

Informatics Committee

Committee Members: S. P. Maher (Chair), V. Apkenas, C. Calderon-Acevedo, P. K. Connors, D. Green, R. Jakopak B. Kohli, J. M. Martin, S. B. McLaren, D. K. Odell, E. Siracusa, B. P. Tanis, D. Villalobos, L. Yohe

Mission:

At the 2007 annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM, the Board of the American Society of Mammalogists charged the newly redefined Informatics Committee to explore a redesign and improve the Society's web site and to maintain the existing web site during this period.

Information Items:

(1) The ASM web site (www.mammalsociety.org and www.mammalogy.org) went live on 17 March 2011 and this version has continued to function through the current year.

(2) The ASM web site is hosted on a dedicated server with InMotion Hosting.

(3) In 2021 and 2022, we paid design firm Acro Media to build a new version of our website that includes a partial redesign of the homepage. This is scheduled to be live by the Annual Meeting.

(4) ASM has a presence on a number of social media including:

Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/American.Society.of.Mammalogists>; 7207 "Likes" as of 13 April 2022; increase of 275 since last year; 7617 Followers)

Twitter

(@Mammalogists; 5455 followers as of 13 April 2022; increase of 466 since last year)

LinkedIn

(<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/American-Society-Mammalogists-4575484>; 237 Members as of 13 April 2022; increase of 9 since last year)

Instagram account (@amersocmammalogists 918 followers as of 13 April 2022; increase of 137 since last year)

YouTube page (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA6tp7M-8d9YFLorYysHR_Q; 82 subscribers; increase of 37)

At the request of committee chairs and ASM leadership, we post items relating to the Society on our accounts and the website. In addition, We provide a "Mystery Mammal" photo quiz on the Facebook and Instagram accounts each week. Since 2018, we include Spanish translations to social media posts.

(5) Routine maintenance and updates were performed on an as-needed basis, as requested by President Kelt, President Lessa, and committee chairs.

(6) We upload all standing committee reports to their respective webpages. We have begun to archive older reports and will maintain only 10 years of reports on the website starting with the new version. We will archive old reports on the server.

(7) Online submissions of fellowships administered by the Honoraria, Grants-in-Aid of Research, Cameron Award, Kaufmann Award, African Research Fellowship, Patton Award, and Latin American Fellowship Committees were conducted using the ASM web site. Additionally, we accepted nominations and applications for the J. Mary Taylor Award and the Black and Indigenous Scholars in Mammalogy Award.

(8) Requests for information, job postings, and announcements submitted to the web site were received by Dan Odell and routed accordingly. Odell answered directly and others were referred to the appropriate committee, business office, or OUP. Maher responded to inquiries through Facebook and Twitter. Committee chairs should always review their respective pages and the clarity of their contact information.

(9) ASM continues to operate a Members only area for blogging and a within community job board. Members must request access using their name and Membership ID. The Membership ID is available at the ASM Business Office (<https://asm.wildapricot.org/>). When you login to the Business Office you will see your ASM Customer Number. This number is used to verify your active ASM Membership. However, few members take advantage of this and it creates confusion with the Business Office login, which are independent.

(10) In 2016, an upgraded meeting app, Guidebook, was provided by the University of Minnesota, and Informatics and the Program Committee worked together to upload information. This platform provided many advantages to the free EventBase platform Informatics provided in 2014 and 2015. In 2018 and 2019, we contributed to delivering content to the App and included some of the fees as part of our budget request for 2021. Because we do not require an App for the 2021 meeting, we volunteered to move this allocation to support student research.

(11) Beginning in 2015, we added a subscription service to Vimeo (\$199, Pro option) and uploaded selected Symposium talks from the 2015 and 2016 ASM meetings. We continue to make these available to members through the Business Office site. Additionally, in 2019, we uploaded videos to the YouTube page from speakers who gave appropriate permission. However, there has been limited use of this feature.

(12) Beginning in 2017, we worked with the Mammal Biodiversity committee to provide server access and support for the new Mammal Diversity Database. Since then, this committee has paid for the annual \$14.99 fee to maintain the domain.

(13) In 2018 and 2019, we worked with the Program Committee and the Human Diversity Committee to develop webforms to allow submissions and requests through the ASM site.

(14) In 2016, the State List Project, in conjunction with the Public Education Committee, was launched on the ASM webpage (<http://www.mammalogy.org/mammals-list>). We have continued to update content as available and where errors have been identified. As of 2020, we have provided the committee with access to update and correct errors independently.

(15) In 2018 and 2019, we worked with the Ombudspersons to update page content and establish a webform for submission of a report of alleged misconduct. We do not monitor the content of this webform.

(16) In 2019, we began partnering with the Program Committee to provide assistance on mammalmeetings.org. We now share a joint subcommittee to provide support and content updates.

Action Items:

(1) The sum of \$8,000 is requested from the 2022 budget. Hosting the ASM web site on a dedicated server is expected to cost ~\$2500 this year; this is an annual expense, but provides use of a server with sufficient resources to meet the demands of the website. For the new version of the site, we need to upgrade our server and the expected costs should be no more than \$2500. We have monthly fees of \$40 that relate to server software (\$15) and server support (\$25). Additional costs include: \$45 per year to maintain the domains (mammalogy.org, mammalsociety.org, and mammaldiversity.org) and an annual subscription to Vimeo to support video delivery to members, at \$199 per year. We request an additional \$4776 as a placeholder for potential expenses related to the Society's web site upkeep and adding functionality.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean P. Maher, Chair

(asm.informatics@gmail.com)