

WM

MPLA Webmaster Report

05 March 2005

Web Site Redesign

The MPLA website is slowly being converted to a new style, with new "bells and whistles." The President, Vice-President and Executive Secretary have been privy to the early stages of the revamp. I would guess that everyone can take a look, if you like. The location where I'm "hiding" the redesign is www.usd.edu/mpla/test - if you take a look, please be aware that the redesign is still very much a work in progress and I've not gotten all the links active, nor have I converted all the old pages over to the new look.

What can you look forward to? The new site should be more streamlined with fewer immediate links, yet everything you need to find right away should not be more than one or two clicks away from the home page.

I've created some templates for the page design which will make updating things much quicker as all I'll need to do is edit one page and all pages will reflect that change (this will eliminate the need to "touch" over 200 webpages to make one change across the board.) I'm also using cascading style sheets which is another time saving tool. And if you like "bells and whistles," we're using some javascript to make graphic links go boldface" when you run your mouse over them :

Here's a graphic of the new look:

If you have any opinions, I'd welcome them at any time, particularly if you are not able to view the whole page or your browser has problems handling it. I have looked at the redesign in IE, Netscape, Opera and Mozilla.

New Website Additions

- I've added a search feature at the bottom of the home page - if you are unable to find something on the website, you can Google it. I've tried it and it appears to work. If you find it doesn't work, let me know.
- I've also added a Calendar feature on the redesigned look site (it's not on the "old" site.) It's live at the present time, and includes a calendar of events from around the MPLA member states, as well as including things like Board Meeting dates, ALA conferences, and anything else I could think to add. The direct link to the calendar is www.usd.edu/mpla/test/calendar.html. If you guys have events to add, or if you discover I've got a date or event wrong, please let me know and I'll fix it.
- At the bottom of every Jobline posting, I have added a blurb offering visitors a link to join MPLA. The blurb reads: "MPLA is a great way to network with library professionals and library staff around the mountain plains region. For more information about joining MPLA, please visit our Membership Information page."

Long Range Plans for Webmaster Update

- Regarding the status of the suggested Continuing Education programming website, I have had some discussions with Dan Stanton regarding getting that site online at the main MPLA site. Currently, the page is located on a different server. I would expect we can add that relatively quickly, depending on when Dan gives me the okay to.
- Regarding the posting of preconference and professional development grant winners, we can certainly do that immediately. It all depends on the chairs notifying me of the names and information to post.
- Regarding the posting of career experience fields in MemberClicks, I would defer that issue to Joe Edelen. I'm not sure we can just add a field into the online Membership Directory, as the data for the directory was derived from a datafile Joe sent to MemberClicks. We'd need to check with MC. If we can add a field without damaging the directory, I'd be willing to work with Joe to make that happen.
- Regarding the "Ask a Career Question" topic, I would be willing to create something. However, we need to give this a little thought before hand. We do not currently have any component of the website for career building type information. There is a Jobline, and that might be a possible component, but I may want to come up with an idea for an MPLA career corner, a portion of the website where we can tie some things in. As it stands right now, all the "MPLA Career Corner" would have is a link to the Jobline and a link to a form where people could ask a question. And a broader issue in the use of a form is that at the moment, we are limited in the main website to forms that can be submitted only to Joe Edelen (the form executable we use to generate form output will only send to folks at the usd.edu domain.) This might be something we want to consider putting at MemberClicks because MC will let us set some of these things up pretty easily - such as a Career Advice bulletin board, etc.
- Regarding highlighting or drawing attention to long-term members on their anniversaries of membership in the Association. That's something we can do yearly, and it wouldn't take much doing on my part. I'd just need a listing of folks (assuming those folks would be willing to be publicly acknowledged.)
- Regarding the links to and back from the MPLA Jobline, I have links to all the state association joblines that I could find. I would encourage the state representatives to take a quick look at the Jobline index page, and if there is no link to your state associations jobline, let me know. I do try to verify the links are not "dead" routinely, but if I miss a dead link, let me know.
- Regarding the communication with membership issues, most of that I'm already doing. I can certainly send a message out to MPLA-L when we have posted Board Reports and Executive Board meeting minutes to the archive.

Statistical Activities Overview

Just to update the Board on my web activities, I have updated my running log of web changes, as of 15 February 2005.

Category	Changes:	Changes:
----------	----------	----------

	01/01/04 - 10/8/04	10/9/04 - 02/15/05
Home Page Changes (Index Page Only)	30	24
Committee Pages	22	13
Section Pages	1	15
Executive Officers	0	1
Other MPLA Folks	1	0
Board Reports/Minutes	209	102
State Reps/Associations	4	4
Manual of Procedure/Bylaws	16	8
Conference Listing Page	5	2
Board Choice Awards	18	7
Newsletter	7	4
Long Range Plan	3	5
Membership	2	0
Faces of MPLA Page	20	7
Leadership Institute Page	10	3
Jobline	458	227
Jobline: New Listings	220	115
Jobline: Positions Removed	192	91
Jobline: Jobline Index Update	36	21
Coding Errors	0	0

Other Routine Updates	20	0
Total	826	422

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Chaney
MPLA Webmaster
dwcosu@okstate.edu
405-744-9772