Pokestops… And a Lot of Pokeballs!

(Part of the ISTE DigCit PLN Pokemon Go Report)

Before creating Pokemon Go Niantic made two other games Field Trip and Ingress Ingress: The game that reveals Google's secret war to control London (We loved reading about Operation Sitrep: A Series of Tubes).

One article in this collection, Pokemon GO, A Popular Game with Some Troubling Consequences, is critical of the location of Pokestops. This article assumes the location of the Pokestops is software driven, but in actual fact were crowdsourced by people who played Ingress.

The Candidate Portal criteria for these portals can be found in this collection:

As of September 2, 2015, we will be temporarily suspending new Portal submissions for a period of time while we work on processing the backlog and on designing new and more efficient ways to evaluate Portal submissions and edits. You will no longer see the NEW PORTAL option when long pressing on the Scanner.

A LOCATION WITH A COOL STORY, A PLACE IN HISTORY OR EDUCATIONAL VALUE

A COOL PIECE OF ART OR UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

A HIDDEN GEM OR HYPER-LOCAL SPOT

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

PUBLIC PLACES OF WORSHIP

Please refrain from submitting these candidates, as reviewing these submissions slows down the process for everyone.
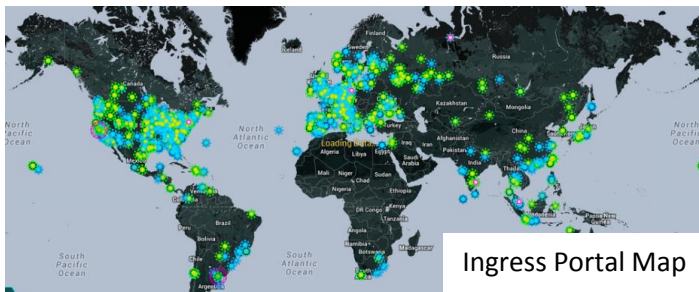
Candidates on PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (including farms)

Candidates that may interfere with the operations of FIRE STATIONS, POLICE STATIONS AND HOSPITALS

Candidates on the grounds of PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS

How to increase the chances your new Portal candidate is accepted

In order to help us address our growing queue of new Portal submissions, starting Dec 31, 2014 we will temporarily suspend the Seer Medal. You will maintain your current Seer Medal status

Ingress Portal Map

Problems with Pokestops?

Interviews from Niantic detail the founders interest in helping people learn and that safety is a priority for the creators.

[Exclusive: Inside the Mind of Google's Greatest Idea Man,](#)

Again, it comes back to it thinking about what's interesting about the world. What's worth noting? And that led us down the path of history and historical markets

Field Trip has a deep collection of local history through a partnership with Arcadia

We want to help people learn
What I love is people going out and discovering the history of their town in the process of playing this game

Parents are doing this with their kids. We've gotten emails from parents saying 'We took our kids and visited 12 historical sites in my town I've been by hundreds of times and never bothered to stop before.' It's super cool.

And maybe it's the economy, or maybe it's just a trend, but people are trying to figure out what can make their communities better

As with any new idea there are some glitches, bugs, anomalies and "funnies." For example, locations Niantic had asked users to refrain from submitting have been used, like Police stations and unsafe areas like the North Korea Border. In other cases the Pokestop did fit the criteria, but the building has been converted for residential use.

[Pokemon GO: Police urge gamers to stop trying to catch Sandshrew in Darwin police station](#)

[People Are Flocking To This Guy's House Because It's A Gym On Pokemon Go](#)

Some articles in this collection highlight changes can be and are being made [businesses are now being invited to be added as Pokestops](#).

[How Pokemon Go locations work (probably)](#) highlights that:

"Gradually places that are less appropriate... will just die out and the confirmed ones will take precedent. "It's a bit like taking down unsuitable things on YouTube,"

Something that we can see via [The mysterious Pokemon Go gym at the border of North Korea and South Korea has disappeared](#) article.

Pokestops and Schools

[Getting started with Pokemon Go & Students: Using Lures at your school Pokestop](#) has some fantastic ideas around how to utilize Pokemon Go if your school is a Pokestop but, according to the portal criteria, schools should not be gyms or Pokestops.

Please refrain from submitting these candidates, as reviewing these submissions slows down the process for everyone.
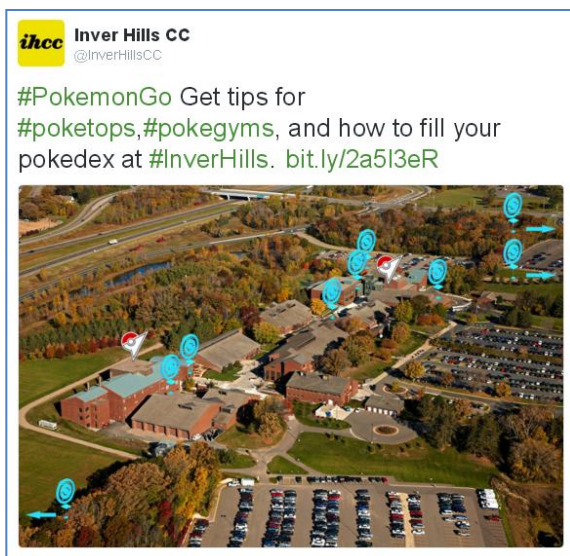
Candidates on the grounds of PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS

If Schools are not being considered as Pokestops at the moment but you'd like your school to be one so you can implement ideas from this article:

1) **What can the DigCit PLN do to help with this?**

2) **What would we need to consider before implementing school Pokestops?**

One thing that would be easy to implement would be to arrange a Pokehunt at your local College or University that have Pokestops and where the staff are embracing the game.

School staff could liaise with their HE counter-parts while students engage with older students to discuss the game… and find out about what they are studying and the courses on offer.

[We love this Pokemon Go at Inverhills College Article](#)

Pokemon gyms should be located at every school. Beyond the use of Pokemon Go in curriculum it should also be noted that the safest public places in a local community should be the school. If students are going to play this game why wouldn't we want the gyms to be located in a safe place, with caring adults around and typically strong security systems and light campuses.

Rob Furman, principal at South Park Elementary, Pennsylvania

Interested in exploring the potential of Pokemon Go in Education?
[Complete this form for more updates](#)