

## Web Editor Report

IASSID Executive Council Meeting  
March 26/27 Rome 2010

The web site has become more and more vital to the good functioning of IAASID.

After the first year (2008-2009) of using the old system that had been in use for eight years, and run principally by Neil Ross and Matt Janicki, it was decided to upgrade and undertake a complete overhaul of the site - this would imply 'reskinning' to present a more esthetic and cosmetic appearance (home page) via professional web designers. This would also include a complete re-vamping of the data base. The choice of a Content Management system would be vital to the programming of the data base. It has also been suggested that the web site could have a number of 'plug-ins' which would allow it to have other functions such as congress registration, abstract formatting, on line education, and active forums and teaching modules. The possibilities are indeed endless and exciting.

But where to start?

Contacts were made with various professional web site companies to get some feedback and to also be able to compare estimates and proposed fees and prices. After discussion and numerous Skype calls Jason Foley's Acclerate Media company was selected. Examples of his web design for the front page are given in Phil's report and they look good.

However before asking him to do the above mentioned work it was thought best to leave aside cosmetics, esthetics and all the plug-in modules and to first do some groundwork on the data base in order to first meet what was considered to be of primary importance: the treasurer and secretarial functions of the site. It is to be noted that many quirks in the old system were leading to some frayed nerves (members only) and it lacked immediate and automatic upgrading of information (user and payment).

So it was decided to improve those aspects of the site before proceeding to the other legitimate requests for a more eye appealing, functional and interactive web site. It was thought, probably mostly by N. Ross, that a quick band aid approach with some re-programming of the existing system would allow us to complete this by January 2010 and that both the treasurer and the Secretary would have the tools they wanted.

This was not the case and the work in progress has proven to be much slower than expected. At the present council meeting I am sure that Phil and H  l  ne will be able to inform the executive as to their appreciation of the system to date.

The work is slow but if the choice is made to continue with Joomla then all the effort will have been well worth it. The work load will also be reduced for the Web Editor as both the assistants, Laura and Maureen (and these women are very competent), can now help carry out those functions (Treasurer and Secretary) that used to fall to the same person.

What follows is a monthly outline of what has been done to bring the site up to the desired performance asked for the secretarial and treasurer functions. Hélène, Phil, Maureen and Laura have worked tirelessly with Eric Perlade in getting this done.

### **August 2010**

- an audit of the existing system,
- definition of the 'cahier des charges' – sorry can't find a good translation.

### **September 2010**

- choice of a CMS (Content Management System) for the future site system,
- Joomla CMS is retained (it was the one already in use) but upgraded to the 1.5 version for its new features,
- migration of Joomla 1.0 worm to Joomla 1.5 - with legacy data retention,
- developing a prototype of the IASSID member management system. The prototype focuses on 1 aspect of online registration and payment on-line renewal.
- choosing a payment system (PayPal) online for future registration or re-registration,
- Skype calls to post the work in progress and make the choice for further development.

### **October 2010**

- presentation online a first prototype reenlistment in Rochester,
- clarification of types individual inscriptions, research centers, and organizations,
- meeting in Rochester in the presence of Phil Davidson, Helene Ouelette, Maureen Mc Donald, Laura Robinson, Neil Ross of IASSID and Jason Foley of Accelerate Media to determine who will develop the new version for the 2010 membership registration renewals and payments,
- programming and development of the final version.

### **November 2010**

- alteration of the existing Joomla template to improve the attractiveness of the home page,
- restructuring of the existing database members IASSID and integration into Joomla.
- alteration of the Joomla user management system to enable authentication by email rather than by a user name address,
- online registration system for an individual members allowing the user to fill out a form which is saved in the database,
- user profile management system allowing the user to modify personal information once logged into his own IASSID account,
- integration and adaptation of Joomla AEC component for payments online through PayPal,
- choice of membership categories for usage on the IASSID site system: Full Membership, Student Membership and Retiree Membership as well as Affinity Groups and SIRGs; programming of the these categories to PayPal for payment,
- integration of Joomla GM Access for better management of the 'log in' rights and user details to enhance security of the contents of the IASSID site. This allows only members who subscribe to a journal to be able to access them online,
- distant user training (Maureen Mc Donald) for content editing and managing of Joomla menus.

## **December 2010**

- programming and development of a system to initiate and enable access rights of a member and to inform via email the journal editors once the PayPal payment has been made,
- programming and installation of the IASSID beta version on the eHosting Server and to the address - [www.iassid.org](http://www.iassid.org).
- testing and correction of the current version with council members of IASSID leading to a remodeling of the member management system,
- configuration and installment of the IASSID PayPal account instead of the PayPal test account,
- testing of renewals and new on line payments.

## **January 2010**

- transfer of data base and all information to the new site,
- IASSID beta version becomes IASSID version 1.0.3
- development administration section of the members management,
- designing of a system to reset the user password with a confirmation email sent to their address with the new login and password,
- creation of listings and groups for future mass mailing purposes such as membership renewal reminders,
- 2010 membership renewal reminder send out,
- modifications, corrections and additions of data base based on feedback from users,
- maintenance and error verification of the database based on the membership renewals.

## **February 2010**

- development, re-development and programming of the system destined for registration of organizations and centers,
- programming of a system of offline payment for users not wanting to use PayPal or having had problems with PayPal,
- maintenance and a upgrading of the operating system,
- creating and installation of e-mail inboxes for [admin@iassid.org](mailto:admin@iassid.org) and [no-reply@iassid.org](mailto:no-reply@iassid.org)

## **Mars 2010**

- modification of the database and registration structure in Joomla to allow a member to be both an individual Member and the member designated of an member association or centre,
- programming and development of the administration sector to allow online monitoring for changes in member profiles (user profile, journal subscriptions, Affinity Groups and selected SIRGS),
- setting up of online administration for those members using 'offline payment', an administrator can thus create a subscription, an invoice, validate payment and thus activate an individual Member account,
- setting up of online administration for those organizations and centers using 'offline payment' (as per above).

I would just like to stress that 'programming' is slow and meticulous work requiring time and patience.

Neil Ross  
Web Editor