

Bridges Webpac Design Committee - Minutes of Meeting, March 1, 2001

Attended: Melissa Belvadi (chair), Ellen Eliceiri (E-W), Kathy Gaynor (reference librarian from E-W), Fred McKinney (MBC), Jean Rose (Logan), Ann Booker (Lindenwood)

Threaded Discussion Use:

The meeting started with a brief demo of the use of the threaded discussion "class" in niconet. It was agreed to use it. The information to join is as follows:

1. Go to <http://www.niconet.org/>

2a. If you already have a niconet account (e.g. site coordinators), log into your existing account then click on "Join" in the navigation bar on the left.

2b. If you do not already have an account, click on New Users - Join a Class.

You will need to create a username/password.

Review of Directors' Decisions:

A review was given of the decisions made at the recent Directors' meeting that affected webpac design – complying with Bobby design standards, designing to IE4/Netscape4 and expectations that we are much closer to having a logo to design around. Also, sites may choose to design their own scopes independently, and the directors advise us not to "reinvent the wheel" but to build on the good design decisions of other clusters.

QuickSearch:

It was agreed that we would use this feature on our mainmenu page, and prefer to locate it above the list of institutions IF that makes sense given how the institutional links end

up being positioned relative to the logo (depends on the shape of the logo – height/width ratio).

We voted to change the default "library" in quicksearch to say "All Bridges Libraries".

Toolbar:

The following decisions were made about the use of a header-toolbar as offered by Hardy Pottinger, the MCO webpac design rep:

- We do want to use it
- We would prefer one that is printing-toner-use-friendly – more like LANCE's than WILO's
- We are not yet sure whether the Bridges logo will go on the left end or in the middle – it depends on the logo
- We are not sure whether we want to repeat the cluster name on the right end – it depends on the logo
- We would like the following text/links, in this order:
 - Search: MOBIUS > Bridges | Bridges Home | About Bridges | HELP
- Every word/phrase except the word "Search" is a separate link
- Kathy Gaynor from E-W has volunteered to work up a starting draft for the contents of the HELP link – it is understood that this cannot be context-sensitive
- We should use the Threaded Discussion space to discuss the content of the "About Bridges" page

Navigation Buttons:

The committee looked at various button designs and issues. The following was decided:

- Prefer solid buttons with light/white letters. Fred offered some he made, and these were preferred to the WILO-style ones. Prefer 72 pixel wide over 88 pixel wide ones. Fred will post them to:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~fredmck/bridgesmbcdemo/buttons.html>

- Prefer the text to be all upper case
- Prefer NOT to have the Britannica button at all; would like the cluster to consider alternative possibilities for any such off-system button – suggestion to link to Morenet databases was made if we all have those in common

Further discussion on the specific button wordings is needed, for instance, change "compact display" to "brief display". Fred pulled the sample wordings from other MOBIUS OPACs. We'll check on what each button is intended to do and discuss them on the Threaded Discussion space.

Footer:

Decided: If the toolbar is toner-friendly, it would be preferred to repeat it as the footer. In any case, it was decided not to use the problematic "feedback" mechanism.

Title Help Text:

After comparing several examples, we decided to use the following (below the search box):

Type as much or as little of the TITLE as you want, for example:

tale of two cities

tale of tw

journal of american history

journal of american hist

Advanced example:

science| - finds one word title: science

If your search is unsuccessful, try a KEYWORD search

NEW SEARCH

where KEYWORD is a link and NEW SEARCH is actually the button to return to the opacmenu.

Moving forward – what to do next:

The committee agreed to use the threaded discussion space to work on the following until the next meeting:

- Other help text – author, journal, etc.
- Navigation button issues (see above, see Fred's web site)
- Content of "About Bridges" information page
- Design of the opacmenu screen, pending the final logo approval

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

[Reminder: "mainmenu" refers to the very first opening page of the cluster (generally lists with links the members of the cluster) whereas "opacmenu" refers to the main search screen for the all-cluster scoped search (this is where the Author, Title, etc. searches are listed - each scope will have its own opacmenu).]