

Report to the Nunavut Library Association, November 2016

Progress report 7: 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

The website is 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 is forwarded on to Jenny Thornhill, Manager of Court Library Services, who is currently handling correspondence received at this address until such time as a new president for NLA is appointed. We hope this means people who see or use the website are 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, 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. The website has been checked and updated before this meeting. Links on The Partnership pages have been checked and updated as requested at the summer retreat. Additions since the spring 2016 NLA meeting include updated information on OLA's The Library Marketplace (formerly OLAStore) and some of their services.

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.

The language on the opening pages of the website (who we are, what we do) is perhaps getting a bit dated. It might be worth revisiting our home page text and our organization description to update them. Carol is willing to do some text tweaking for general review and approval, if NLA members think that would be appropriate. The idea would be to make the text a bit more punchy and contemporary. If the group agrees, Carol can look at it and circulate some ideas for discussion.

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 (US\$13/year). The 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 is maintained to track funds transferred for this purpose.

The fee for 2017 (CAD\$17.90) was paid October 31, 2016 by Carol. As the balance remaining in the fund was \$3.30, it will need to be topped up to reimburse her (current deficit -\$14.60).

The other cost associated with maintaining the NLA website is the actual fee for registering our domain name, www.nunavutlibraryassociation.ca. Yvonne Earle, NLA Past President, paid the fee in fall 2015 for another three years as donation in order to keep the website for the Association going, so the next date of concern would be fall 2018.

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.

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. 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!

Action not yet taken

Carol has received an electronic archive of NLA correspondence from Yvonne dating back to 2007-2008, and still has to work on posting this material to the NLA business page 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. She hopes to report progress by the spring 2017 NLA meeting.

The issue of language still needs to be considered. With WordPress we could offer interfaces in English and French, but Inuit languages are not among WordPress options. However, the software is Unicode-compliant and syllabics do appear properly when typed into the pages, so we can have multilingual text within the current framework (English). We currently have one item posted in English and Inuktitut syllabics, the September ITK press release. More materials in any form of Inuit language or in French could be posted if provided. Discussion took place in the November 2014 meeting regarding an “official” translation for the name of our association in Inuit languages, but that has not progressed any further.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rigby
NLA Webmistress