

Report to the Nunavut Library Association, November 2015

Progress report 5: 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 three-plus 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.

As Yvonne is retiring at the end of the year, NLA will require a new contact name to receive forwarded e-mail, reply on behalf of NLA and forward news as necessary to the NLA e-mail list.

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, but fell behind a bit this summer due to time taken up with family health matters. The website has been updated before this meeting. Additions since the spring NLA meeting include posts and a sub-page under Advocacy for the fair e-book pricing campaign, including copies of internal and external NLA correspondence, and a blog notice about the ITK early learning materials online resource centre, with links to the press release posted on the publications page.

There have been no major structural changes to the website since the last progress report. The Partnership page requires occasional maintenance to monitor the currency of the links. The site does not receive a lot of spam comments, relatively speaking.

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. Continuing this practice was approved by NLA members at our May 2015 meeting. A spreadsheet has been developed to track funds transferred for this purpose. A copy is attached of the current statement.

The fee for 2016 was paid this November, and the balance remaining in the fund is \$3.30, so it will need to be topped up before November 2016, when the next year's payment will come due.

The other cost associated with maintaining the NLA website is the actual fee for registering our domain name, www.nunavutlibraryassociation.ca. This fee had been paid three years ago, when we first set up

this website, by the Nunavut Literacy Council, who kindly donated three years' worth of fee payment. However, the fee came up for renewal again this fall, and the Council was unable to renew this commitment. Yvonne Earle, NLA President, has paid the fee again for another three years as donation from her own pocket in order to keep the website for the Association going. I believe a motion of thanks (at the very least!) is in order.

Going forward

Carol would still appreciate receiving materials from NLA members to post in the blog and to expand the website pages, so that the site does not appear too static; any submissions can be sent to cerigby@xplornet.com. She promises to try to be more timely about updates this fall and winter.

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 (news and pictures about the paint job at Iqaluit Centennial, for example?) Please note that 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, presentations given or press releases 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 (we still don't have anything about NTI, ITK resource centres, for example)
- New ideas are also welcome!

In addition, Carol has received an electronic archive of NLA correspondence from Yvonne dating back to 2007-2008, and will be working on posting this material to the NLA business page during the winter, as an archive going forward for the association as a whole and background for the person who is willing to volunteer to step into Yvonne's shoes.

The issue of language still needs to be considered; WordPress offers interfaces in a number of languages such as French, but Inuit languages are not among them. However, the software is Unicode-compliant and syllabics do appear properly when typed into the pages. We currently have one item posted in English and Inuktitut syllabics, the September ITK press release. More materials in any form of Inuit language could be posted if provided. Some discussion took place at last November's meeting regarding an "official" translation for the name of our association in Inuit languages, but that has not been confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rigby
NLA Webmistress