

Report to the Nunavut Library Association, May 2014

Progress report 3: Maintaining the NLA Website

Prepared by Carol Rigby

Overview:

The Nunavut Library Association has a basic website posted under our domain name:

www.nunavutlibraryassociation.ca

For the past two years, the website has been hosted on WordPress and uses the WordPress software, in website format with a blogging function for news and updates. Since WordPress does not host e-mail, the NLA has a G-mail account, nunavutlibraryassociation@gmail.com, which is being monitored by Carol and forwarded on to Yvonne Earle, NLA president. We hope this means people who see or use the website will be able to contact the association and receive a timely response to any enquiries.

Current Website

Using WordPress as a platform, Carol is now able to monitor the site easily, upload new material such as blog posts and new issues of newsletters and reports, and check for and remove any spam comments. She tries to review and update the site at least quarterly, in addition to posting anything forwarded on by other NLA members.

For those not familiar with the website, a brief overview of its features:

- It maintains a similar look and feel to the previous website with the banner, layout and logo
- It has been maintained as a standard static front page website, with nested pages, but also has a blogging function
- Currently we have established three blog categories:
 - Events and Member Activities, to which current newsy items can be easily posted
 - Advocacy issues for posting links to library initiatives and other library partners, such as CLA
 - Fascinating facts and library trivia (for some fun—but not much action there!)
 - It is possible to add other blog categories if members so desire. We could add a photo gallery category to the blog if people wanted to share photos, as well.
- If people are interested in social media links, widgets can be added easily for Facebook, Twitter, etc.; it's a very flexible environment with lots of options ready-made. Currently the social media options have not been activated as no one has indicated a strong interest.
- Some new main pages have been added to the previous website version:
 - For The Partnership, to "push out" their programs and materials as requested, in return for their support of our participation
 - For Advocacy, since that seems to be the main activity we engage in. We plan to post copies of letters we've sent, national campaigns such as the CLA advocacy toolkits on various topics, etc. Material has been collected but the webmistress has been a bit short on time to work on this...
 - For Publications, with the former pages for Newsletter & Meeting Minutes nested under it.
- Some new sub-pages have been added:
 - For member publications and presentations, under the Publications page, so we can share materials (e.g. posted Carol's 2011 presentation to CLA on Inuktitut & multilingual bibliographic cataloguing standards developed by Nunavut libraries, and Yvonne's 2008 presentation to IFLA on providing multilingual service in a legislative library) and demonstrate to the rest of the library world that our members are active participants

- The “about us” main page was reduced to the mission statement, to make it punchier, and the information about NLA as an organization was moved to a separate sub-page
- A new page was initially added for “our libraries” as a place where we could highlight the work of individual members. Sub-pages under this have now been added for the four main partners of Nunavut Libraries Online (Legislative Library, Nunavut Arctic College, Court of Justics and Nunavut Public Library Services) and the Pond Inlet Library and Archives Society; we don’t yet have a description for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Library, and other resource centres and libraries could be added. These pages allow all the different library systems and organizations to tout their services, give links to their individual web-pages, etc.

Funding

Having the website point to our domain name is the only cost for having the site on the WordPress platform and hosted by WordPress. This is a relatively minimal charge (\$13/year). The very small income that the NLA receives from the Partnership as royalties for Education Institute seminar participation has been used to date to cover this expense. The membership may wish to discuss having that continue as a matter of principle.

Going forward

At this point, the webmistress is looking for additional material to post. She would welcome any submissions and suggestions by members, at any time. Submissions could include any of the following:

- Short newsy items and publicity photos to post to the blog, such as:
 - A brief paragraph describing or announcing an event;
 - A photo or photos with identifying captions highlighting your library or its activities (note: if photos contain recognizable people in them, you should obtain their permission in writing to publicize the photo, and send that along too). Photographers should be credited.
- Copies of documents you may have written or published that would be of interest to the wider Nunavut library community
- A description and photos of your library to highlight in the “Our libraries” section
- New ideas are also welcome!

The issue of language might need to be considered; WordPress offers interfaces in a number of languages, such as French, but Inuktitut is not among them. However, if we wanted to have some Inuktitut content within individual pages, the software is Unicode-compliant and syllabics do appear properly when typed into the pages. We currently have no material in any language other than English.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rigby
NLA Webmistress