

WM

## MPLA Webmaster Report

12 October 2005

### Relocation of the MPLA Website

In light of Joe's retirement as Executive Secretary, it seems the time is right to relocate the MPLA website. I have gained approval from the Oklahoma State University Libraries administration to move the MPLA website onto the OSU Libraries webserver. The OSU Libraries hosts at least two other professional library association websites (Oklahoma ACRL, Greater Western Library Association.) Further, it is "my" place of employment and I have a great deal of experience working with my library's IT staff (who are all excellent, knowledgeable folks!) Moreover, in my capacity as GWLA webmaster, I know what we can and cannot do at OSU with the webserver. I have bounced this idea off Beth, Sharon and Carol - and all seem to approve.

There are several immediate advantages to relocating to my "backyard" here at OSU. First, as I mentioned is the excellent technical support (we didn't always have access to that at USD.) Secondly, we can register a unique domain name and use it at OSU, so our website will no longer be affiliated (via URL) to any other institution than our own. Of course, we need to determine a suitable (and available) domain name to register. I have some experience in registering a domain name in my capacity as webmaster for the GWLA. Once we register the domain name, my Library will handle the rest.

#### Available Domain Names:

mpla.us

mountainplains.us

mplalibraries.org

mplalibraries.net

mountain-plains.net

m-p-l-a.org

m-p-l-a.net

MountainPlainsLA.net

MountainPlainsLA.info

#### Pricing

I checked Network Solutions for pricing, and it seemed about the best:

1 year = \$34.99

2 years = \$59.98

3 years = \$74.97

5 years = \$99.95

10 years = \$149.90

100 years = \$995 (just in case we're in this for the long haul ? )

Enom.com pricing was 29.95 per year.

My University will not allow us to set up financial transactions on the MPLA website, so we'll need to look elsewhere – perhaps MemberClicks (although new members won't have access to that.) I've suggested we explore using PayPal for MPLA Membership (credit card) transactions. I'm assuming I can work with the Executive Secretary on that.

#### Disposition of MPLA-L and MPLA-EX

I talked with my library IT staff and we kind of thought it might be a wise idea to see if the listservs can be operated through another university, simply for diversification. If OSU has a campus network outage, if the lists are run somewhere else, we can still get messages out. (Note: OSU doesn't have many network outages, but I err on the side of caution. : ) )

MPLA-L has a lot of traffic which is mainly Jobline postings. A question is if we want to continue to post jobs on the listserv when they are posted on the website. Up to now, it has been my standard operating procedure that when I get an MPLA-L position listing from Joe, that is my trigger to put it on the website. If we remove the MPLA-L job postings, I'll need to make sure the Executive Secretary gets position listings to me (or they should be sent directly to me and remove the Executive Secretary as the "middle man".)

I think MPLA-EX is important to maintain if for no other reason than Board Reports sent out before meetings, although, again, reports can be sent to me directly for posting on the website.

#### New Stuff

Since July, I have created the 2005 Conference Handouts Archive, available at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/documents/handouts/2005/index.html>

There is a Conference Blog available at: <http://mplawla2005.blogspot.com/>

While I had very little (i.e., nothing : ) ) to do with setting it up, the Conference Webcast website is linked online to: <http://staging.tclib.org/mpla/index.html>

We ran the election ballots this fall electronically via MemberClicks. I helped Joe set that up. I haven't talked much to Joe since that experience to see how it went behind the scenes. I will do that so we can learn from what maybe didn't work well and can incorporate changes into the system for the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Chaney  
MPLA Webmaster