Web Development Group  
Agenda: 4/2/02
Present: Juhl, Candido, Crozier, Ganson, Parker-Gibson, Santos, White  
Guests: A. Cantrell, Kulczak, Simpson

1. Minutes from 03/05/02 meeting approved

Juhl reminded the group that the last “Quarterly Report” was due in January. Juhl will work on getting a draft out to the group in the next week.

2. InfoLinks Design Project – BJ, BC, NPG, DK

http://library.uark.edu:2080

Juhl demonstrated some preliminary changes to the InfoLinks webpac design, chiefly new buttons designed by Ben Crozier. The group discussed these issues:

- Buttons are preferable to plain text navigation options, however, the text needs to be high-contrast and “crisp.” Light or white lettering on a dark background gives good contrast to the white pages. Ben was asked to make the buttons slightly smaller and the text larger, if possible. Alt tags are needed for all images, including buttons.

- The colors of visited links, active links, and links need to be harmonious with other graphic elements. The current, default link colors are glaring with the button colors (especially the visited link purple).

- Other color schemes (e.g., red and white, school colors) were also discussed. In viewing some sample red fonts, the group agreed that red text was difficult to read.

- Headers and footers need to be compact and include navigational elements (library home page, UA home page, ILL form, New Books, Book Suggestions, Databases, Reserve Lists, View your Own Record are some of the navigation options mentioned). Suggested wording on the header included:

  InfoLinks: The Library Catalog (University of Arkansas somewhere else)  
  University of Arkansas Libraries: InfoLinks Catalog

Juhl and Crozier will make suggested changes and post a new draft for review by the OPAC Training Committee, Web Development Group, and other interested parties.

Parker-Gibson reported that she has conducted two additional usability studies and will be writing those up for the committee.

3. Happy Hollow Project / Contentdm

Todd Cantrell was absent so Andrea Cantrell showed the group some of the Contentdm software interface and discussed the work done thus far on the Happy Hollow digitization project. Contentdm is management/ database software for digital images; scanned works are automatically entered into a searchable database with customizable fields. The theme of the Happy Hollow digital collection is “town and gown;” a shared history of Fayetteville and the University. Some 50+ images have been test-scanned and entered into the database, with some questions yet to be resolved as to image resolution, the storage and retrieval of preservation images; and watermarking or copyrighting images. Cantrell reported that the most time-consuming portion of the project thus far was planning for MARC field and Contentdm “cross-walks” or the ability to extract Contentdm data into MARC-format records using Dublin Core elements. Currently, there are only collection-level records planned for these collections. An example is a draft record under subject “Old Main University of Arkansas Fayetteville Photographs.”

The group discussed briefly how Contentdm databases would be integrated into the overall
home page architecture.

4. Server Statistics

Juhl demonstrated preliminary data retrieved from a free server statistical package, Analog. This was downloaded and installed on the server on March 20th. Some configuration remains to be done and a helper application, “Report Magic” also needs to be installed before the weekly reports can be made public.

5. Current Project Reports

There was not enough time remaining for detailed project reports. Following are a few items:

A. Special Collections

Simpson reported that work continues on online exhibits and brochures such as:

Edward Durrell Stone centennial:
  http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/news/edstone.asp

Political Papers:
  http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/manuscripts/publicofficials.asp

And the Stockley collection:
  http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/stockley/

Work continues on an internal interface to a Manuscript Society inventory database.

B. Buttons, Buttons, Buttons

Ben has created navigation buttons for public and staff web – now the need is to re-organize the main items on the web page so that users are not overwhelmed with options. This will be a summer project.

C. StaffWeb Admin Pages

Cantrell announced some additions to the StaffWeb, including:


D. Periodicals & Newspaper Pages

http://libinfo.uark.edu/periodicals/

E. Circulation Info

http://libinfo.uark.edu/circulation/

E. Forms, Forms, Forms

Employee Suggestions (debuts in late April):
  http://libinfo.uark.edu/mailforms/employeesuggestions.asp

Web suggestions
  http://libinfo.uark.edu/systems/websuggestions.asp

Room Reservation Form, Affiliate Application Form, Faculty Authorization, etc.

F. Copyright and Licensing
Sarah distributed some information on licensing and copyright for our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 7th at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Juhl