

Report to the Nunavut Library Association, May 2018

Progress report 10: Maintaining the NLA Website

Prepared by Carol Rigby

Overview:

Nothing has changed materially since the last website report.

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 supposed to be monitored by Carol and also forwarded on to Riel Gallant, Nunavut Legislative Librarian, as president for NLA. The forwarding function probably needs to be checked as Riel has not been receiving mail and neither he nor Carol has had an opportunity to get this updated. We hope to amend this soon so that in future 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 monitors the site, uploads new material such as blog posts and new issues of newsletters and reports, and checks for and removes any spam comments. At the November 2017 meeting it was agreed that some of the website maintenance duties would be passed from Carol to Riel, with Carol retaining ability to post material in her role as NLA secretary. However, life has intervened in the past six months (in the form of new fatherhood for Riel, the death of Carol's mother, and an ILS migration for the two of them at the Legislative Library) and this transfer has not yet taken place. The website is now in need of updating.

As noted in the last progress report, the Partnership pages require occasional maintenance to monitor the currency of the links. We don't use the website to actively promote current EI offerings; that is done through the association e-mail list instead. The site does not receive a lot of spam comments, relatively speaking. It is time to update the banner and WordPress template used for the website. New photos or other visuals contributed by NLA members would be welcome. We have gone with a static front page rather than a blog format as things don't get posted often enough to make a blog seem fresh and up to date, but a different template might provide easier and more visual access to the news blog. The main consideration is to stick to one of the free templates available, to keep our costs down.

As noted some time ago, the language on the opening pages of the website (who we are, what we do) is dated. It is hoped that with membership approval of revised material on mission, vision, values etc. at this spring meeting, this language can be incorporated into the front pages to make them a bit punchier and more contemporary.

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; currently around Can\$17-18). 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. Riel is currently designated as the recipient of Partnership royalty cheques for cashing purposes, as we do not have an institutional account, and holds the bulk of any surplus funds.

Fees are currently paid up, as of Nov. 1, 2017, and Carol has funds in trust to cover them as they are applied automatically to her credit card. She is still holding about one year's worth of funds, and after next year's renewal we can review the handling of this item. Fees are currently paid up and Carol was reimbursed after the November meeting for the 2017 expense.

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

As always, they would appreciate receiving materials from NLA members to post in the blog and to expand the website pages. Any submissions can be sent to Riel at rgallant@assembly.nu.ca or to Carol at 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
- New ideas are also welcome!

Action not yet taken

As noted earlier, Carol and Riel have agreed to share website maintenance responsibilities but still have to put this into place. Riel will take over the basic website management and regular updates, which will free Carol to work on the NLA correspondence archive, received from former president Yvonne Earle dating back to 2007-2008. This material still has to be posted to the NLA business page as an archive going forward for the association as a whole. She hopes to report progress by the fall 2018 NLA meeting.

The issue of language still needs to be followed up. WordPress 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. More materials in any form of Inuit language or in French could be posted if provided. NPLS was going to see about obtaining an "official" translation for the name of our association in Inuit languages from Culture and Heritage, but that has not progressed any further.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rigby