

Informatics Committee

Committee Members: L. N. Carraway, W. L. Gannon, V. Hayssen, M. E. Hopton, G. M. Kaufman, K. M. Kramer (Chair), S. K. Lyons, S. B. McLaren, D. Odell, R. Rehmeier, N. A. Slade, M. Stokes, R. W. Thorington, R. M. Timm

Mission:

The mission of the committee is to address issues of the continually changing technological age as they relate to mammalogy. Recently the committee has focused primarily on updating and improving the ASM web site to facilitate its use in accomplishing the missions of the society and its standing committees.

Information Items:

(1) Efforts this year were focused on updating the web site and on improving online grant submission for grants administered by the Honoraria and Grants In Aid Committees.

Matt Hopton, Kristin Kramer, and Kate Lyons updated information on the web site including names and e-mail addresses for members of each committee, board members, editors for ASM publications, job postings, etc., as the information was made available. Changes to committee pages were done based on the information provided by the Coordination Committee.

A programmer was hired to help us design and program online grant submission. While last year's efforts at online grant submission were useful, hiring a programmer allowed us to streamline submission for the Honoraria Committee. Online submission of Grants-in-Aid went smoothly until the programmer edited the site shortly before the deadline. As a result of programming changes, applicants received error messages and submitted multiple copies of their application. We will work to eliminate this problem for the 2006 cycle. We encourage other committees interested in online submission to contact us.

At this time last year we were in the progress of moving the site to a new host, Brinkster. Not only has the transition been smooth, Brinkster offers some additional features that we have been able to take advantage of.

(2) Richard Thorington continues to maintain Mammalogists-on-E-mail and the Mammal-L discussion group.

(3) Throughout the year, Kristin Kramer monitored mail sent via the ASM website and all queries and questions were addressed promptly.

(4) Ginny Hayssen manages our Mammalian Species web site to which the ASM website links and Dwight Moore (MIL Committee) manages the Mammal Images Library web site to which our page links.

Action Items:

(1) A budget request for website maintenance was submitted to the Planning & Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin M. Kramer, Chair
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