

Volunteer Networks

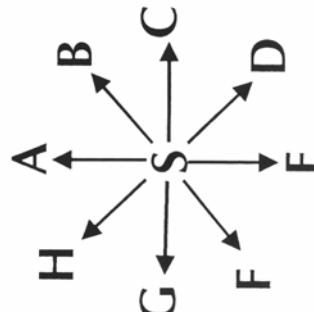
Discussion Questions

1. What is special about networking in denominational structures and in para-church organisations?
2. What are the advantages of networking for ministry in the name of Christ?
3. How can you network better?
4. Some additional ideas for networking
 - Create a Facebook page for recruiting/communicating with volunteers. They will make the connections with one another and for you.
 - Organise events to bring volunteers together apart from the event/activity where you need them.
 - Set up a training event that lasts longer than a day – factor in time to ‘chill-out’.
 - Circulate information relevant to volunteers in an effort to develop their skills or interest.
 - Set up a Wiki <http://www.centraldesktop.com/>
 - Set up an email list <http://search.constantcontact.com/index.jsp>

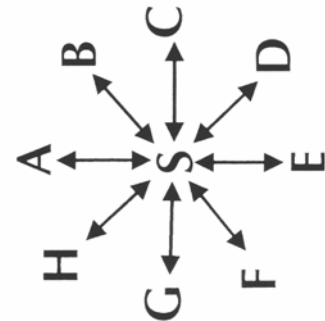
Some network models



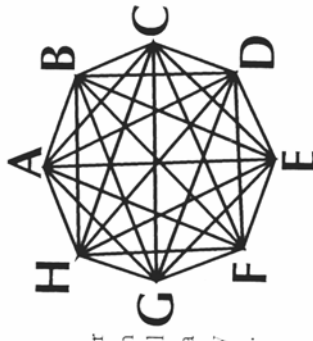
Eight organizations or individuals not linked (no networking).



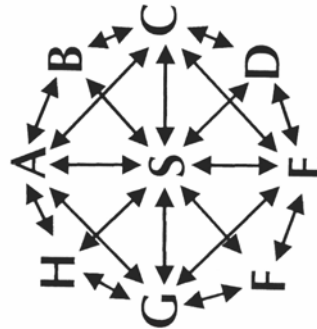
Information dissemination service from a central secretariat reaching the eight organizations or individuals, but no reciprocal information exchange (not a network).



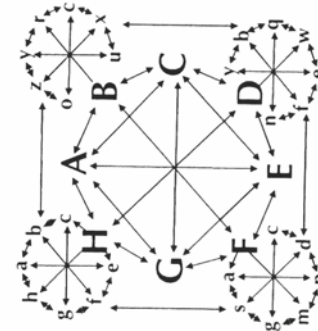
The organizations or individuals cooperating in a highly centralized network or institutional outreach programme. All have reciprocal relationships with the secretariat, but they do not network with the others.



All the organizations or individuals linked with each other, without any central facilitation (theoretically a perfect network, but probably unrealistic).



Network model with secretariat. The network members interact with each other (not all possible lines shown) and with a central secretariat that facilitates linkages between members.



Decentralized network model. Active national networks interact with each other and with resource organizations (not all possible lines shown). Secretariat responsibilities delegated.

Starkey, P *Networking for Development*
International Forum for Rural Transport and Development, New Premier House,
London, 1998.