

To: Lori Robare, CC:DA Chair

From: Melanie Polutta, CC:DA Webmaster

SUBJECT: Webmaster report, June 27, 2011

1. Thanks to John Attig for his aid in updating the website. I'm afraid I had some challenging questions for him this time on how the indexes had been organized.
2. Discussion with Christine at Midwinter clarified several points that were unclear to me before. The most important point is that knowing Drupal is only useful if I am going to be working inside the main ala.org site for the Committee's site of record. With the way things are set up now, it is not necessary for me to work inside the website coding to be able to add documents, etc., so I am not sure that Drupal will change this. Therefore, I do not consider learning Drupal to be a necessary expenditure of my time, at least right now. Once the ALA site has been converted to Drupal, I'll re-explore the question.
3. 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, so it is fairly restricted and not easily changed. It will continue to exist no matter what other websites we have, but any substantive changes to the page of record will only work through the ALCTS office. The kind of updating that is needed for the conference agendas and related documents won't really work on that site.
4. The alcts.ala.org/ccda site is currently live and is a mirror image of the PSU site. I have tried to ensure that it is up to date with all the same information. We could do a change-over right now if we so chose, although I would prefer to wait until we update the navigation. Both I and the ALCTS office have access, which takes care of some maintenance concerns, and giving access to the next webmaster or even a webmaster backup is mainly a matter of sharing server information and password. This should be done with appropriate caution and care, but the point I wish to make is that it is not dependent on someone working at a specific location and having the appropriate server permissions, a limitation from which the PSU site does suffer.
5. As part of my effort to improve the CCDA website, I have been putting together some mockups of the website for the Committee to look at and comment upon. Both of them offer what I consider a clearer navigation structure that will make

it easier for users to find what they are looking for. (Please note that these are ROUGH mockups and therefore do not look pretty.)

1. alcts.ala.org/_ccda -- topnavbar structure
 2. alcts.ala.org/_ccda/test_2 -- sidenavbar structure
 3. ccdatest.wordpress.com -- blog CMS structure
6. All test sites use the same basic categorization structure, although the html websites vs. the blog CMS site implement them in different ways. The main categories include: Working Docs, Task Forces, Reports, etc., About CC:DA, Document index, and Other resources.
 7. I attempted to gain some information for how the committee uses the site on the rules listserv, but few people responded to my question. However, those who did answer said basically the same thing, which is that they primarily use the site as a place to access the relevant documents and information related to a meeting. After reflecting on my own experience with the Committee website, I took the approach that there are two audiences for this website: people looking for information about CC:DA and the committee members themselves. Of the two, I decided that the committee members come first, so their categories get top billing, and the About information is in second place. I welcome any discussion of this approach.
 8. An important difference between the navbar website(s) and the wordpress site is that two of them require knowledge of html and one does not, although such knowledge certainly comes in handy. The Wordpress site is one that can be done by any person who is reasonably comfortable with a web interface and, in my opinion, can be taught very quickly. I did check and the other ALA blogs are Wordpress, so that means we could have our own Wordpress site to function as our website under the alcts.ala.org/ccda url, and it could be highly customized to our purposes.
 1. One thing that it might be possible to simplify is the document indexes – for example, I believe the topical index could be created via tags in Wordpress – OR it could be maintained as is on a Wordpress Page.
 2. NOTE: It does not have to look like a blog just because we use blog software!!!! (See Wordpress showcase www.wordpress.org/showcase for many examples.)
 9. I would request that the committee take the time to look at the websites listed above and see if they like the general navigation offered by any of these sites.