Tour of the New NASIG Website

Last year, the Executive Board asked the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) to look for ways to help the NASIG website better highlight NASIG news and events. It was also time to review the website, clear outdated material, and make it easier to feature new activities like NASIG’s webinar series. ECC conducted an extensive review and made suggestions to the board.

When ECC approached ArcStone, our web hosting service, to talk about the changes we wanted, they were ready to roll out a new platform that would accommodate our requests. The new system would allow us, without the intervention of programmers, to be much more flexible in how we present our information.

The new home page allot prime real estate to upcoming NASIG conferences. In addition to information about the 2014 conference, dates for 2015 and 2016 are available for those who want to make longer term plans. News items specific to NASIG are also separated out from general news and positioned front and center, literally.

The top menu categories on the new site are Membership, About, Conference, Publications, Continuing Education, and Contact. Content accessible under the first three items is generally the same as on the old site. Under Publications, the new site features not only the Conference Proceedings and the NASIG Newsletter, but also NASIGuides, the NASIG Blog, and the NASIG Jobs Blog. The biggest changes are in the category Continuing Education, which replaces the Resources link on the old site. Continuing Education features easy access to NASIG’s webinar series, Core Competencies for Electronic Resources Librarians, an updated Reference Resources page, and our sister organization, UKSG.

Log In and Member Center

Although much of the site is open to anyone, a lot of content is available only to members. It’s a good idea to log in to the site immediately on arrival for the best experience.

Logging in takes you directly to the Member Center. The Member Center includes links to the member directory, names and contact information for the Executive Board and all committees (including live email links), organizational documents, and groupspace (more on this later). You can edit your contact information, create a biography, see copies of broadcast emails, and view photo galleries. The Member Center also gives you access to information on your renewal status, payment history, and event history. For instance, when I logged in today, the Member Center displayed a message alerting me that my membership expires on December 12.

Another advantage of logging in on arrival is that if you’re on the site and click on a link to a members-only page, you’ll go directly to that page only if you are already logged in. Otherwise, you’ll be taken to the
Member Center, and you’ll have to navigate back to the page you wanted.

If your organizational role in NASIG requires that you have access to the website’s administrative module, remember that your admin login is different from your public site login. This is a big change from the old site, and it has caused some confusion. If you don’t remember your admin login, contact ECC at web@nasig.org.

**Groups**

As noted above, the Member Center includes a link to Groups. Click on Groups and you’ll go to a page with the name of every committee or task force in which you participate. Beside the name of the group, you’ll find a View Group link.

Groupspace is analogous to the old site’s private committee space, but with more functionality. It has calendars, communication options, and a group webpage. Note, however, that group webpages cannot have subpages. Groupspace also provides a secure home for private committee documents. Committee chairs and vice chairs have group admin status and can upload documents and delete them from their groupspace.

ECC has created groups for each committee and task force within NASIG. Committee groups include the committee’s board liaison as a group member. On each group’s webpage, ECC has created a link to instructions for adding documents and editing groupspace. There’s also a link to the Committees page, where you will find links to committee public pages and to general committee documents, such as the NASIG Committee Chairs Orientation Manual, and the Board Report Template.

So enjoy exploring the new website, and remember to log in on arrival. If you have questions or comments, contact ECC at web@nasig.org.