

Website report

Arlis/ANZ AGM, 9th October 2008

The last two years have seen a lot happen with the Arlis/ANZ website. At the 2006 AGM, members voted to adopt a new URL and endorsed a redevelopment project by the web team. This report is a brief description of what followed.

URL and hosting arrangements

With two web team members based at QUT, the university generously took over hosting of the site from ANU in early 2007. At the same time we purchase our very own domain name and moved the site to the new URL <http://www.arlis.org.au>.

The vision

The Web Team then began a redevelopment project with a strategic vision laid out in the article "[Arlis/ANZ 2.0](#)" published in the Arlis/ANZ journal.

This article explained why we were looking for a solution to our redevelopment project that incorporated web 2.0 tools – how they could help our small, distributed group make and maintain connections.

The project

The team considered hiring professional web design consultants to help us make the vision a reality, but our small budget would not have covered our wish list. So we explored other options – through our team members' connections at QUT, we were able to offer our site as a real-world learning project to Communications Design students in the Creative Industries Faculty. That process saw three student teams working on a redesign of our site for nothing and gave us the opportunity to give as detailed and imaginative a brief as we dared.

Initially the Arlis/ANZ Web Team (Ellen Thompson, Luisa Rossitto and Kelly McKeon) were the main stakeholders managing the project. But Cheryl Stevens (National Secretary), Pamela Martin (National Treasurer) and Bill Hood (journal Editor) were also brought on board, as we quickly realised that the student teams were asking detailed questions regarding communication, record keeping, membership documentation, financials and payments, and production of the journal, that we couldn't answer fully on our own.

One of the student teams produced a high-quality site that the Executive then endorsed for implementation. A working prototype of this design was made available to members for comment before implementation in February 2008. When we launched the new site, we also began using affordable independent hosting and are no longer dependent on our employer institutions.

Further detail on the project is available from the ALIA dreaming08 biennial conference paper "[M is for Meeting Places: the Arts Libraries Society of Australia and New Zealand Builds a Virtual Web 2.0 'Clubhouse'](#)" or the article "A Web 2.0 vision, Web 2.0 project management and real-world student learning in a website redevelopment project" in an upcoming special issue of the *Australian Library Journal*.

Moving forward

Eight months on and we have a successful, interactive and participatory website that is becoming our virtual meeting place. We have over a hundred registered site users and members are taking advantage of the communication opportunities of the blog, wiki and forum spaces. The web team plans to continue nurturing this online community and invites all interested Arlis/ANZ members to take part in building their website. We would love to expand the team and our new Drupal-based site allows us to do this easily.

Kelly McKeon
Arlis/ANZ Website Manager 2007-2008