

## NDLA Web Committee Report - # 27

March 9, 2006

I've done some more research on commercial web hosting services as requested by the Board at the December meeting. There are hundreds of web hosting sites available on the Internet and many of them offer very similar services and prices, with very little to differentiate one from the other. There are some sites, however, that show up regularly on various top ten lists. The four sites I've listed below are usually highly ranked, and are reported to offer excellent customer support.

Web hosting sites:

Lunarpages - <http://www.lunarpages.com/>  
BlueHost - <http://www.bluehost.com/>  
Host Monster - <http://www.hostmonster.com/>  
IX WebHosting - <http://www.ixwebhosting.com/>

As far as I can determine, any of the four sites will meet the needs of the association that have been expressed to me in the past. I contacted each of the sites listed above and asked specifically about the following topics:

1. Availability of ftp functionality
2. Capability to provide podcasts
3. Capability to provide a blog
4. Capability to password protect individual directories
5. Capability to provide a photo album or albums
6. Capability to provide multiple listservs
7. Capability to use email forms

All four sites answered affirmatively regarding all the services listed above.

My personal preference is Lunarpages. That preference is based on customer satisfaction reports and my own impressions of their responses to my questions.

I also looked at DreamHost, the web hosting service mentioned at the December meeting. Based on the reliability problems reported in the last year or so, I don't feel that it is a viable option for NDLA.

DreamHost reliability issues:

<http://www.dreamhoststatus.com/category/system-outages/>  
<http://blog.dreamhost.com/2006/08/01/anatomy-of-an-ongoing-disaster/>.

The following updates and additions were made to the NDLA web site between December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Added:

- December and March issues of The Good Stuff
- A program proposal form for the 2007 annual conference
- Draft minutes from the December 8, 2006 Executive Board meeting
- Approved minutes from the September 20 and 22, 2006 Executive Board meetings
- Electronic minutes for September through December 2006
- Executive Board reports for the December meeting

Updated:

- The Good Stuff linking page
- The Executive Board minutes page
- HSIS Policies Handbook and the SLAYs Policies Handbook
- The centennial conference page
- The professional development grants page
- The grant application form
- The awards page
- The librarian of the year award page
- The conference sites page
- The NDLA home page
- The Executive Board reports linking page
- The presidential information page
- The list of all NDLA presidents
- The section and roundtable policies handbooks page

Submitted by  
Theresa Norton, Web Editor