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MPLA Webmaster Report
13 July 2002

MPLA Webmaster Activities

In case people wonder how I spend my time as MPLA Webmaster, here's a rundown on the
duties of MPLA Webmaster (in no particular order).

1. Routine Maintenance Tasks, including:
    o Routine maintenance of the MPLA website, including fixing "dead" or inactive
      links, etc.
    o Regular updates to the MPLA Jobline.
    o Regular updates of the Board Choice Award winners, as they announced.
    o Updating officer lists, committee and section chairs, as well as committee
      member lists.
    o Posting MPLA Newsletters as soon as the Newsletter Editor makes Adobe
      Acrobat versions available.
    o Providing links to information of interest to membership such as annual
      conference information, requests for nominations, etc.
    o Posting Executive Board meeting minutes online, following meetings.
2. Recent Projects and Major Additions include:
    o Reorganizing the homepage to include fewer direct links (note: the links are all
      still there, but are embedded off the main page), hopefully creating a "sleeker"
      less cluttered appearance.
    o Continually reviewing the "behind the scenes" HTML code to ensure the
      presentation is as uncomplicated as possible. I spent a great deal of time this
      spring fixing some consistent "bad" code on all the site pages. In layman's terms, I
      made some poor choices for design and style very early on (years ago) and I
      dutifully copied that bad code onto each and every MPLA webpage. With
      approximately 279 unique web pages on the MPLA site (depending on Jobline
      posts) making one change across the board is time consuming :-)
    o I added a new section titled "The Faces of MPLA" to give a "human" touch to the
      site. The "Faces" section features Executive Board member photos so
      membership can attach a face to the names.
    o The MPLA Leadership Institute "mini-site" was added, including a webform for
      applicants, information on the Institute, the facilitator and outline.
    o The largest web project was and continues to be the reorganization of the
      "documents" of MPLA, including Executive Board meeting minutes, Newsletter,
      Manual of Procedure, Long Range Plan, and the creation of the Executive Board
      Report Archive. Before the project was undertaken, documents of the association,
      committees and sections were spread out all over the site, and locating things was
      a problem for the me, not only because things were squirreled away in places that
      weren't obvious, but also because I wasn't really consistent with naming new files
      and locating them. I moved everything under one category ("documents") with a

tight organizational structure. The last step was to "touch" each and every webpage to make the links to new locations. The Board Reports Archive is envisioned as a sort of virtual repository of Board reports, so that anyone can view what the association has done, is working on, or plans to be working on.

Domain Name Registration

A concern was raised as to whether or not the University of South Dakota would continue to support the MPLA website if we chose to register a domain name. Joe informed me that USD would not be willing to support us if we proceeded on a domain name. At this time, I am not sure how to proceed. Out options include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Maintain the status quo, and do not register a domain name.
  b. Register a domain name(s) and consider moving the MPLA website to a different location.
  c. Register a domain name(s), but do not consider moving the website.

If we choose to register domain names, we can register "mplalibraries.org", "m-p-l-a.org" and/or "mplaonline.org" I know the board approved the registration at the February 2002 board meeting, but I wanted to suggest a couple of different options on the domain name that had made themselves available. As a followup to a question that was asked at the last meeting, "mpla.org" is still owned and unavailable. However, when I checked on July 1, I could "bid" on that particular domain name with a starting cost of $200. (Note: I'm not suggesting the mpla.org domain could be had for $200, merely that it was something we could try to acquire.) The registry website indicates that "*Although your name has been registered by another user, you can make an anonymous offer ($200 minimum) to purchase it through the Afternic Virtual Broker.*"

Board Report Archive Print Issues

Are the board reports posted online viewable by everyone? Is anyone having any problems printing from the website?

Section/Committee Web Pages

Please take a look at the pages for your respective committees and sections. If there are changes or errors, please drop me an email at dwcosu@okstate.edu to report the error or change. If there is something you'd like to add, please let me know.

ECC Survey

The ECC Executive Board Survey will go online as soon as I get back, register with the website, and create the survey. We do need to pay Survey Suite $49.95 for one year, mailing address: SurveySuite, 1400 Ballard Woods Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901.
Respectfully submitted,

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