

[Print Page](#) | [Close Window](#)

## 07) Webmaster Report

**Printed from:** ISSLR Forums

**Topic URL:** [http://www.isslr.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=258](http://www.isslr.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=258)

**Printed on:** 03 Sep 2014

### Topic:

---

**Topic author:** rjellison

**Subject:** 07) Webmaster Report

**Posted on:** 31 Jan 2012 09:25:22

### Message:

No activities beyond editing the home page to reflect elections and the recent Mar Chiquita meeting. As I've noted the past couple years, we need to recruit a webmaster as I am no longer interested in maintaining it. I'm willing to make minor edits and changes in the meantime. Here's my recommendations:

- a) The society needs a website to maintain visibility and credibility beyond what a facebook or google group can provide. The current provider is somewhat expensive (\$180/yr) given current options but it does have some functionality that would not be present with cheaper options. Among these are online, anonymous, confidential balloting, and a user-maintained directory. This requires asp coding functionality and an online access database.
- b) Delete news updates from home page (and in sidebar) and instead provide link to facebook or google group page. I originally designed and wrote code to allow members to log in and add news items (back in the pre-social network days). I have been mostly unsuccessful despite constant pleading to get others to contribute to this. Only Aharon (26 posts), Peri (8 posts), and myself (165 posts) have made significant contributions although 5 others submitted 1 or 2 posts. When infrequent items are displayed it makes the society appear moribund. The same problem might occur at a facebook or google group but we don't have to feature this on the home page. Although I created a facebook group explicitly to address conservation and management, we could broaden the description of that group and have a link on the home page.
- c) Maybe keep conference listings on home page with links to abstracts
- d) Update Business page with new officers, bios, and Bylaw changes but keep it basically the same
- e) Keep membership page the same with Google Checkout. Javier Alcocer just used it to pay triennial dues this morning. Google Checkout has no minimum or monthly fees and is secure and easy to use.
- f) Delete Open Forum. The last time someone posted to a non-Board forum was 2008 and it has never really been used much. We can keep the Board Mtg forums until we find a better replacement. Move a link to the Business section.
- g) The Directory seems useful but needs occasional editing. I'd gladly give someone the passwords and instructions on how to do this. Although it has been suggested that we limit this to paying members in the past, we have never implemented this change. It might not be worth maintaining as people just use google to find persons these days. If no one volunteers to maintain it, perhaps we just delete it.
- h) The Bibliography of research should be deleted. I've quit adding to it years ago and was never successful in getting anyone to contribute to it. Its mostly been superceded by Google and the wide availability of various search indexes. At one point, I thought people would contribute gray literature but this has been made completely obsolete by Google's search engine.
- i) Delete the Salt Lakes links. Wikipedia is a much better forum to pursue this type of activity and in fact is already being done. All we need to do is contribute to Wikipedia. We could consider adding a few links to Wikipedia's "Endorheic Lakes" or "Salt Lakes" categories.
- j) Delete Web links. Many of the links are broken and like the "Salt Lakes", "Bibliography", "News", and "Directory" pages was predicated on some minimal level of participation and contribution by others that has not materialized.

So those are my recommendations in lieu of recruiting an ambitious webmaster with ideas of their own. If we were willing to give up some functionality we could go with a much cheaper option like Google Sites (\$10/yr). Here's a link to my BishopAYSO site as an example  
<http://www.bishopayso.org>

## Replies:

---

**Reply author:** pcoleman

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2012 13:04:46

**Message:**

I am happy to manage the website, but agree that much of it could be pruned so that we could mount it on something like Google Sites. For the triennial elections it is possible to use something like Survey Monkey, quite separately to the web site, IF that simplifies things and keeps the costs down.

You are right - Wikibooks, Wikipedia and Google are the locations most people go to look for research, as well as checking out very recent stuff on the appropriate Facebook page.

I would need some instruction, as my own web site comprises simple dead pages with no active coding!

---

**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2012 21:09:49

**Message:**

Peri, That's great you're willing to help manage the web site. Here is what I propose. Let's let others comment on my recommendations above. Then if all are in agreement I'll set up a google site copy of our paired down web site for you to edit and experiment with. After its to your liking we'll map our isslr.org domain name to the google site and start using it. You're right about voting. Now there's all kinds of free voting software out there -- I like BallotBin. Discussion groups, etc. could also all be done in Google. Also, photo libraries are also a snap in Google using Picassa.

---

**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2012 21:18:59

**Message:**

I think the main argument for going to Google Sites is that you need virtually no html, asp or any other coding experience. This means you can easily assign volunteers to maintain different parts of it. Also, Google APPS is widely used and provides a wide variety of services basically free of charge.

---

**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2012 22:02:02

**Message:**

I agree with Bob's recommendations.

---

**Reply author:** pcoleman

**Replied on:** 02 Feb 2012 14:20:49

**Message:**

Bob has sent me a link to a dummy Google site, and I will look at it and try my hand over the weekend - I will get back to you all with my thoughts late Sunday or on Monday, Australian time.

---

**Reply author:** Egor Zadereev

**Replied on:** 02 Feb 2012 19:32:20

**Message:**

In general I agree with Bob proposals. The only thing which makes me feel uncomfortable is that Google Sites is the simplest platform for the web-sites. There are better platforms but on the other hand we are not professionals and to recruit webmaster might be too expensive...

---

**Reply author:** NikolayAladin**Replied on:** 02 Feb 2012 23:26:00**Message:**

Dear All,

I could agree with all ideas of Prof.Dr. Robert JELLISON , but I do not like his advise

i) Delete the Salt Lakes links

Wikipedia is good, but we should not only add a few links to Wikipedia's "Endorheic Lakes" or "Salt Lakes" categories!!!

Yours,

Nick Aladin

**Reply author:** rjellison**Replied on:** 03 Feb 2012 06:21:45**Message:**

Although I've had the functionality on the web site for 10 years enabling people to add and edit the salt lake links, nobody uses or contributes to it. Creating a group of "salties" dedicated to increasing the visibility of salt lakes in Wikipedia is a much better idea. Compare our lakes page (<http://isslr.org/lakes/lakes.asp>) to wikipedia's ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_endorheic\\_basins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_endorheic_basins)) and visit the individual lakes in wikipedia. Which one would you use? Which one do you use?

---

**Reply author:** rjellison**Replied on:** 03 Feb 2012 06:27:06**Message:**

There are certainly plenty of web hosts out there and FrontPage, Dreamweaver, etc are much more sophisticated and provide more functionality. However, Google Sites can allow individuals to easily take on portions of the website with little or no coding experience. Also, I was thinking we should employ Google Apps as part of the package allowing other functionality (group emails, shared documents, discussion groups, etc.).

---

**Reply author:** NikolayAladin**Replied on:** 06 Feb 2012 23:58:21**Message:**

Dear All,

I would like to say again that

ILEC

WWW

WWF

should know about our work

Prof.Dr. William WILLIAMS did a lot for cooperation with 3 organization mentioned above.

In former days when Prof.Dr. Robert WETZEL was alive Bill and I had a lot of contacts with SIL

Robert was SIL General Secretary and Treasurer, passed away in April 2005.

Without William and Robert I have today very few contacts with SIL.....unfortunately.

Yours,

Nick Aladin

**Reply author:** pcoleman

**Replied on:** 19 Feb 2012 19:14:20

**Message:**

We could drop all the Forums and use Google Groups specifically to run the Board meetings. Google Groups have the option of "invitation only" discussions and the discussion can run either on the web or via email.

As to Robert's other points -

Links: Just a couple of highly visible links on the home page: one to Wikipedia's "Salt Lakes" category and one to the Facebook site. This provides stable links to pages that contain dynamic content.

Web site pages (other than the HOME PAGE with its links to Facebook and Wikipedia) could include:

- 1)History and aims,
- 2)Officebearers,
- 3)Contacting the Society,
- 4)Next conference!!! (a billboard page, really),
- 5)Join the society (with some way to accept dues),
- 6)Previous conferences: links to abstracts & fulltext papers (include a link to the old ISSLR journal at Kluwer),
- 7)Directory of salt lake researchers (input should be user controlled - joining the saltlake.org site should give you the ability to edit the directory page)

What does everyone think?

---

**Reply author:** Egor Zadereev

**Replied on:** 19 Feb 2012 19:50:38

**Message:**

you want to move from isslr.org to saltlake.org?

In general sounds OK. Also we can consider links to SIL salt lake group and to Inland Waters journal (if we select the journal as our permanent place for conference proceedings).

I think that "awards" also should be specified. As soon as we can support with several small awards scientists for several conferences the button awards should be visible.

---

**Reply author:** Egor Zadereev

**Replied on:** 19 Mar 2012 22:51:02

**Message:**

I did not get the point - we are waiting now for the new version of the web-site prepared by Peri or we still have some questions to discuss?

There are several changes with my blog.

I changed the name of the blog to <http://saltlakescience.com/>

Actually, now everybody if he/she is interested can contribute to the blog with the post on salt lake research.

I added links to Facebook group and ISSLR web-site to the main page of the blog.

I registered blog at the [www.researchblogging.com](http://www.researchblogging.com) network. Now all post will be translated to the network and also retweeted to more than 5000 people (of course only tiny fraction of them will follow the link but still this is some publicity).

---

**Reply author:** pcoleman

**Replied on:** 20 Mar 2012 18:15:08

**Message:**

At the moment i think we are waiting for Bob's input as to whether he thinks we should migrate the website across to Google Sites

---

**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 20 Mar 2012 18:27:19

**Message:**

I though Peri was checking google sites to see if she was comfortable with it. If so, and she's willing to do it, I suggest migrating to it. At the very least, we should have someone update some of the main pages on the website. I'll give the log in and password to anyone willing.

---

**ISSLR Forums** : <http://www.isslr.org/forums/>

© **International Society for Salt Lake Research**

[Close Window](#)