

Ad-hoc Web Page Redesign Committee

The ACMLA web site has been hosted by the University of Western Ontario from the beginning. The web manager has been Nan Fern from Queens University. Both the host and the manager have done an excellent job and ACMLA owes them much. Over the course of several Board meetings, it was decided that now might be an opportune moment to merge the hosting and managing functions of the web site. It was also decided that the Association's web site "look and feel" needed to be updated. It was not due to any problems per se with regard to the old site. On the contrary, it was felt that the old site provided an excellent basis on which to build a new site.

The new web site was going to be updated and re-designed during the summer and fall of 2003. However, due to a staff change at Dalhousie, the web page re-design and launch came to a screeching halt. During the winter of 2003, a new staff member was hired and it was decided that one "quality" we sought was web-based and graphic arts skills (this was totally more for the Dalhousie MAGIC site than for ACMLA, but benefiting both was not out of our minds). Julie Beaumont, the new employee, was asked to come up with some design ideas, and to look at the current web site with an eye to revamping the site, while still keeping the content and basic colours the same. During the winter of 2003-2004, and into the spring of 2004, Julie began work on the web site.

At the present moment, the web page "storyboards" (outlines and designs) have been delivered to the web committee and shown to the Board. After review, the pages will be finalized and made live. In order to get feedback from the membership a live "draft" version is being placed on the Dalhousie MAGIC server. After a reasonable period of time for feedback to be gathered and considered, Julie will revamp the site and make a final live version available for the Web Committee and the Board to sign-off on. Assuming that there are no major problems, and that all files from the older site have been transferred and added to the new web pages, the domain agency will be notified that the new ACMLA address should point to the magic.library.dal.ca/acmla.html URL, and members will be sent an email to alert them to the new site. If all goes well, then member and outside agencies that point to our web pages will notice a positive and attractive adaptation to the web pages. (Outside agencies and those with pointers to acmla.org will have their links redirected by the domain hosting agency - network solutions inc.).

We look forward to hearing from members about the new site, and to having members add content and services to our web pages!

Sincerely,
James Boxall
Chair
April 5, 2004