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MPLA Webmaster Report

26 June 2014

Website Redesign

The website redesign/revamp is moving apace. After having been on vacation from May 19 – June 19, there has been a good, long break, but I am preparing to leap back into the process.

Recap: we are moving the MPLA website into an open source content management system (CMS) MODX. MODX is a very different way of creating content for an HTML dinosaur like me, but it has been fun. Thankfully Roy knows ModX and has been willing to show me what I need to know and help me with some of the heavy lifting.

If you want to see where we are recreating the MPLA website, you can go to new.mpla.us. Be warned, it is far from complete, and my intention is to work on it daily until we have it ready to go.

What changes? Far less navigation and categories. I was able to distill the links into three broad categories on the black nav bar at the top – About (About the Association, Documents (our MPLA “stuff”, MoP, Bylaws, Reports, etc.) and Services (stuff we do for members). There are some social media icons/links up top as well: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Google+, and LinkedIn. Finally, there will be a site wide RSS feed and a Search function. I think the Search function actually works, it’s kind of cool, it drops a box down and you can search.

There are QuckLinks up top as well. These are to the top 10 most popular parts of the MPLA website, based on access statistics: Jobline, Conference, Leadership Institute, Membership, Grants, CE, Newsletter and Calendar. These are quick jumping points.

One of the cool things I am incorporating is a Member Profile box on the top of the page. This is partly to put a face to the Association, but I also see it as a recruitment incentive. Right now, Anali is featured, but her photo isn’t there as I haven’t incorporated many images yet. My intent is to have a dozen or two of these member profiles and rotate them randomly as you visit. And I hope the numbers will grow.

Below the mountain-plains image, where it says MPLA, this will be three content boxes: News, Calendar Events, and Jobline posts. I think. To be honest, this area is one I can’t remember exactly where I left it in May. There will be stuff in there.

Finally, the footer. I’m especially proud of the footer. It will be on the bottom of every page and features the MPLA state associations, with the best icon or logo I could grab from the various websites. Montana was particularly difficult to massage into something smaller, and I’m still not happy with it. I may need to contact the Montana Library Association folks and see if they can give me a different logo.

The other think I’m really proud of is the Creative Commons open license. I think it’s a good, forward thinking thing we can do, as MPLA, to make our website open access.

If you want to see parts of the website that are actually working (more or less):

- MPLA Calendar is good to go: <http://new.mpla.us/documents/calendar.html>

- Jobline is set up, but not populated with all the current positngs:
<http://new.mpla.us/services/jobline.html>

So that's where we are on that. I hope that we have this completed by the first of August. Of course, I will keep the Board in the loop as the process moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Chaney
MPLA Webmaster