Informatics Committee

Committee Members: M. E. Hopton (Chair), C. A. Iudica, S. P. Maher, S. B. McLaren, D. K. Odell, I. M. Ortega, R. L. Rehmeier.

Mission:

The Informatics Committee is responsible for addressing issues that arise with continuing changes in technology and information processing, retrieval, etc. as they relate to mammalogy. In recent years, the committee has been primarily involved with maintaining and further developing the Society's web site.

At the 87th Annual Meeting (2007) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Board of Directors of the American Society of Mammalogists charged the newly redefined Informatics Committee to explore improvements including a redesign of the Society's web site and to maintain the existing web site during this period.

Information Items:

(1) In 2007, $10,000 was budgeted for 2008 and the Committee was asked to come back with a more specific budget request if needed. At the 2008 meeting, a request of an additional $35,154 was approved for 2009 and the Board gave the Committee the latitude to make the final selection of the firm that would do the website redesign, with input from the ASM Officers. After an additional round of questions, vetting, and several conference calls, Acro Media, Inc. was selected in November 2008 to redesign the Society's web site. Their proposal was forwarded to the Officers for comment in late November. Due to economic conditions, the redesign process was suspended at the request of the Officers on advice from the Trustees on 5 December 2008. In March 2009, the 2009 line item budgeted for redesign was cut to $5,154. The Committee immediately approached Acro Media, Inc., requested a proposal for an incremental process for the redesign work, and received a proposal for a 3-phase process on 3 April 2009. Phase 1 involved the creation of new Information Architecture, which represents the backbone of the redesign process and was completed in August 2009 at a cost of $4,246.45. In June 2009, the Board approved a line item of $40,000 in the 2010 budget to fund the remaining two phases of the redesign. Phase 2, the "visible" part of the redesign, is underway at a cost of $22,985 and will be followed by a third phase that will increase functionality of the ASM web site; $17,015 remains in the 2010 budget for Phase 3 of the redesign.

(2) Routine maintenance and updates were performed on an as-needed basis, including posting of Open Access articles published in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species*. Committee pages and membership listings were updated weekly between 31 July and 6 November, as requested by President McLaren. Leadership pages, including changes in Editors, Officers and Elected Directors, were updated following the 2009 annual meeting.

(3) Online submission of fellowships administered by the Honoraria and Grants-in-Aid Committees was used again, albeit with some minor problems.

(4) Richard Thorington continues to maintain Mammalogists-on-E-mail and the Mammal-L discussion group. We appreciate his efforts.

(5) Requests for information, job postings, and announcements submitted to the web site were received by Dan Odell. More than 50 requests were made between June 2009 and April 2010; most were requests to post job announcements.

Action Items:

(1) A budget of $8,828 is requested for fiscal year 2011. Hosting the ASM web site on a dedicated server would cost $828. This would be an annual expense, but would provide use of a server that does not share resources with other web sites. Additional expenses of $8,000 are related to the Society's web site redesign. These funds would be used only if the remaining funds from the 2010 budget are expended and it is decided that additional functionality proposed by the design firm would benefit the ASM membership.

Respectfully submitted,
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