you feel are the biggest barriers for users accessing ICT services and information at this venue?

<input type="checkbox"/> Location, distance	<input type="checkbox"/> Hours of Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Operator's Lack of training	<input type="checkbox"/> User's Lack of training	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough computers	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough services	<input type="checkbox"/> Not in right language	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough speed and quality connection	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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5. What other public access venues do you use, and how are they different from this one?

6. How has the use of ICT changed your life? (ask permission to tape answer)

7. Additional demographic info, if subjects are willing to share more:

Gender Male Female

Age group:

<input type="checkbox"/> Child (under 15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (16-25)	<input type="checkbox"/> Young adult (26-35)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult (36-45)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mature adult (46-60)	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (61 and over)
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Education Level - formal education completed:

<input type="checkbox"/> no formal education	<input type="checkbox"/> elementary only	<input type="checkbox"/> up to high school	<input type="checkbox"/> Tecchnical	<input type="checkbox"/> College or university	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate studies
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Income bracket (approximate, in relation general population in the region):

<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle - Average	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> no answer
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Occupation _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed	<input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker (non compensated)	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed (looking for work)
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Other:

Ethnicity (if appropriate) _____

5. Focus Group Workshop

Number of Workshops: 6

Selection Criteria: 12 Community members selected by Local Allies, with attention to gender balance and ethnic inclusion if appropriate, drawing mainly from users of public access venues, also including local communication leaders, and operators of venues.

Purpose:

Collect information about information processes and public access computing in the community, as part of assessing the information ecology (needs, practices, interactions), in particular the role played by public access points to ICTs for community development.

Number of workshops:

Six workshops, one in each of the five regions, plus one for the capital city. In each workshop will involve between 12 and 15 community members.

Selection Criteria:

- Mostly made up of users of public access sites.
- Include local community leaders, including leaders of community media (community radio, TV, youth organizations, etc) and venue operators, with special attention to gender balance and inclusion of ethnic minorities (if appropriate in the region).

Participants

Must be members of organizations residing in the community where the workshop is conducted. They know the dynamics of information and communication in the municipality.

To achieve a well-attended workshop should be a group of minimum 7 and maximum 15 people.

Process

The facilitator should encourage discussion among participants, ensuring that everyone can talk, prompt with questions and clarifications as needed, and help participants by writing down notes on board or flipchart as needed.

Materials

Flipchart paper, masking tape, markers, workshop guide

Rationale

Characterization of forms and providers of information and communication

Tool: List of information and communication spaces in the municipality

Description: List of information and communication spaces that have application in the municipality

Information to collect:

1. Identify the amount and the uses of information and communication spaces in the community

Facilitation:

- Ask participants to identify important locations in the community, important places for communication and information, and their own placement in the community. On this visual map, ask them to identify public access venues (libraries, telecenters, cybercafés, other) and discuss their relative merits and shortcomings.

Rank most important venues (for example, venues most visited in the last month)

Discuss SWOT analysis for venues

Discuss how public access computing transforms life in the community. Probe for concrete examples and orders of magnitude.

Probe for negative effects too.

Discussion on other technologies, including radio and mobile phones

Other topics of interest

Prepare a summary of the workshop to be used in data analysis:

1. Date and location of workshop
2. Facilitator
3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS (Total number of participants, approximate ages, proportion of men and women, activities performed)
4. COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS (describe process followed and note insightful comments from participants, summarize discussion of topics covered)
5. General comments about workshop.