



Research into Online Platforms

As part of the NPAC project, we undertook a research piece into web resources, looking specifically at websites representing cause-related networks or providing search and match functionality. Our aim in carrying out this research was in due course to consider whether it was possible to create an online platform to pair philanthropists with arts organisations.

We explored the following sites as the most relevant examples of organisations exploring the opportunities that the online space can offer in this area:

Do-IT	Volunteer-matching site and database
Environmental Funders Network	Membership organisation seeking to increase support for environmental causes
The Mesa	Digital platform seeking to create a community of philanthropists online
Music Patron (under development)	New online platform which will connect composers and commissioners/patrons
Brevio	Platform automating the initial steps in grant applications to make it easier for charities to apply for funds
UK Community Foundations	Network of 47 locally-based community foundations around the UK
ActionFunder	Organisation matching businesses with like-minded community groups and charities
Reach Volunteering	Website connecting people with causes, as volunteers or trustees

The process of exploring these different websites was extremely informative as part of the process of refining what the legacy of NPAC will be, and what resources we want to focus on making available online as part of our future aims.

It was useful to see where web-resources were working well (for example, the number of volunteers matched with opportunities via Do-IT; the way EFN are building a membership network to increase giving in their sector; and the research undertaken by the founders of The Mesa into UHNWIs).

It was also useful to see areas where the online programme had thrown up challenges (for example the mismatch between the large number of charities and the small number of funders in some instances; and the significant technological development time required by others).

All of these examples fed back into our learnings from the NPAC project and the development of our legacy website.