

Web Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes- October 11, 2005
9:30 to 11:00 AM, B466 Daley

Present: Wallis (Chair), Naru, Hepburn, Sullivan (Webmaster),
Maene, Lewis, Shuler

Charge

Members reviewed the charge for the newly formed committee. Wallis mentioned that an additional task will be a complete library web site redesign with a goal launch date of June 2006.

Questions arose about the exact role of the committee in settling content conflicts on the web site: oversight or enforcement? Wallis will ask Steering Committee for more information.

Site Redesign

Members agreed the site is due for a cosmetic overhaul, though whether or not the underlying file structure will change requires further investigation. Past efforts to evaluate the site never resulted in anything, though usability testing was done on the previous site design.

The past two library web site redesigns were both structural and cosmetic. The impetus of the last redesign was to make the pages meet campus-wide standards for web pages. However, it was noted that many other campus departments have ignored or only minimally followed the campus guidelines, meaning the upcoming redesign can be more flexible.

Members also identified potential technologies to incorporate into a new design: RSS, blogs, instant messaging, and streamlined circulation web forms. Sullivan noted that ACCC will not support a database-driven site hosted on Tigger, while Library Systems does not have the staff available to support an in-house server. The implication is that the library site will remain on the Tigger server and be limited to static pages. It may be possible to store non-mission-critical portions of the site in databases on internal library servers.

Inventory

As the usability testing was done on the previous version of the library web site, testing must start from scratch. However, Augustine & Greene's 2002 *C&RL* article may provide insight about methodology that could be adapted to this project. Wallis will contact Pifalo, former chair of ERQ, to see if any additional documentation about the usability testing exists.

Members shared anecdotal evidence that supports a site redesign including the need for fewer clicks, simple but comprehensive searching, and user-centered design. These comments will be incorporated into the internal client survey. Additionally it was decided that the committee will collect information from library staff and users. Chieko will draft a user survey to be launched in late October, and Shuler will pull together questions to ask library staff about the current site.

Current users of the website were identified as including:

- UIC Undergraduate and graduate students
- UIC Faculty and staff
- The general public
 - Donors
 - Alumni
 - CARLI, CIC and other affiliated users
 - Genealogical researchers
 - "temporaries" like visiting scholars

The needs of all of these users will be considered in the redesign.

Future meetings

It was agreed that the committee will meet approximately every two weeks. Lewis noted that Daley Reference meets the first Tuesday of each month in the morning, and Steering meets on Wednesday mornings, so those days/times would not be ideal. Wallis will use UICalendar to schedule the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM
LCW