The ICCL Portal

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Background and Motivation

- Two new research groups in 2013/2014
  - Computational Logic (Sebastian Rudolph)
  - Knowledge Systems (MK)
  - New group Web sites needed

- Joint Web portal launched in Nov 2014 ...
  ... based on SMW, of course

- Invited other groups to join ...
  ... and ended up having all of ICCL moving home
What makes a “good” Web site?
Wishlist for an (Academic) Web Portal

- Prominence
  - High Google rank, linkable content, …
- Style
  - Professional appearance, device-friendly, …
- Content
  - Bi-lingual, accessible, data feeds, …
- Handling
  - Easy to manage, control over your content, …
Selling your Site

MGBD Parts & Services
Rover P6 Parts Specialist

MGBD Parts by Mark & Angie Gray
ROVER P6 PARTS
Online Store
Click here

AUTUMN ROAD RUN
SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2014
How to become prominent (SEO basics)

What we can do:
- High quality content (text!)
- Many pages
- Frequent, non-local changes
- Tight linking
- Metadata

What others should do:
- Inlinks from credible sites
- High click-through on Web searches
Content over Hierarchy
Uniformity vs. Freedom

- We want uniformity.
  - Easy of use
  - Professional appearance
  - Working together on summary/overview pages
  - Predefined structure → better authoring support

- We want freedom.
  - There are always cases that don't fit the scheme
Many Basic Page Types

- People
- Publications
- Lectures/seminars/…
- Event announcements
- Software tools and datasets
- Student theses/theses topics
- News
- Research groups
- Research projects
- Research topics
- Job offers
- Cooperation partners
- Rooms
How to have style (Web design in 2015)

- Key tasks:
  - Usability
  - Visual appeal
  - ... on all devices

- Modern Web framework (Chameleon Skin, Bootstrap)
- Unified content structure and page style
- Inspired by expected future organisation (TU Dresden) style (moving target)
International Center for Computational Logic

The International Center for Computational Logic (ICCL) is an interdisciplinary center of competence in research and teaching in the field of Computational Logic, with special emphasis on Algebra, Logic, and Formal Methods in Computer Science. It has been founded at TU Dresden in October 2003.

This is the new website of ICCL, first published in October 2014. Some previous content has not been moved yet and can be found under http://computationalLogic.org/. The following research groups are already present here on the new site:
Page Type – Layout – Data – Forms – Queries

- People
- Publications
- Lectures/seminars/…
- Event announcements
- Software tools and datasets
- Student theses/theses topics

- News
- Research groups
- Research projects
- Research topics
- Job offers
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→ Uniform Appearance (in English and German)
→ Input forms (Semantic Forms)
→ Cross links
→ Summary/navigation pages
Navigation

- Global menu in topbar (no global sidebar)
- Toolbars hidden to anonymous users
- Local, context-sensitive sidebars
  - Page layout: change/hide/move title
  - Populated using ask queries
Internationalisation

- Bi-lingual by design
- Language based on URL (title)
  → custom extension to switch MW language
  → MW message framework for translation
- Minimize effort for maintaining content twice
  → “empty” English pages, populated using queries
Smart Content

- Automatic content creation:
  - Wiki pages
    - → Extension:AutoCreatePage
  - Query pages
  - Feeds (RSS, iCal)

- SearchHaus GraphScope search extension

- Some schema.org annotations
Lessons learned
Success

- Key functionality works as planned
- Professional, coherent look
- Uptake by other users
  - Customisations
  - Data import
- Good Web findability, but depends on subject
Issues

- **User experience**
  - Page loading speed
- **Editor experience**
  - Edit-induced query updates not instantaneous
  - Form inputs not robust
  - Automatic page creation does not provide automatic page redirecting and deleting
- **Admin experience**
  - Updates break everything (esp. skin)
  - Community not self-sustaining
  - Not enough power users
Conclusions

- Building professionally looking sites on SMW is possible … but you have to program
- Web design is 90% of the work … lot's of repetitive tasks
- Mix of queries and HTML is very powerful
- Lack of speed, robustness and usability hurts platform
- Content maintenance and editorial processes somewhat ad hoc