School of Informatics Web Strategy

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Some principles

1) We shall make use of the central IS polopoly based service where appropriate, noting that there are some issues that limit our use of this service :-

  - no fine grained access control
  - need to attend training courses before allowed author access
  - some "religious" restrictions (e.g. no in-line links)
  - shallow and wide content structure
  - restrictions for representing content

Currently this covers the School's "home page", information for prospective students, publicity material (for alumni and outreach), overview of research institutes and programmes, contact details.

2) We wish to retain the existing freedom of individual research institutes, research groups and individuals to use whatever technology they feel is appropriate for their content, be that raw HTML, a CMS of their choice, wiki, etc. However, the cost of supporting non School supported technologies falls on the institute, group or individual.

3) Other content, including School intranet, ITO, IGS, etc. should be hosted on a CMS system (School hosted or Polopoly)

Ideally the School would adopt one CMS technology for this content as it would not be ideal for admin staff to learn how to use multiple CMS systems nor would it be efficient for systems staff to maintain multiple CMS technologies. Ideally we would choose a CMS which is in wide use by other schools in the University (community support).

4) It would be good to encourage a similar look and feel over all pages, including individuals' own homepages. We shall make it easy to deliver pages in a standard way, where practicable, possibly by providing a 'home page in a box' template. An obvious exception to this is interdisciplinary research units.

5) We should not attempt to replicate the School's web structure on the Wiki. Ideally, wiki pages should only act as 'leaf nodes' of appropriate web pages.

List of content and most likely authors

Top level www.inf.ed.ac.uk admin

Publicity - front facing admin

Teaching - front facing admin
  - administration admin
  - individual years/courses year course organiser/lecturer as appropriate
Research Students
  - front facing admin
  - IGS intranet admin

Research institutes usually admin

Research Groups/Programmes admin, researchers and PGs.
 (NB. often not just Informatics or Ed so Ed skin not always appropriate)

Commercialisation usually admin

Individual research groups largely researchers and PGs

Individual users anyone

Computing computing staff

School Intranet
 - committees admin
 - Health and safety admin
 - resources admin
 - policies admin