

Website Advisory Committee Report to Council  
June 24, 2010

### **Progress on the new Web Content Management System selection**

The members of the CMS Task Force reviewed and ranked the 47 proposals received. The CMS task force completed an evaluation survey of the seven strongest; the top three vendors were selected for the next round. ITTS queried the semi-finalists for additional information and is currently evaluating the responses.

### **ALA Connect**

ALA Connect is doing well, and we continue to see steady increases in usage (see the [6-month](#) and [1-year](#) reports). The 1-year report also highlights the major changes and additions we've made during the last six months, including opening the [Opportunities Exchange](#). The OppEx has been slow to catch on, mainly due to a lack of opportunities entered, but we're going to talk with HRDR about the possibility of loading the listings from the FALIS Directory, which would give it a great kickstart.

We're also still working on the chat module upgrade. Some users get kicked out of a chat, but we can't discern a pattern that would lead to a resolution. It seems completely random and is not related to browser, operating system, group, or user account, and it doesn't affect every group. A new version of the Drupal chat module was released, so we planned to upgrade to it in the hope this would resolve the issue, but unfortunately the three latest versions of the module (all released this spring) have proven to be unstable. At this time, we're investigating alternative chat modules, but we remain committed to using only ADA-compliant ones, which limits our options. As a temporary measure, we're recommending ALA groups use iLINC (our virtual online meeting and classroom software) until we can find a solution.

While Connect remains a major priority, [the MemberFuse pilot](#) has taken precedence over major module development, as has the creation of the [Conference Scheduler Requirements Document](#). The test of the MemberFuse software as a possible replacement to run Connect will continue through June 30. In July, we'll collect feedback from the three test groups (the ALA Board, the ACRL Executive Committee, and WAC) in order to evaluate the possibility of a migration.

In the meantime, we worked on adding the following enhancements in Connect:

- Reply/comment via email, so that users don't have to go to the site and log in to reply to email notifications of new content.
- Implementation of the "diff" module to show comparative revisions for online docs (the way wikis highlight which text changed from one version to the next).
- Adding rotating announcements on the home page so that we can highlight multiple features.

We also plan to redesign the main page and the group home page in order to make it easier to find and \*do\* things. We're excited about these new features, as well as the

addition of services such as the integration of the conference scheduler, member matching, expanded member profiles, an online reputation system, and more.

## **Event Planner Update**

As noted above, the [WAC Conference Scheduler Subcommittee](#) completed the [CS Requirements Document](#), which will allow us to move forward with building a new "event planner" after Annual 2010.

Louise Gruenberg, Sheila Joy, Karen Muller, and Jenny Levine spent considerable time in April and May working on fixes for Conference Services' current planner in order to make it more usable for Annual 2010. This allowed us to identify some of the processes and procedures that will need to change going forward in order to make the new conference scheduler work better.

For example, thanks to a new list Karen created, we were able to standardize the "unit/subunit" field so that all meetings from the same unit will have the same owner, facilitating better browsing and searching capabilities. We now have a much better understanding of the various pieces used behind-the-scenes and how they work together (meeting room scheduling software, exhibitor software, event planner piece, iMIS). Ultimately, we will likely need to make changes to each of those pieces (not just the conference scheduler/event planner), which could require additional funding and resources.

After Annual, Karen and Jenny will meet with Conference Services staff to begin working on additional changes to the entry form for conference meetings in order to further improve the process before data is entered for Midwinter 2011.

Which platform we'll use to build the new conference scheduler is still unclear, pending the outcome of the MemberFuse test. Regardless of which software is running Connect, we anticipate beginning work on it in August, although vacation interruptions may delay a significant start until September.

## **The 2015 Strategic Plan**

WAC supports the 2015 Strategic Plan but recognizes the need to increase resources devoted to Information Technology & Telecommunication Services unit (ITTS) to achieve the goals stated in it.

Once ALA begins selecting appropriate technology strategies, we will budget the resources for the back-end infrastructure and the public facing applications. Since some of the strategies will be in addition to our existing projects, this will require the allocation of additional resources. We will continue to focus more on the value delivered for a dollar spent, rather than the bleeding edge.

## **Other ITTS Initiatives**

A progress report of other ITTS initiatives can be found at <http://connect.ala.org/node/103171>.