

**Web Advisory Group**  
**Minutes of Dec. 2, 2002 Meeting – FINAL**

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**In Attendance:**

Bill Brown, Ilan Eyman, Gail Ford, Kathleen Gallagher (recorder), Janet Garey, Jill Garland (chair), Gary Handman, John Kupersmith, James Lake, Bruce Williams.

**Absent:**

Jim Ronningen, Isabel Stirling

I. Housekeeping

A. Minutes – Approved, as corrected

B. Blog Update

- Lynn Jones' blog demonstration, originally scheduled for this meeting, was postponed until the next at Jill's request.
- Gary reported that blog contents are public, and fully searchable through Internet search engines like Google.

C. Public Posting of Minutes

- After discussion of the alternatives, a motion was approved to make the minutes of WAG meetings publicly available, and to post them on the Staff web.
- The minutes will not be "officially" archived at this time.

II. Strategic Direction of the Library Web Site

WAG continued discussion of the question framed by Bernie Hurley for consideration and a possible recommendation. As revised for improved clarity: "Should the library web site use uniform page designs throughout, or should it consist of a central core of pages that link to an aggregation of independently designed unit web sites?"

Jill handed out a summary of the pros & cons of both models generated at the Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The two models were discussed again at length.

The group reached agreement on the following points:

- Neither model in its pure form represents an acceptable alternative: WAG rejects both the anarchy of the "pure aggregator" model and the inflexibility of the "pure uniformity" model.
- The Library's current aggregation of decentralized, independently-designed unit/library websites, with few if any discernible standards or common features, does not meet expectations of functionality, usability, professionalism, or visual appeal.

- Greater uniformity and standardization of the Library website is highly desirable, as it would improve its overall functionality, usability, professionalism, and visual appeal. Therefore, the Library should pursue development of the website in the direction of greater uniformity and consistency of design throughout.
- Uniformity should not be pursued single-mindedly at the expense of functionality and optimal usability, and should be balanced against a need for flexibility when uniqueness of content or purpose warrants it.

**Action Item:** Jill and John will draft a proposal for Cabinet, which they will submit for WAG's review and approval via email. Jill will submit a final version of the proposal to Cabinet by the end of the week.