

Notes on Best Practices for Accessibility and Readability on the AFRE Website (Sept 16, 2016)

Time Frame: Done in Spring/Summer 2016 by MT Weber. Revised website is now fully operational.

Motivation:

- Assists AFRE to meet essential MSU/CANR website accessibility standards, **and**
- Improve AFRE's website content readability, regardless of browsing device.

Sources:

- Draws on suggested best practices/learning tutorials at MSU Accessibility, Rutgers-Writing for Websites, and others.

Basic Logic of AFRE Website Style Guidelines:

- Web readers don't sit in front of their computer screens (or gaze into their mobile phones) and read webpages word-by-word. Instead, they scan pages for useful information.
- To provide easily scannable content, used various techniques
- Broke information into "chunks" that can be easily accessed and comprehended. (Website Top Level Tabs and corresponding Subtabs)
- Depending on amount of information to present in a given subtab, consistently partitioned and labeled the contents of subtab breakdowns
- Used consistently different size headers to denote the partitioning of content.
- Primarily used bulleted lists to present content detail.

View Results:

- View the current AFRE site on multiple size browsing devices to best appreciate revisions.

Tutorials Done by Weber For AFRE Staff: Downloadable at At MT Weber AFRE Emeritus Faculty Profile under the Tab "Notable Docs/Presentations".

- AFRE Website Training Materials
 - [Notes on Best Practices for Accessibility and Readability on the AFRE Website \(Sept 16, 2016\) by MT Weber](#)
 - [Draft AFRE Website Style Manual - Notes on best practices to enhance website readability on multiple size browsing devices by MT Weber, Sept 2016](#)
 - Recommended Resource About Writing for Websites (Rutgers University [Writing for Websites](#))
 - [Tutorial on Creating a New Faculty Profile for the AFRE Website](#)
 - [Form for Information Needed to Create a New Faculty Profile - Downloadable Word Document](#)
 - Tutorial on Posting to Expression Engine a New Faculty Profile

- [Tutorial on Editing and Posting to Expression Engine Information on an Existing Faculty Profile](#)
- [Form for Obtaining Project Information \(Downloadable Word Document\)](#)
- [Tutorial on Posting Information About a New Project, or Editing/Archiving an Existing Project](#)

Going Forward:

- Who is Responsible for Website Posting of Materials Developed by Selected Faculty in Different Sections of the AFRE Website?
 - **Home** - News (Taylor Logan and others? Helped by Eileen Gianiodis)
 - **People** - Current and Emeritus Faculty, and Staff - Taylor Logan
 - Retiring/Departing Faculty need to be move from Current to Emeritus Section
 - **People** - Students - Debbie Conway
 - **Undergraduate** - Ellen Schueller
 - **Graduate** - Debbie Conway – also maintains the graduate thesis/dissertation data base
 - **Events** - Nancy Creed and others?
 - **News** - Taylor Logan and others? Helped by Eileen Gianiodis
 - **Projects** - Domestic - Michael Graff
 - Completed Projects need to be archived instead of removed.
 - **Projects** - International - To be determined given Weber's move to Florida?
 - Completed Projects need to be archived instead of removed.
 - **Centers and Services** - Taylor Logan
 - **Getting Good Pictures** – How to do this more systematically?
 - **AFRE Newsletter: Advancing Economics, Transforming Lives** – AFRE drafts, Eileen Gianiodis and Fran Adelaja process this for CANR and AFRE news items and put it into the AFRE Newsletter format. But Constant Contact, the version of the software used is not responsive - the newsletter cannot be read on a cell phone. According to Eileen Gianiodis, CANR is in the process of updating this over the next couple of months. Need to follow up on this. Food Security Group could also use this new version of the software for their newsletter.
- Who is Responsible for Overall Website Coordination and Oversight, and News Story Writing? This is an important task, especially to liaise with different groups of Faculty to anticipate strategic outreach events to cover for news stories and photos. These will possibly be among the duties of a possible new AFRE communication staff position?
- Given that Francisca and I will now (starting Oct 6) be living full time in Sarasota, FL, it will be more difficult for me to make the kinds of AFRE website contributions as I have done in the past.
- I am willing to try to organize a review session on these notes and what has been done to the site sometime over the next two weeks. I am also willing to skype to those interested to review and explain what has been done, as well as to explain further the tutorials I have created and made downloadable. My skype system is recognized on the AFRE computer skype set up in Rm 75, and I have used this before. When set up correctly, it works well to capture audio, and I can easily share my screen to explain issues easily.