

VP Electronic Presence
Report to the 2011 Summer Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein, July 8, 2011

Summary

We need to move the website to something nicer looking and easier to manage, and currently Wordpress is the leading candidate to support this. The web submission system continues to be adjusted to meet central office needs. The Wiki is dead, but the forum continues and I may add a formulation subforum to it. We still do not have a volunteer webmaster.

Web Submission System

We continue to make some small changes to this. Roberta has some ideas about making it easier to manage some conference tasks that need further discussion. Overall, the submission system has been stable and reliable over the last several years.

The System Dynamics Discussion Forum

There is modest activity on the discussion forum. Many people have suggested returning to a simple mailing list, but the quality of discussion generated by the old email list was generally quite low. I have also seen a suggestion that we do more nuts and bolts software issues, but this seems the purview of the software vendors.

I am considering starting a forum on formulation issues. Though this might still prove to be software centric, it seems the issues should be of general interest. My hesitation is that I am not sure if good formulation suggestions would emerge reliably.

The System Dynamics Wiki

I am planning to pull the Wiki down. It has simply not gained any traction.

Content Management System

The Joomla! effort has faltered. Roberta is talking to some folks about contracting for a move to Wordpress, a simpler alternative to a more complete content management system. Wordpress has an add-in called BuddyPress that could be used for the membership directory (as an alternative to memberclicks). I am currently experimenting with this to figure out how to make it work for the office without requiring changes to their database usage (currently Access is used for member records).

Web Master

We still do not have anyone doing this and Robin Langer is mostly taking on these responsibilities.

