

CS3 — Charlotte's Web

Community Computer Network — Volunteer Participation, 1994

Category IV — Negentropy in Community Service | Reflections in Science and Education: A Forensic Documentary

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Overview

In 1994, Charlotte's Web — a coalition-driven community Free-Net initiative in Charlotte, North Carolina — converted disconnected public institutions into a unified public access computer network. William J. Moressi is documented as a volunteer participant in this coalition, photographed at a celebration event marking the award of two federal grants supporting the project. At the time, Moressi held direct institutional standing at two of the coalition's named partner organizations, distinguishing this entry from a general community volunteer role.

Negentropy Evaluation — Three-Part Test

Before State (Disorder)

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community operated without structured public access to computer networks or the internet. Libraries, schools, neighborhood and senior centers, homeless shelters, and healthcare facilities functioned in informational isolation from one another, with no shared electronic infrastructure connecting them.

Ordering Agent

A coalition led by the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC), with partners including local schools, Johnson C. Smith University, Central Piedmont Community College, and WTVI, backed by two federal grants: \$450,000 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (Dept. of Commerce TIIAP grant) and \$25,000 from the National Library of Medicine. Moressi is documented as a volunteer participant in this coalition effort, pictured among approximately a dozen volunteers at the grant celebration event.

Documented Institutional Standing

During this period, Moressi held direct professional standing at two of the coalition's named partner organizations: Director, Data Processing Department, and Associate Professor of Computer Science, Johnson C. Smith University; and contracted IT instructor, Central Piedmont Community College. This distinguishes his participation from that of an unaffiliated community volunteer — his involvement carried institutional weight at two of the four named coalition partners.

After State (Measurable Coherence)

A unified public access network connecting libraries, schools, community centers, shelters, and healthcare facilities — extending to the North Carolina Information Highway and the broader internet. Total documented project investment exceeded \$1.2 million.

***Note on evidentiary scope:** Moressi's individually documented role in this event is as a coalition volunteer with institutional standing at two partner organizations — not as the sole or primary ordering agent. The ordering agent for*

the coalition as a whole is the multi-institution partnership described above. This entry is evaluated and presented accordingly.

Primary Source

November 24, 1994 — Mecklenburg Neighbors, "In the Spotlight: Connecting by computer" ("Charlotte's Web")

Newspaper coverage documenting the Charlotte's Web volunteer coalition, including a group photograph of approximately a dozen volunteers — Moressi among them — holding a "Charlotte's Web" sign at the grant celebration event. The article confirms the award of two federal grants: \$450,000 (National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Dept. of Commerce TIIAP) for a public access computer information network and a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools electronic network, and \$25,000 (National Library of Medicine) for electronic AIDS/HIV information access.

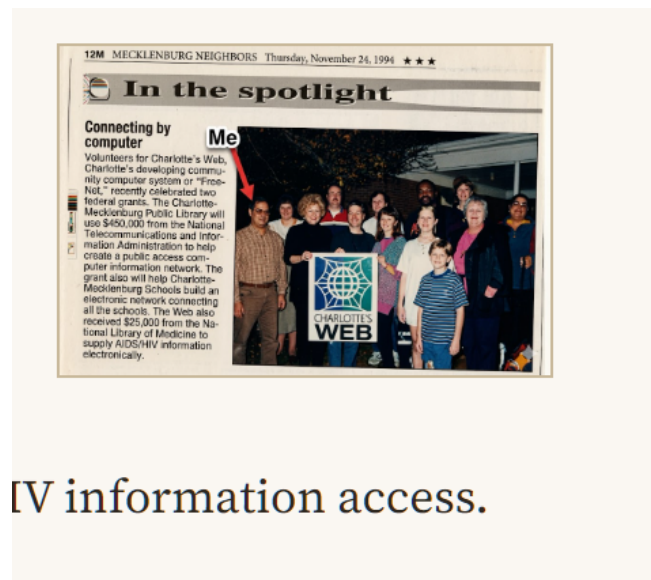


Fig. 1 — Mecklenburg Neighbors, November 24, 1994. Volunteer group photograph, "Charlotte's Web."

Cross-Reference

This event is also referenced with the primary-source clipping in Chapter 4 of the documentary (Winthrop University, 1984–1995): reflectionsinteachingandscience.org/Chapt3WU.html