

Learning from each other about how to do research together



Kathy Boxall

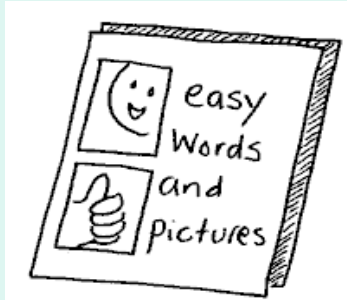
University of Sheffield

and **CHANGE, UK**



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Learning from each other about how to do research together



A workshop for everyone who is interested in service user involvement in research.



There will be a chance to find out about a course for service users and university students at Sheffield University in England.



In the workshop, we will support each other to do some of the activities from the Sheffield course together.

WELCOME!



- Please say hello and introduce yourself to the other people in the workshop

Learning from each other about how to do research together

- ACCESS
- The social model of disability
- Points-of-view
- The story of the *Researching Together* course
- Professor X and the Slow Shoppers
- Building confidence and skills

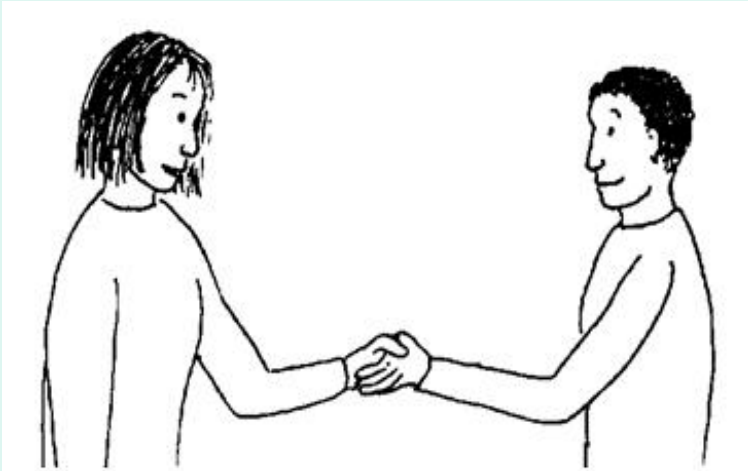
ACCESS



Access isn't just about ramps and buildings, it's about communication too.

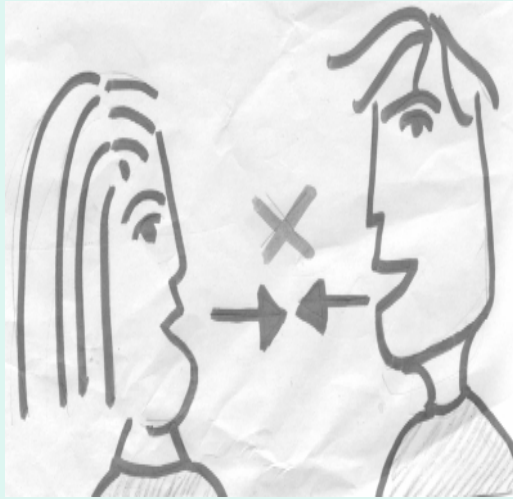
What does access mean to you?

Working together today



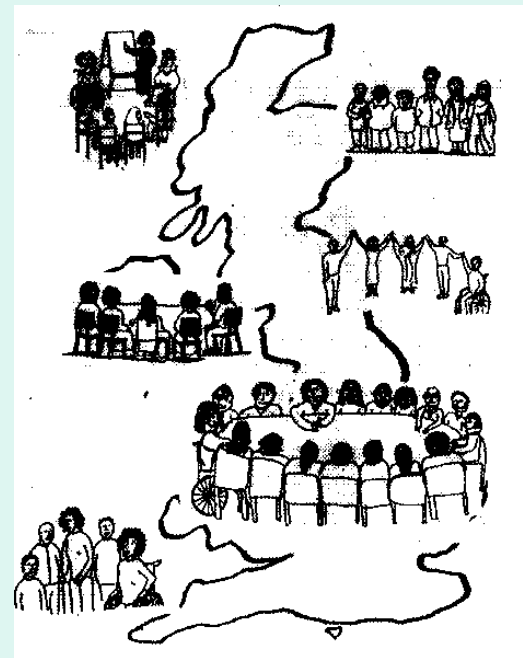
- How can we support each other as we work together today?
- What do you need to enable you to participate fully?

Ground rules?

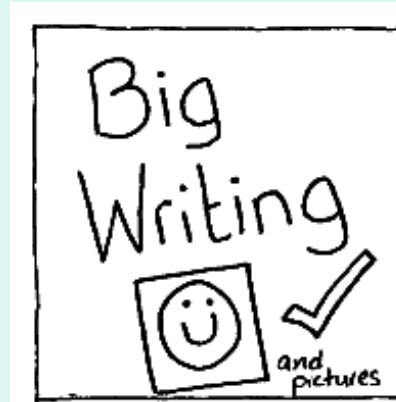


Why involve service users in research?

The United Kingdom government wants people who use services to get involved in research (see Boxall et al 2007).



The social model of disability



- The social model of disability is about barriers to inclusion (things that stop disabled people from joining in)
- Steps and stairs can prevent people who use wheelchairs from getting into buildings
- Jargon and small writing can stop people with intellectual disabilities from joining in

The social model of disability and research



- Social model research looks at barriers to inclusion;
- It does **NOT** look at what is different about disabled people;
- Social model research looks at what would need to happen so disabled people can join in.

Understandings and questions



A question in a government disability survey asked:

- **What complaint causes you difficulty in holding, gripping or turning things?**

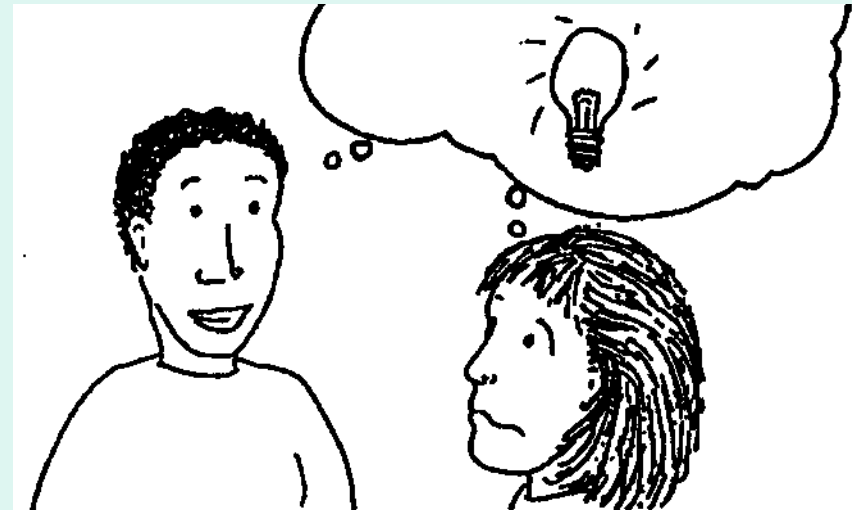
This can be written in a different way:

- **What defects in the design of everyday equipment like jars, bottles and lids causes you difficulty in holding, gripping or turning them?**

(Oliver 1990)

Standpoints or points-of-view

- Sandra Harding says that less powerful people often understand power better than more powerful people do, because of their experiences (see Harding 2004).
- She also says that the point-of-view of less powerful people is a good starting point for research



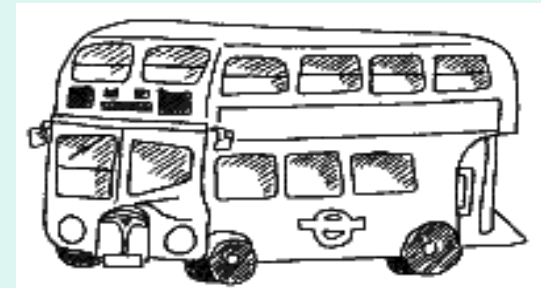
The *Researching Together* course

- A seven week short course part of a longer final year course
- The aim was to provide opportunities for university students, service users and tutors to learn – *from each other* – about how to do research together
- We had a large flat classroom with:
 - Ten '**long course**' students
 - Ten '**short course**' students
 - Two university lecturers (Lorna Warren and Kathy Boxall)
 - A camera crew!

Before the course started

We contacted people about:

- Access needs;
- Transport;
- Expenses payments;
- A picture and a few words about yourself.



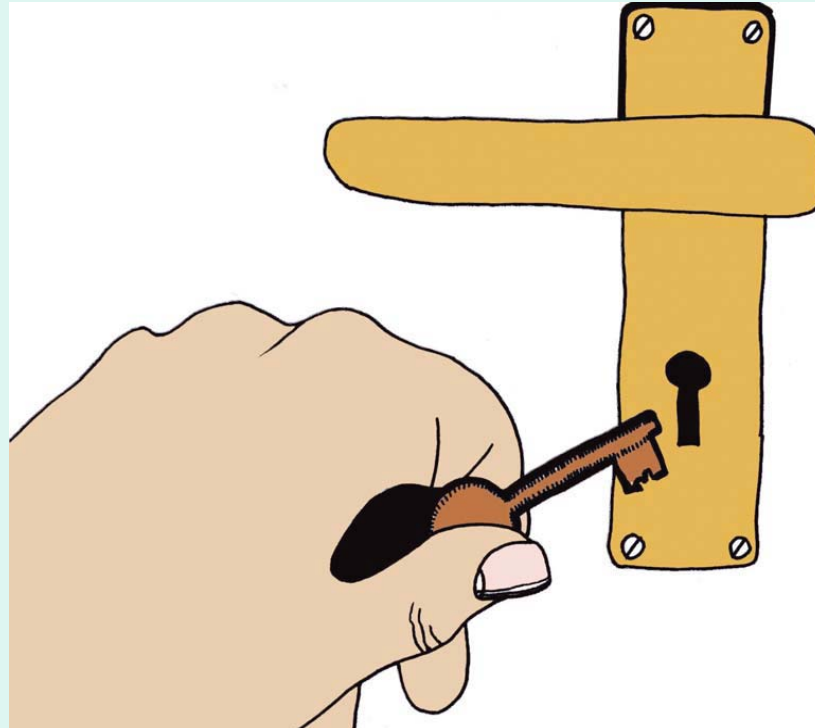
Course reading



- We had to choose materials which everyone could use;
- Short course students couldn't join the University library.

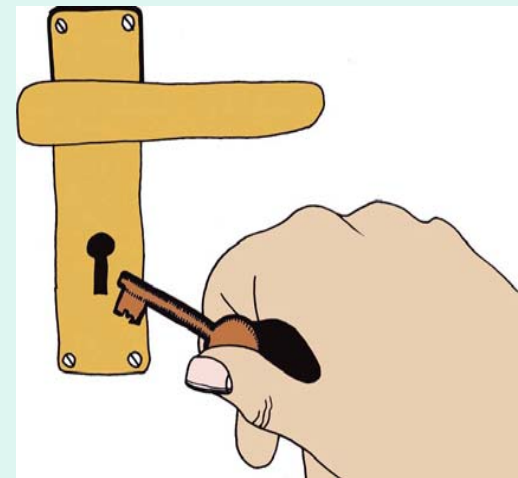
Let me in – I'm a researcher!

(Learning Difficulties Research Team and others 2006)



Jargon words

- ‘... we have sometimes used jargon words that researchers in universities know about. We have learnt what these words mean and, as researchers, we can use them when we’re talking with academics.’
- ‘There is a **Glossary** of jargon words on page 113.’



Professor X and the Slow Shoppers

- How could this research be done differently?
- We used Forum Theatre (Augusto Boal) as a way of involving everyone in research design.

Partnership Research



- A project which explored ways of learning disabled researchers and university researchers working together

See: <http://partnership.education.manchester.ac.uk/>

Reading

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Pictures from: CHANGE – <http://www.changepeople.co.uk> and Access2Pictures – www.peoplefirstltd.com