

Web Advisory Committee: Annual Report to Library Council 2012-2013

The committee had 5 meetings between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013.

Membership: Sarah Stevenson (Chair & Web Publisher), Marc Comeau (LITS), Margaret Vail (LITS, Systems Developer), Creighton Barrett (DUASC), Shelley McKibbon (Kellogg), Erin MacPherson (MacRae), Sandy Dwyer (Circulation/Document Delivery), Dominic Silvio (Research & Writing), Mark Lewis (Law), Amanda Sparks (Sexton), Ian Colford (Collections).

Assistant Publisher

In July 2012, Creighton Barrett agreed to take on the role of Assistant Web Publisher. The duties of the Assistant Web Publisher are to complete workflows in the absence of the publisher (Margaret Vail and Marc Comeau provide additional backup when both the publisher and assistant publisher are unavailable), and to assist in decision-making on matters that do not need full committee input, but still benefit from discussion with the publisher and LITS staff.

MacRae Library Integration

The summer of 2012 saw the successful integration of the MacRae Library's web content into the Dalhousie Libraries' site. Many thanks to Erin MacPherson at the MacRae, and Killam intern Laura Thorne for getting the content integration completed ahead of the Campus Web Team's schedule. This extra time allowed for proper testing of the new content uploads with the Campus Team and a smooth transition on the switchover date.

Mobile site:

The Libraries' mobile site was developed in late 2012. Libraries' staff were surveyed for their priorities for a mobile site. They were also asked to preview the site and give feedback before it was promoted to the community. The mobile site was introduced in mid-October and the site analytics were put in place in November.

Assessment:

At various points, the committee has had non-committal discussions around assessment and usability of the libraries' site. The group is waiting on LibQual results, and possible assistance from the User Experience and Assessment committee once the demands of LibQual have subsided.

Online tutorials and web presentation:

The Killam and Kellogg interns evaluated the existing tutorials in the spring of 2012. Since her arrival Lindsay McNiff has been overhauling the online tutorials. Lindsay and Sarah collaborated on a revised Tutorials page in CQ5.

Digital collections:

The Web committee supported the Digital Scholarship Initiative Chair in compiling an inventory of digital collections on the Dalhousie Libraries' servers. These collections were grappled with by both groups over the course of the year as the DSI worked to establish digitization standards for future collections and a digital collection assessment document. The Web Publisher, Archives staff, and Special Collections Librarian has been engaged in assessment of these collections to determine their future after the shut-down of the Joomla server, where they are currently housed.

CQ5 is not able to handle our digital collections. This is a significant disappointment and a significant problem as we move more and more into this area. LITS staff were able to manipulate DalSpace to house image collections such as the Waldren photographs. This is an appropriate storage facility, but it is not a good display space. CQ5 and DalSpace do not 'talk' to each other, and developing such capability is beyond the capacity of LITS at this time. Storage and display of digital collections will be a large component of future software considerations.

Joomla server:

The old web server is slated for shut-down in November 2013. All remaining pages (~2000) need to be addressed by 1 November 2013.

Archives and Special Collections:

At the request of the University Archivist and the Special Collections Librarian, the Archives and Special Collections portions of the website were separated in late March. This reflects changes in the organizational structure of Archives and Special Collections, and the ongoing development of Archives web development with the implementation of Archivist's Toolkit and ICA Atom. These tools will enhance the search capabilities for Archives materials.

Usage statistics:

m.library.dal.ca site (mobile) stats: 1 July 2012- 30 June 2013

- 7,343 visits
- 1,756 unique visitors
- 8,485 page views
- average visit duration: 33s

Libraries.dal.ca site stats: 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

- 1,947,245 visits
- 699,716 unique visitors
- 4,315,979 pageviews
- Average visit duration: 3:32 min.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stevenson
Web Advisory Committee Chair