

SHINe Website Group report for the AGM 2008 May 2008

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the members of the website group – to Julia, Paul, Kathleen, Elspeth, Susan and Chloe, for their contributions over the past year.

It has been a relatively quiet year for the website – we've actually only had one meeting as a group.

We've continued to make the regular updates and changes to the website – adding two issues of the Journal, the presentations from one study day, photographs of Committee members and minutes from committee meetings, the latest Union List downloads and so on.

Website statistics are a notoriously dark art and can usually only really be seen as an indication of usage. This slide shows some of the figures for the year. There have been over 83,000 page views. As you can see this is an increase of about 30% from last year.

Almost every month, the pages with the most use after the Home page are the Journal pages.

The most popular downloaded files over the year have been mainly what you would imagine – the membership form, bursary form, database user guide, but perhaps more surprisingly, some of the files from a study day held in 2002 led by Andrew Booth. One file on critically appraised digests and one on using the internet for clinically effective searching have been especially popular. It's nice to know that 5 years on people are still finding these useful.

As you may remember last year's AGM and study morning was recorded for a podcast, and these files have been downloaded from the site 183 times, the AGM podcast being downloaded over 50 times

Some of you will have been at the Web 2.0 training days that were run earlier in the year, and SHINe is beginning to look at how we can use these tools to improve the way that we as an organisation communicate with each other. We now have a blog which currently committee members and working group members can post on. You are all able to post comments – so please feel free to do this. I am aware that there are some accessibility issues with some of you not being able to access it from your workplace. When we set it up we tested it in as many regions as we could but I know that there are still some IT departments who are not willing to open up access.

The Journal Group have been trialling the use of an online collaborative workspace using a wiki, and we are about to set one of these up for the Committee to use too.

This brings me neatly on to the future. The website has been in its current form for around 5 or 6 years now and although it has been a good tool over the years, it is no longer really fit for purpose, as well as being quite cumbersome to develop and maintain. As you have heard from Tracey, the SHINe Journal will cease to exist in its current form, and so the Committee have agreed that our future vision is for e-SHINe. As the world moves on, we as an organisation want to be looking at how we can move forward too in terms of improving communication with members, exploiting new

technologies, opening up the website to existing members and encouraging new members to join SHINe.

What I am proposing is to establish a short-term group to work on a project to develop a new website to meet our needs as an organisation. Much of the existing website is still very valuable and will need to be kept, but a new site will also need to incorporate some aspects of the journal such as the book reviews, it will also need to allow members to contribute things like meeting reports easily and it will need to be more interactive generally. It will need to have a proper members' area, and include features like a blog on the front page. Crucially it will need to have a content management system behind it so it can be quickly and easily maintained.

This is an exciting project and I am looking for volunteers to be on this short term project group – I have 3 volunteers already, but would ideally like to have just one or maybe two more, so we have a group of around 5 to work on this for a few months. It would be helpful to have representation from the existing working groups but I would love to hear from anyone who would be keen to be involved. You do not have to have any web skills for this – just enthusiasm for SHINe and creativity.

Please do get in touch with me if you are keen to be involved in this - I now have an easy email address - alison.bogle@nhs.net

Thank you

Alison Bogle
SHINe Website Group