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07) Web site and Facebook page

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Topic:

Topic author: pcoleman

Subject: 07) Web site and Facebook page

Posted on: 21 Jan 2014 13:58:50

Message:

I would like to open a discussion on this topic, as identified in the agenda. I have only managed to start developing a Google site to replace the current site, as I need to work with Bob to sort out how to replicate various aspects of the existing site on the new site, or indeed establish whether all the functions of the old site are required. The free version of Google Sites does have the capacity for discussions (secure and open) and if you use the various professional apps I believe the site can accept moneys, although this function appears to now be handled by the triennial conference organisers, via the booking process.

I would be interested in Bob's and Egor's feedback on what has been developed so far.

Peri

Replies:

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Jan 2014 20:28:15

Message:

Thanks for the initiative. I am not a great expert on these matters, but the site needs to be renewed and reactivated. Keep us updated!

Reply author: NikolayAladin

Replied on: 22 Jan 2014 01:03:21

Message:

Dear All, website and facebook page and may be the other pages in the other social nets are very important for attraction of the young generation representatives. But we have to remember that in some countries with expensive internet or with limited internet or with internet under state control we must to give OLD people some equivalent via an ordinary e-mail exchange. My former country USSR now are divided in many small countries and in all this countries role of internet is different. Luckily in all these newly born countries nearly all of my scientific colleagues have e-mail addresses. So they could be subscribed to an information from our team via an ordinary e-mail addresses.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 25 Jan 2014 22:21:31

Message:

Dear all,

1. The web site issue should be finally solved.

We have now some internet activities that will provide enough information to update news

section at the web-site. We have relatively active Facebook group (83 members with up to 50 active members) - any update in the group can be copied to be a news at the web-site. We have www.saltlakescience.com blog that is not frequently updated but I will be happy if there is somebody who can also post to blog (there is no problem to make it not personal but collective blog).

Of course the Google sites are very basic. But if we don't have experienced web-designer and don't want to spend a lot of money this is probably good (but not permanent option). Definitely the site should have the same domain name (www.isslr.org) - I wonder is it possible with Google sites? If not we can use another free of charge template (e.g. wordpress templates). I can use the server of the Institute of Biophysics to keep the site free of charge. Actually I can spend up to 100 USD to buy some simple template if it fits our purposes.

2. About e-mail exchange that is mentioned by Dr. Aladin. To organise e-mail exchange we need the database of e-mails and we should know that people want to get our e-mails and not consider them as spam. Thus, in any case the starting point is the web-site where those who registered and signed give a permission to get e-mails.

Reply author: rjellison

Replied on: 25 Jan 2014 23:15:23

Message:

The Facebook group that I started and to which Egor is a major contributor is active providing a useful service.

With regard to Google sites, they can actually be quite sophisticated. You can visit google and view many sites. We've used them successfully for our soccer program with 600+ players, 150 coaches and refs, and parents. Google sites has many features that allow ease of maintenance with virtually no coding and html expertise. I thought this ideal for our tiny society with little money to spend on a professional site that requires high maintenance. Of course, other options are available.

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 27 Jan 2014 15:02:50

Message:

This is as far as I have reached with the Google Site:

<https://sites.google.com/a/saltlakes.org/isslr/>

To see a Google site with discussions groups etc, please view a small site I set up for a local University project: <https://sites.google.com/site/parafieldvernalpools/>

Yes, Google sites can have a non-Google address and domain, but it costs a certain amount - see Faith's EcoProTem site which is a Google Site: <http://www.ecoprotem.com/>

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 27 Jan 2014 17:53:26

Message:

Thank you for update. Can you figure out what is the price and technical steps to have non-Google domain?

A small site that you set up for University project looks OK. Let's try to finish with the new ISSLR Google site and after ask the board whether it is ok or not. I will e-mail you today or some day these week to discuss details..

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 27 Jan 2014 18:27:55

Message:

Thanks Egor! I will check with Faith re the price

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 27 Jan 2014 21:32:34

Message:

This is the nuts and bolts about mapping a Google Site onto a custom domain name. Faith said Google charged her a nominal amount, whatever it cost to buy the domain name. My domain name for my business costs about \$300 Aus every three years or so...

Looking forward to your suggestions. One thing to think about is whether we need to build the site within Google Apps, or whether just within Google Sites - if we do NOT plan to accept money, we can simply use the Google Sites, as I did for the little Uni site - most of the editing permission problems I have had with the initial Google Site Bob started me off with have been related to Google Apps needing me to log in under my saltlakes.org email, whereas Google Sites is more flexible.

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 27 Jan 2014 21:33:09

Message:

Silly me, left the reference to mapping of domain names off!

https://support.google.com/sites/answer/99448?hl=en&ref_topic=1046077

Reply author: NikolayAladin

Replied on: 10 Feb 2014 02:11:56

Message:

Dear all,

May be it will be wise to add to Web site and Facebook page a new topic SAVE URMIA LAKE. Am I right?

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 12 Feb 2014 17:20:47

Message:

There were several posts about Urmia lake at the Facebook page. Recently I invited Somayeh Sima (she is studing Urmia Lake) from Iran to join the Facebook group. She joined and post some info about Urmia lake and got some response. I do not think we have to add topic "save lake" to the Web page of society - such a decision requires that it is approved by the society. Of course this is sad story about Urmia lake but there are a lot of disappearing or emerging lakes in the world and it is not clear why we should «Save Urmia Lake» but not "Save the Dead Sea" for example or any other lake valuable for the specific territory.

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 12 Feb 2014 17:32:55

Message:

Facebook seems the best place for people to raise awareness for individual issues affecting specific lakes. If there is a strong response those people can always start up a specific page...

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 12 Feb 2014 17:34:01

Message:

The ISSLR Google site has been reworked for the Board to consider.

<https://sites.google.com/a/saltlakes.org/isslr/>

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 12 Feb 2014 17:34:13

Message:

The ISSLR Google site has been reworked for the Board to consider.

<https://sites.google.com/a/saltlakes.org/isslr/>

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 12 Feb 2014 17:57:16

Message:

Dear All, we expect with Peri some feedback from you about the web page. If you have proposals, relevant texts or photos from the past conferences or any other activities of the society you are welcome to contribute to the page. After we will get the approval from the board that the page is OK we have to substitute the content of the isslr.org with the new page.

It is not clear what to do with the old (current) forum. Actually it keeps board meetings of the society and it is not wise to delete them. The simple solution is to spend one day and to copy all texts and to make several files (board_meeting_2009.pdf, etc.) to keep the history of board meetings. We also have to decide about this point.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 13 Feb 2014 17:02:29

Message:

It's pity for me that facebook is not available in China. Same case for browsing webpage

<https://sites.google.com/a/saltlakes.org/isslr/>.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 13 Feb 2014 17:14:14

Message:

Dear All, this is serious problem that we did not take into account. I wonder whether the page will be accessible in China if we map our Google site to isslr.org? If not, we have to skip the Google site option as there are a lot of society members in China

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 17 Feb 2014 23:35:48

Message:

It is indeed serious. I find I am making heavy weather in learning the detailed aspects of Google Sites, not being an IT whizz.

I think I can work out how to map the saltlakes.org address across to the Google Site, and I could probably convert earlier years' Board Meetings to pdf files and archive them. I could put them in a file cabinet on the Board business page of the Google Site, and make "invitation only" security settings on that page.

But I do not know if merely mapping the saltlakes.org name onto the Google Site would be sufficient to guarantee our Chinese members access, as the details of how the Chinese government determines the appropriateness or otherwise of sites is not known to me. If their filters just look at the surface universal resource locator (URL), that is one thing. If it looks at the underlying DNS (???) that could be something else again.

Bob, you are the more technically savvy of us - can you cast any light on this?

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 18 Feb 2014 21:41:44
Message:

As far as I understand (I asked several people) the Google site will not be easily accessible in China. Mapping the name change nothing...

It means that we have to switch to another option. I will try to speak with our webmaster to use the texts, photos and template we prepared at Google to make user friendly website located at the server of our institute. This is the option that I have (it will be almost free of charge at least to use the server). If there are other proposals everybody is welcome.

I am a bit disappointed that nobody reacts to the draft version of the new site we proposed.

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 20:52:08
Message:

Egor,
Thank you for your offer - once I heard about the problems the Chinese members would have I was seriously worried that we would not be able to use the Google Sites facility. If there is anything your webmaster needs that I can provide, please let me know.
The best way I can think of to handle the historic Board Meetings is to archive them as pdfs, or something similar. Maybe Bob Jellison would know whether the existing site has the facility to export those older meetings in some form?

Reply author: NikolayAladin
Replied on: 06 Mar 2014 06:29:06
Message:

Dear All, when I was in Iran last month (February 14-20) my e-mails accounts at yahoo and at rambler were under attack. Unknown people changed my passwords at both accounts. On arrival back to Russia it took few days to bring back my both accounts. So, BIG BROTHER is watching us in some countries. Knowing this we must remember that simple website could help us to communicate without face-book and without twitter. Sometimes the simple solutions are the best solutions.

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 06 Mar 2014 14:26:14
Message:

Nikolay, that is what we were trying to do. The old ISSLR web site costs money to retain, however, so we were trying to move it to a cost-free hosting site called Google Sites. You can see the proposed web site, looking very similar to the old one but with a few more pictures, by clicking on the links in the earlier posts in this thread. It appears, however, that our Chinese colleagues are unable to access sites that are hosted by Google, and so Egor has proposed that his organisation may be able to host the site for us.

I would welcome thoughts from other Board members as to whether this path forward appeals.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 25 Mar 2014 02:53:50
Message:

Dear Colleagues,

I ask our webmaster to create the new web-page of ISSLR with practically the same structure as we developed previously with Peri Coleman. The web-page is developed at the WordPress template. This is free of charge template and it can be developed substantially as there are a lot

of plugins and widgets available free of charge at the WordPress.

I upload it to temporary location just to get your response about it. Please have a look and reply.

Here is the web page <http://isslr.easing.ru/>

If we decide that this is the relevant and appropriate substitution of the current ISSLR web site I will upload it to the web server of our institute (also free of charge) and the only thing I will need is the DNS information from Dr. Jellison.

We discussed with Peri that we will copy all previous ISSLR board forums for historical purposes as separate files and I also attach them to new page.

I consider that by the end of the board meeting we have to vote whether we switch to the new web-page and if yes we have to do it.

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 25 Mar 2014 15:02:08
Message:

Egor,
The site looks lovely. I would be happy for your organisation to host the site for us. I hope other members of the Board agree

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 25 Mar 2014 15:02:20
Message:

Egor,
The site looks lovely. I would be happy for your organisation to host the site for us. I hope other members of the Board agree

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 25 Mar 2014 21:10:56
Message:

Nice!

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 27 Jul 2014 00:31:47
Message:

The issue of the web site and social media was discussed at the members' meeting in Beijing two weeks ago. The newly to be elected board can further expand on this.

I will now lock this topic.

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