



STUDY CIRCLES

GVPS

16 September 2016



The evening's presentation

- What is a Study Circle
- What is not a Study Circle
- Brief history and types
- Strengths/Weaknesses
- Philatelic Study Circles
- An example
- Discussion

Study Circle

Group of individuals who interact and participate voluntarily multiple times to discuss and learn co-operatively about a particular common interest

Focus is on

participation; interaction; discussion; learning

What a Study Circle is not

- A club
- A focus group
- A debating group
- A 'town forum'
- A traditional education group
- An advocacy/policy making group

History

- 19th century Russia (Norodnaya Volya)
- 20th century Sweden
- World-wide
- Internet – virtual study circles

Examples of Study Circles

- Community

- *Religious, civic, schools*

- Family

- *Educating children, house decorating*

- Hobbies

- *Collecting, studying (astronomy)*

Strengths/Weaknesses

Strengths

- Brings people together
- Combines relative expertise with subject interest

Weaknesses

- Requires participant commitment
- Passive participation
- Potential group dysfunction
- Facilitator unable to “lead”

Philatelic Study Circles

- Countries (India, Falkland Islands)
- Issues (GVI, GV Silver Jubilee)
- Special areas (Perfins, Revenues)
- Special topics (Censored mail)

Common theme

in-depth understanding, interaction
exchange of ideas = increased KNOWLEDGE

King George V 1935 Silver Jubilee Study Circle

Organisation:	~40 members
Distribution:	World-wide
Communication:	Internet (e-mail, journal)
'Facilitator':	Journal editor
Knowledge:	Journal (electronic - pdf)

Example of a small working Study Circle

King George V 1935 Silver Jubilee Study Circle

Involvement: Identified people willing to write
Topic identification
SC Members provide images etc.
Draft article feedback obtained
All contributors become authors

Example of a small working Study Circle

King George V 1935 Silver Jubilee Study Circle

Topic examples: Design and printing of stamps
Colony postal history
Stamp forgers
Mauritius TPOs
Dominion/Colonial Slogans
Varieties
Zeppelin mail

Example of a small working Study Circle

Discussion