TENSIONS IN MAKING RESEARCH ACCESSIBLE WITHIN DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITIES

The utility of scholarly communication for the Downtown Eastside Community, Vancouver, BC

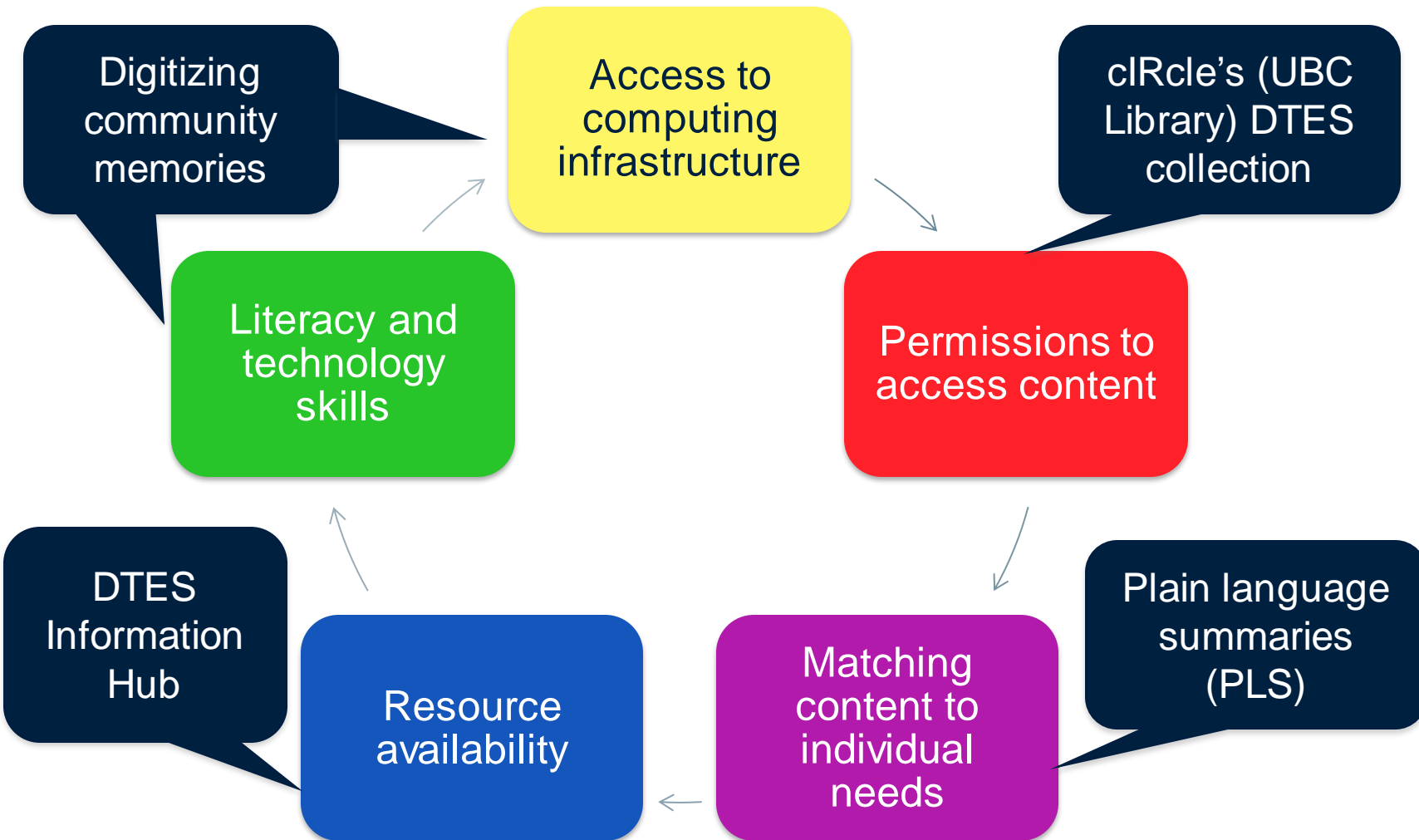**Heather O'Brien, Luanne Freund, Angela Towle**

UBC

MAKING RESEARCH ACCESSIBLE INITIATIVE (MRAI)

- Led by the UBC Learning Exchange (UBCLE) since 2015
- Established in response to Downtown Eastside (DTES) residents concerns about research
- Evolving Steering Committee consisting of UBCLE staff, UBC librarians, researchers, and students, and DTES community members/groups

ACCESS TO RESEARCH IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL

Digitizing community memories

Access to computing infrastructure

cIRcle's (UBC Library) DTES collection

Literacy and technology skills

Permissions to access content

DTES Information Hub

Resource availability

Matching content to individual needs

Plain language summaries (PLS)

Clement, A., & Shade, R.L. (1998). The access rainbow: Conceptualizing universal access to information. In Gurstein, M. (Ed). *Community Informatics: Enabling Communities with Information and Communications Technologies* (pp. 32-51). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

MOVING BEYOND ACCESS TO RECONFIGURE RESEARCH RELATIONSHIPS AND OUTPUTS

- Reduce the volume and burden of research on the DTES
- Help to draw attention to community-identified issues; and
- Promote access to research for lay audiences