Genetics Society
website development

www.genetics.org.uk

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I've worked on a few websites before but nothing quite as big as that of the Genetics Society. A good website can be a fantastic medium for any organization, serving as a convenient point of contact and allowing for the dissemination of information to a dispersed membership. These features are particularly beneficial for an organisation, such as the Genetics Society, where the membership are scattered around the world.

Since I joined the Genetics Society my targets have been: to make the website accessible to as many of our members as possible (regardless of their PC configuration or operating system); to maintain a consistent look-and-feel to the site; to allow easy navigation around the site and; to make updates as easy as possible. A review of the site, as it stood in January 2001, lead me to the conclusion that a complete overhaul was required. This task was made a lot easier by the fact that Jayne Richards (Executive Officer at the Genetics Society) already had a good idea of how the site should look and what it should do. 18 months on and we have moved the site to a new server and scripted an entirely new content management system that allows us to maintain a consistent look-and-feel and perform updates as easily as possible. On top of this content management system we have created a site that is accessible, looks good and is easy to navigate. The process has not been trouble free and there is still work that can be done to improve the site. Our latest idea is to put a forum on the site that allows our members to place notices and exchange ideas. The forum will also allow members to give feedback on the site itself. Hopefully you have all enjoyed using the site. I have certainly found developing and updating the site very enjoyable and satisfying.