Entrance Hall Working Group

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Opening Remarks

- We really like the School
- Our criticisms are only possible because the School already does so many things well
Major Topics

- Content of Entrance Hall documents
- Routine maintenance of the School
- Renovations and additions to the School
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Best Practice in a Nutshell

- The document is a worthwhile one
- It doesn’t seem appropriate as the first Entrance Hall document
- Too many acronyms and too jargony
  - e.g. “migrate data to new formats”
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Best Practice in a Nutshell

Better title: “Best Practice Quick Reference”

Bullet points should be reordered to reflect how the linguist will need to make decisions
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What is best practice

- Add pointers from each of the seven dimensions to relevant part of the school

- This implies there is a relevant part of the school (which would help ensure 7 dimensions organization)
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What is best practice

Links for each dimension should be subdivided into

Internal
External
Reading room references
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Why Best Practice

Document could be made more detailed

See also later discussion of an “What Best Practice is for” document
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- Navigate this site
- Add documentation for
- Right side boxes
- Various other new features suggested below
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Glossary

- First time any glossary term used in a page, link to glossary
- Clicking glossary link opens small new window
- Mouseover mini-definitions of terms and/or acronym expansion
Glossary

- Enhance glossary to include, after definition, relevant internal links, external links, etc.

- Deprecate glossary terms in School documents from linking to things other than glossary

- For example, don’t link “OLAC” to the OLAC site; take care of that in the glossary definition
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Glossary

More linking of technical terms in glossary definitions to other terms in glossary

School maintainers need to be more vigilant in looking for technical vocabulary, e.g., “migrate”, “format”
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Credits

Credited participants should be reordered to reflect level of contributions

- Web designers
- Data providers
- Working group participants
Reading Room

- Aim for an annotated bibliography
- To decrease workload
  - Allow users to add annotations
  - Ask for annotations when users suggest adding a reference
- Related to just above: Make it clear how users can “suggest a reference” to add
Reading Room

- References should be stored in a database for searchability, maintainability, updatability, and metadatability.

- Consider how to deal with “massive” reading room.

- Each topic should begin with a paragraph modeled after the “Further reading” section of a textbook chapter.
Routine Maintenance

- On entry page, browser warning is in too prominent a position
- Maybe do what LinguistList does for the browser issue (or maybe not worry about it)
Routine Maintenance

- Page header
- Consistently
- “School of Best Practice: Creating Language Resources that Last” in smallish print, linked to Entrance Hall main page
- Name of room in biggish print
- Should help users sent to a room
Routine Maintenance

- Left side-bar
- At least half of the group was confused by it
- When can you click on a non-leaf node? When is a non-leaf link repeated as a leaf? How deep should it go?
- Requires too precise motor control (see accessibility)
Routine Maintenance

- Righthand boxes
  - Need a consistent definition for subtopics, related links, page index
  - Page index: Document subheadings
  - Subtopics: Pages expanding on information in present page
Routine Maintenance

- Righthand boxes
- Related links
  - Should distinguish between internal and external links
  - Perhaps: “Related areas of School” and “Outside resources”
  - Links to glossary terms should not be in this box
Routine Maintenance

- **Righthand boxes**
  - Boxes should appear in consistent order
  - Subtopics box shouldn’t “lose” present subtopic
  - Basically: Decrease “jumpiness” to the extent possible
Routine Maintenance

Accessibility: Is the site accessible by W3C standards?
Routine Maintenance

Search

- Good keyword searching would be good, e.g., “rights” should get documents about rights
- This would require good document metadata
- Great test case for metadata for advice documents
Routine Maintenance

- Document accessibility
- Check colors on more platforms
- Support better printing of documents
- Link to citation information for every page
- School of BP lite for download, reference (especially good for people in the field)
Routine Maintenance

- Link management
- Clear difference between internal and external links
- Different “look” (color?)
- External links always open new browser window (?)
Additions and Renovations

- Welcome Box

- Link to “Navigate this site”

- Link to new document: “What Best Practice is good for”

- Snazzy, motivational Stories

- How BP worked for me!

- The “Digital Dark Age”
Additions and Renovations

- Content creation
- How will the site remain up-to-date in the long term?
- Wiki model for content generation?
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy model (commissioned, editable articles)
- Working group on site longevity?
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting
- Feedback
- Forums
- Tool reviews, bibliographical annotation
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Feedback
- Not for public posting
- Link errors, site enhancement, etc.
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Forums

  **Question:** How many of you visit some site every day?

  Forums link would fill “Ask-an-Expert” slot

  Build on “Ask-a-Linguist” infrastructure
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Forums
- Slashdot-style
  - “News”/Question posting
  - Comments on post
- School rooms point to relevant forums
- If monitored by E-MELD could help revise the School and Best Practice recommendations
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Forums
  - Topics
    - Best Practice
      - Threads: 7 dimensions
  - Funding
    - Threads: grants, job
    - Doesn’t replace Linguist, enhances School
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Forums
- Topics (continued)
  - Community
    - Threads: community to linguists, linguist to communities
  - Technology
    - Threads: hardware, software, other (e.g., markup)
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Forums
- Topics (continued)
- Also: Page for suggesting a new forum
Additions and Renovations

- Site commenting: Reviews
- For tool review and reference annotation
- Tool reviews Amazon style (tool description, followed by reviews; distinction made between user reviews and “official” reviews)
- Reference annotation: After reference, notes posted
Additions and Renovations

- Move from emeld.org to School
- Find linguists
- Find documentation
Call to action!

- E-MELD advisors
- Submit feedback
- Submit reviews
- Contribute to forums
- Add personal information to LinguistList database—and update regularly