



Madrid, November 28, 2002

Sven Gronemeyer - Webmaster

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Report about activities 2003

In January, our website was temporarily down since WAYEB used the services of the Spanish provider RAN without a real contract as a good turn arranged by Rogelio Valencia. Since WAYEB did not pay for the hosting of the website, Ran blocked the service. Due to an intervention of Rogelio, the website was re-activated. Geneviève Le Fort and Sven Gronemeyer therefore agreed on to seek options for a paid service and decided on advice of Rogelio to transfer the entire domain to Germany, because the prices were among the cheapest. Frauke Sachse and Sven Gronemeyer started to seek a fair-priced provider and found Invidia to be a reasonable solution. On Sven's advice, an appropriate web package for the needs of the WAYEB website was selected and the legal affairs were initiated in February. Invidia started to transfer the domain. During this process, many delays occurred while Ran has took out the web site from the internet. It is difficult to reconstruct who is answerable for these delays. Invidia claims that Ran blocked the transfer while Ran obviously gave the domain free. In the end, the WAYEB website was not available for six months and it was not before mid-July that Invidia was finally able to host the website. On July, 28, the WAYEB website was again available in the internet.

As the expansion of the WAYEB website demonstrated during the last year, the structure as it was seemed not to be suitable for the future. During the long absence of the website, Frauke Sachse, Christian Prager and Sven Gronemeyer worked on a new concept. The original ASP-structure was given up in favour of a frame based concept that is more flexible, extendable and hierarchical. All the contents of the old website were taken over during this process, partially enlarged and many new ones were added. The original structure of the website was totally revised. At the same time, a new design was created that resembles the style of a Maya codex style vessel. Credits for these actions have to be addressed above all to Frauke, but also to Elisabeth who investigated many new links and addresses for institutions, museums, etc. In the top title bar, an EMC-button was added that accesses directly the information for the upcoming event and helps to promote the EMC.

Three major new additions to the website should be mentioned. The recently created Wayeb Notes edited by Christian Prager are accessible via a top level link. This section contains information for authors and the archive with all Notes for download as PDF. Thanks to WAYEB's close cooperation with the publishing house Anton Saurwein, all his publications are listed in the Book Stores section and can be ordered by downloading a form. Another improvement concerns the abilities of our web-server that allows us to set up 500 e-mail-accounts. Our private addresses once posted have been replaced with official myname@wayeb.org addresses. Accounts have been created for the Board, the website working group, the national coordinators and special offices.

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Future ideas and development

Before coming to textual developments, a question about the supply basis of the WAYEB website arouses. As it has already been demonstrated, the current provider Invidia was either unable or unwilling to transfer the WAYEB domain from Spain to Germany and caused many unpleasant situations.

As for example, several attempts of the transfer failed and Invidia urged us to see that Ran would give the domain free. Since every attempt costs an amount of 5 €, Invidia later tried to pass some of the costs to WAYEB. Other incidents occurred shortly before the re-launch and afterwards. The most serious concerns the certification of a SSL-server that WAYEB could use to do online registration, ordering or payment of membership fees. Invidia submitted an offering which was accepted by WAYEB and all necessary documents for the certification were sent to Invidia. No more updates for the process have been heard from Invidia ever since. Most WAYEB members using one of the wayeb.org addresses complain about problems sending and receiving e-mails via these addresses.

Since Invidia seems to be very unreliable or even untrustworthy, Frauke and Sven decided to seek another provider. Frauke has found one company that can be trusted. The prices would be a little bit higher, but a server could be set up more individually. Since the transfer would take place within Germany, it is unlikely that a disaster like the one WAYEB had would occur again. However, we decided to wait until the 8th EMC is over in order to avoid that important information could not be posted as it has been as the EMC was approaching.

Concerning the textual development several ideas are at disposal for the future. The SSL-server was already mentioned. Sven is currently compiling a sitemap of all contents. This index can at some time be replaced by an internal search engine, powered by a database. Rogelio has already discussed several options which depend on the server (Microsoft or Linux). A database could also be utilised for various other purposes. The Baytaah section could be protected by individual usernames and passwords. It could then also serve as a "working desk" for members with management responsibilities. The sections containing information about Maya research as well as the resources section will of course constantly be expanded. The information about Maya objects in museums and collections might at some point of time be accompanied by images.

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Website working group

There are many activities to be undertaken in order to maintain the WAYEB website and to develop future projects. Currently, the following posts are manned:

- Webmaster: Sven Gronemeyer, responsible for the maintenance of the website, programming and coordination.
- Tech Support: Rogelio Valencia, responsible for the maintenance of the underlying system (e.g. e-mail-addresses, database), proxy for webmaster.
- Editors: Elisabeth Wagner, responsible for collecting links, news, and research information.

During 2003, Markus Kuhnert resigned as a member of the working group, Andrea Halberstadt lost her membership status.

In order to advance the development of the WAYEB website, the website working group needs further volunteers. People with programme abilities are preferred, but everybody is welcome who is willing to fulfil the duties. Currently, the following tasks might be taken over:

- An editor for maintaining the links in the research and resources sections. Web-based services support this task which should be done regularly. If dead links are discovered, mirror sites should be searched for.
- An editor for seeking images of objects in European Maya collections. This is a long-term task without a fixed time schedule. Research in catalogues and contact with the collections themselves is necessary as well as image processing.
- Two editors for reviewing the new contents to be added regarding the language. This is a long-term task only required when changes appear. One native speaker of English and one of Spanish are needed.

Persons interested may also later apply.

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Internal Regulations for website management

The proposal for Internal Regulations for the website working group once drawn up has become arbitrary with the changed situation after the absence of the website. A new one hasn't been worked out yet but some key features should be presented to give an imagination how the organisation of the website working group might function in the future.

- The purpose and the aims of the website should be defined as an instrument to present the objectives of the Association.
- According to the Statutes and the Internal Regulations, two members should at least comprise the working group: a supervising member of the Administration Council and the leader of the working group itself, the Webmaster. The Webmaster is the person in charge before the Council and the coordinator of all activities within the working group. He may distribute work to other members and may also encourage them to work on their own initiative.
- Further offices may be added when personal is available and it is necessary. Primarily, it is the office of the Technical Advisor who is primarily responsible for the maintenance of the infrastructure that supports the website. He also serves as a proxy for the Webmaster.
- Beside these leading persons within the working group, others can be divided into "programmers" and "editors". Programmers must have at their disposal knowledge about programming HTML code and other relevant script languages as well as other relevant knowledge to maintain the structure of the website. They may support the leading personal in tasks of soft- and hardware. Editors primarily collect information about certain contents of the website and prepare them for the programmers to be integrated into the structure of the website.
- All members of the working group assigned with a project should report their progress regularly to the leading members. The Webmaster regularly reports the representative of the Council and once a year to the General Assembly.
- Projects may be discussed in the working group, the leading members have to find a consensus about it, the Webmaster then makes an assignment to carry out the project. Projects that in any way interfere with other working groups or statutory organs require the vote of the supervising member.

The Internal Regulations should not be too long or too fixed that they can easily be adopted to a new situation. They also should make sure that the organisation of the working group is tightly organized and not too many different positions may interfere in order to keep it well working.