Claire Styles
New models of sharing power with young people

LIBRARIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

What should young people expect library services to offer?

- Participation in shaping the future of library services
- Volunteering opportunities with younger or older library users
- A place to develop citizenship skills and community engagement
- Free, safe and welcoming spaces in the local community
- Formal and informal learning support for educational attainment
- Inspiring reading materials and positive activities to support them
- Information on education, training and careers opportunities

Participate Youth Involvement Model

These three roles are not usually accredited

Information

Consultation

Taking part in positive activities

These three roles are usually accredited

Volunteering: service delivery
Working with staff and other volunteers to contribute or add value to delivery of core services.

Volunteering: activism
Shaping and decision-making roles. *E.g. recruitment, design of services, stock selection.*

Volunteering: Leadership
Key advisory and evaluation roles. *E.g. library research, scrutiny, decision making forums, ambassador, peer promotion/ roles*
Link to wider youth forums e.g. Youth Parliament

These two roles involve young people with previous experience of libraries

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The Big Secret

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Transforming Services

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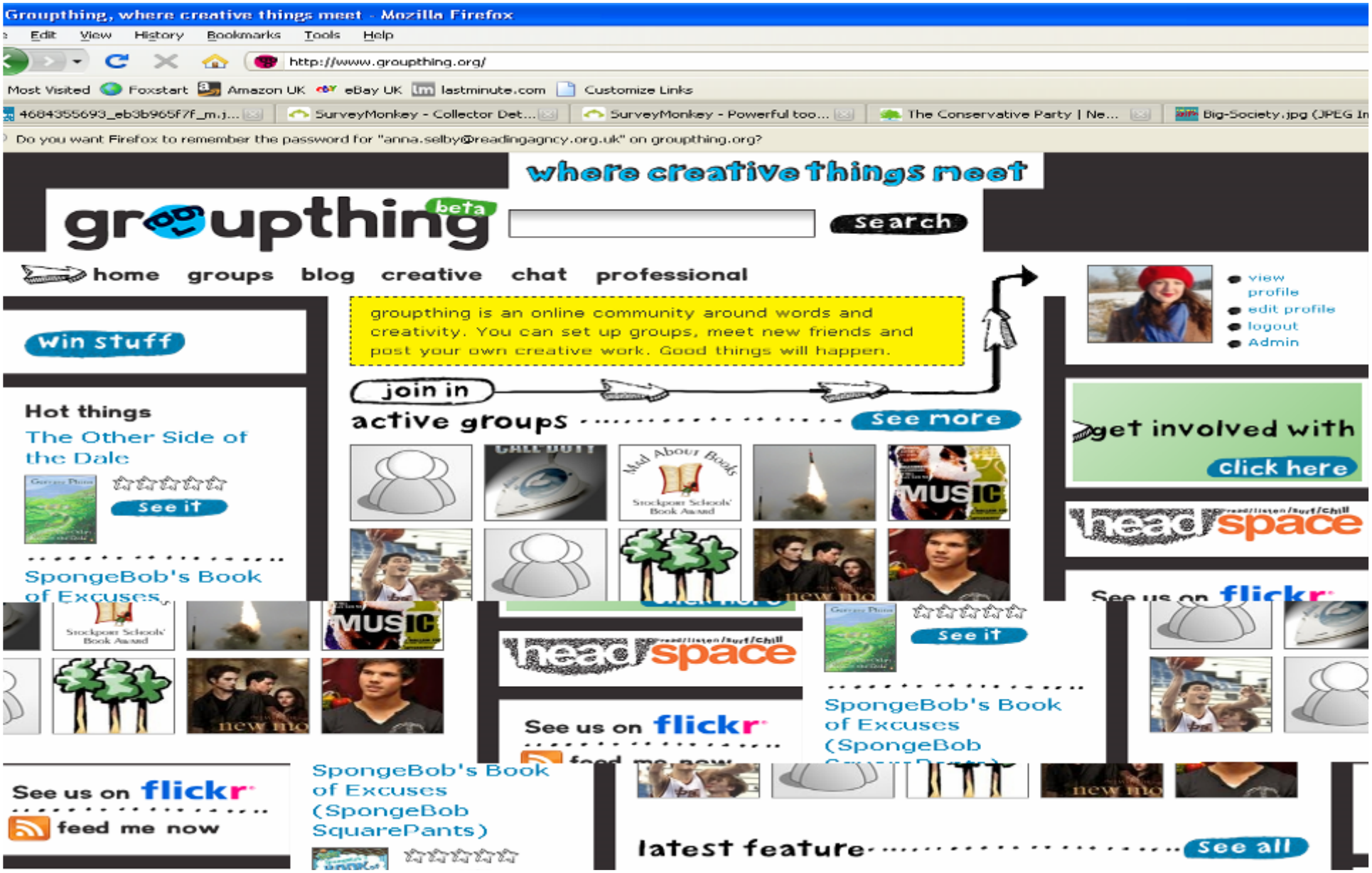
Building social capital

Creativity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What young people say

391 young people surveyed (May 2010) said they:

- Are put off getting involved with local activities
- Feel there is little going on locally
- View libraries as safe, friendly venues
- Are motivated to make a difference
- Are interested in creative activities and would welcome training
- Recognise the benefits of creative volunteering

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Where next?

"One thing that really builds confidence is the feeling that you are being listened to. More confidence means that we want to do more things, if you don't feel confident, there's fear and you won't feel motivated. I've applied to do voluntary work at the library because I've found that I like working with younger children and doing youth work" *Khalid, 18, Haslingden HeadSpace*

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