

Web managers SIG in Phoenix

From BBVXwiki

Join us Saturday, June 30, 5:30 - 6:30 at the location announced in the Convention program. Look for Nancy, wearing IT2001 (<http://www.mindspring.com/~it2001>) buttons, for updates if you miss the session.

Here's my list of things to talk about. **Feel free to login and edit this page** to add your own views -- or post on the discussion page...

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Meet and greet

- Who are you and where are you from?
- What's your role in maintaining AAUW web sites? All are welcome, so "none" is a reasonable answer if you just want to find out what this conversation is all about.
- What are your challenges? success stories?
- Is there help that you'd like to come from the Association or other volunteers?

New content management systems appropriate for branch/state web sites

- 2-Tier Software (<http://www.2tier-software.com>) is now supporting clients with a Joomla! (<http://www.joomla.org>) based system.
 - Some may remember Roxyanne Young who introduced 2-Tier and its hosted content management system at the 2003 convention. 2-Tier has converted from their proprietary system to the open source (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source) Joomla!. To see the new system in action, check out, for instance, [aauw-mt.org](http://www.aauw-mt.org) (<http://www.aauw-mt.org>) .
 - The Joomla! predecessor, Mambo, was the foundation of the www.aauwonline.com (<http://www.aauwonline.com>) system from Traverse Global, an exhibitor at the 2005 convention. I'm not aware of any branches or states that are using their product.
- AAUW NC is building sites based on WordPress (<http://wordpress.org>)
 - See, for example, news.aauwnc.org (<http://news.aauwnc.org>) and asheville.aauwnc.org (<http://asheville.aauwnc.org>) .
 - In my (Nancy's) opinion, WordPress is completely sufficient for small sites (as opposed to the more complex Open Source systems Drupal (<http://www.drupal.org>) , Joomla! (<http://joomla.org>) , and Plone (<http://plone.org>)). But it is still Open Source. [While it's well known that "free and open source" isn't free as in beer, but "free as in speech" a recent comment that it is "free as in kittens" is particularly apropos.]
- Drupal (<http://drupal.org>) is getting a lot of "buzz" as an open source content management system. Is anyone using that?

Desktop tech skills to use data effectively

- The new online membership data system allows download of a CSV (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values) version of the branch roster. But how many branches have the skills to turn that into their branch yearbook pages?
 - Indeed how many understand what CSV is? I heard one comment on "why can't you set the column widths appropriately"?
- The default reporting format for quarterly contribution reports (available to state presidents and EF/LAF chairs) is a **really** odd MS Word format that has all the data in individual text boxes. It's impossible to copy that to, say, Excel, for aggregation and analysis. I'm sure that's because the members have asked for something that they can print -- but when do we start the effort on how to teach folks what to do with a CSV file to summarize data in a way that could actually be shared with the branches? [The current reports, for the benefit of the chairs tracking down errors in reporting, include full names and amounts of all contributions -- probably not something we'd want shared with all the members.]
- Is anyone interested in developing a "self-assessment" or other tool to enable branches to gauge their collective "tech-savvy"?

Online community building

- What do we require for a replacement for or enhancement of the Discussion Boards. (<http://discuss.aauw.org>)
 - My current favorite is the system at NTEN (<http://groups.nten.org>) , a surprisingly affordable, hosted system that might fit within our constraints
 - If you haven't tried <http://discuss.aauw.org> lately, do check it out. If you're willing to be a "facilitator" of the discussions on those boards, please contact Nancy or webmaster AT aauw.org.
- What online communities do we want to be sure to "cover" with an AAUW presence. Myspace (<http://myspace.com>) , Facebook (<http://facebook.com>) , SecondLife (<http://secondlife.com>) , etc.
- How we leverage the blogs that we're already working on. [See list on the left at change.bbvix.org and send Nancy info if there are others.]
- Who is willing to do the "soft side" work of building these communities?
 - For groups that may self-organize around particular topics (ERA, STEM, LAF, ...)
 - For the branches that may pop up without a community base in the wake of the branch without borders Montana experiment.

Demos of the new web site, member services database, etc.

Note: the new web site will be announced in a "beta" mode at Convention, but the cutover won't be until September. Look for the workshop where it will be demonstrated, but it's possible we'll have access during this session, too.

- Would it be possible to camp in the cyber cafe and have ongoing demos for the new systems?
- If so, who would be willing to be the mentors to demo this?

Other ways to take advantage of networking at convention

- How do we use this face-to-face meeting to forge connections we can leverage after we all go back to "real life"? Is the webmanagers e-mail list sufficient? Can we use the discussion boards or other online communities?
- See also Eric Raymond's "conventions at light speed (<http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/sfshows/>) ".

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