

## **Informatics Committee**

**Committee Members:** M. E. Hopton (Chair), C. A. Iudica, S. P. Maher, S. B. McLaren, D. K. Odell, I. M. Ortega, R. L. Rehmeier

### **Mission:**

The Informatics Committee is responsible for addressing issues that arise with continuing changes in technology and information processing, retrieval, etc. as they relate to mammalogy. In recent years, the committee has been primarily involved with maintaining and further developing the Society's web site.

### **Information Items:**

(1) In 2007, \$10,000 was budgeted for 2008 and the committee was asked to come back with a more specific budget request if needed. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, a request for an additional \$35,159 was approved for 2009 and the Board gave the Committee the latitude to make the final selection of the firm that would do the website redesign, with input from ASM Officers. After an additional round of questions, vetting, and several conference calls, AcroMedia, Inc. was selected by the Committee to redesign the Society's web site in November 2008. Their proposal was forwarded to the Officers for comment in late November. Due to economic conditions, the redesign process was suspended at the request of the Officers on advice from the Trustees on 5 December 2008. In March of 2009, the 2009 line item budgeted for redesign was reduced to \$5,154. The committee immediately approached AcroMedia about proposing an incremental process for the redesign work and received a proposal for a 3-phase process on 3 April 2009. Phase 1 involves the creation of new Information Architecture, which represents the backbone of the redesign process. This work can be completed in approximately 2.5 months for \$5,000 (Canadian), which allows for this work to proceed within the amended 2009 budget even with additional "tweaking" that may be required.

(2) Routine maintenance and updates were performed on an as-needed basis.

(3) Online submission was provided for fellowships administered by the Honoraria and Grants-in-Aid Committees.

(4) Richard Thorington continues to maintain Mammalogists-on-E-mail and the Mammal-L discussion group. We appreciate his efforts.

(5) Requests for information, job postings, and announcements submitted to the web site were received by Dan Odell. In total, 71 requests were made between June 2008 and April 2009; most were requests to post job announcements.

### **Action Items:**

(1) A budget request of \$20,000 for Phase 2 of the website redesign is requested from the 2010 budget. Phase 2 will include completion of web site design, coding and final construction of the site, partial content implementation, and basic content management system.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Matthew E. Hopton  
([m.hopton@yahoo.com](mailto:m.hopton@yahoo.com))