

To: Lori Robare, CC:DA Chair

From: Melanie Polutta, CC:DA Webmaster

SUBJECT: Webmaster report, January 8, 2011

1. The CC:DA site continues to be maintained at the current location. I have worked with John Attig to do all the relevant updates. We eventually worked out all the oddities of having to work through him for actual site changes. I thank him not only for his prompt uploading but for his guidance on understanding what is necessary as we prepare for each new meeting.
2. The Committee's page of record for the ALA Handbook of Organization is located at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/mgrps/ccs/cmtes/ccda/ats-ccscat.cfm>. In addition to pointing to the full-size site, it contains a persistent link to the Committee's current roster (generated by the ALA membership management system), information on how one might get involved with the Committee, a description of the Committee's membership, the current charge, and a news feed from the Committee's Connect space. Regardless of what happens to the full website used by the Committee, this page is the official placeholder for the larger ALA.
3. When the site transfers to the ALA servers, we will have our own server space, not restricted to the format of most of the committees. This is a reflection of our current existence as an ongoing site of many years, and its resultant sheer size. Trying to shoehorn all the information on the site into the controlled format of the other ALA/ALCTS subpages would be more work than it's worth. This fact is something that was perhaps not clearly communicated before.
4. However, we will probably want to change our format to better align ourselves with the overall ALA/ALCTS site logos, appearance, etc. John Attig has already done some idea work in this area. I hope to come up with some template ideas for the home page and subpages, so that when the time comes, converting the pages will be fairly simple. I will also want to talk to various committee members to get a sense of how the site is used in order to make it more user-friendly. But an actual change will be necessarily slowed by the coming ALA site change.
5. The redesign has been delayed by the fact that ALA is going to do a big site update, moving management of the current site to Drupal, an open source content management system. The current date cited to me is July 2011 for the ALCTS section of that change. Assuming it stays on target with that date, it would be best to contemplate moving after the dust settles. So for now, it would be best for us to wait until that is done before we do the actual work of the redesign of the CC:DA site. In the meantime, there is plenty of preparation to do.

6. The actual conversion needs to wait because we don't want to do a redesign, then have to redo all the work of fitting it into Drupal. We may or may not want to use Drupal ourselves; I will be in consultation with Christine McConnell in the ALCTS office about that. It is unclear to me if we will be required to use it or not. As yet, Christine has not seen the actual customizations that may be available to us and thus cannot recommend one way or the other.
7. As a preliminary, I have been working with John to convert some of the old Committee documents from Word, and eventually from html, into pdf, as a standard accessible format. This work is entirely separate from any website design work, though it is part of the preparation.
8. In the meantime, the current site at <http://alcts.ala.org/ccda/> is already available for us to use. I hope to gain access to it and use it as a way to mirror image the current PSU site as well as a place to set up some possible redesign choices. This will allay one of my biggest concerns about the use of the PSU site, which is that only one person can actually upload changes, as well as having a backup copy in place.