Membership Information

ipl2: Information You Can Trust is a collaboration that brings together the expertise of interested individuals and organizations to create the most comprehensive online facility for supporting library and information science education, research, and service relating to digital reference and digital information management.

ipl2 is managed by a consortium of membership organizations.

Levels of membership relate to levels of privilege, as follows:

Managing Partners - The managing partner institutions are responsible for the management of the ipl2, including maintaining a list of current ipl2 projects and their IRB approvals, establishing the operating budget for the ipl2, determining the cost of ipl2 services, and directing the available ipl2 resources towards the goals of the ipl2 collaboration. Managing partner institutions will purchase at least 10 shares each year.

Partners - Partner institutions are responsible for following the research requirements for all of their ipl2 projects, participating in the ipl2 consortium activities, promoting the ipl2 where appropriate, and identifying and recommending research, teaching and service policies for the ipl2. All partners will be invited to attend the ipl2 Partner meetings which are to be held twice a year. Partner institutions will purchase one share ($5,000).

Fellows: Each partner organization is invited to designate one member as an ipl2 Fellow per share owned. The ipl2 Fellow will participate in discussions related to ipl2 operations, teaching and research.

Participating Members: These members may utilize the ipl2 for teaching and pay an administrative fee of $100 per class plus a per student rate of $35. Consortium members will not be given access to the data.

Benefits of Membership in the Consortium

Membership runs from July 1 through June 30 of each year, and this entitles your institution to essential opportunities and benefits.

Benefits of Membership include:

- o Bi-Annual newsletter
- o ipl2 meetings and policy decisions (depending upon membership level)
- o ipl2 digital reference training and hands on experience
- o Data research opportunities (depending upon membership level)
- o Networking and collaborative environment with other IST/LIS professionals

Educational Benefits for Members

Digital Reference:

Quality education is enhanced when given the opportunity to learn digital reference first-hand. The ipl2 guides students through a training process that brings them to real questions sent by patrons from all over the world. In this way, graduate students are learning first-hand the process of the online reference interview, how to evaluate websites, how to discern reliability of sources, and quality customer service skills. Many students enjoy the experience so much that they continue to volunteer for the ipl2 after their class is completed.

Internship opportunities:

Digital reference service

This internship includes some or all of the duties surrounding the daily operation of the ipl2 email question-answering service. The ipl2 Digital Reference Service Intern involved with the reference area assists the ipl2 Administrative Team in working with students and faculty who are involved with the program.

Collection development and maintenance

The internship will instruct in finding, evaluating, and describing/cataloging free and authoritative online resources. This intern assists the ipl2 Administrative in

developing, organizing and maintaining the ipl2's collections in cooperation with LIS students' projects through their college/university's coursework.

Technological and content-driven student projects:

Graduate students have assisted the ipl2 with the daily operation and maintenance of the content, from link-checking to the organization of new collections, pathfinders, and other special collection projects. The ipl2 has many opportunities for future work with both its technological and content needs, from the implementation of enhanced technological tools to the further development and maintenance of its content.

Research Opportunities:

The ipl2 members are committed to promoting research based upon the ipl2 by making ipl2 data as available as possible and as inexpensive as possible. The ipl2 members are committed to sharing the results of their research, maintaining a descriptive list of routinely available data sets accessible "as is" to ipl2 members. After an ipl2 member institution has successfully completed an IRB approval process, access is granted to the following data: o Cleansed question-answer data archives and updates. The data includes more than 60,000 questions and their answers. Data is searchable using QRC with each article cleansed to a 90-95% accuracy level (as of April 2007). o Rejected questions (also cleansed in the same manner) o Demographic and usage data beginning January 2007 available through Google Analytics. o Interactive Wiki contributions o Other data requests from member institutions are to be submitted to the ipl2 Coordinating Committee for consideration.

Participation in a unique, collaborative project:

ipl2: Information You Can Trust is unique. It offers the quality, free *Ask an ipl2 Librarian* reference service to a world-wide community who has come to rely on the ipl2 for its high standard of customer service. It provides tremendous teaching/learning programs for LIS students and faculty. It has vast research opportunities and potential future projects. But more than this, ipl2 extends its virtual doors wide open to offer a virtual place for ALA-accredited LIS graduate schools to collaborate, without detracting from their own projects and educational focus.

For more information about being an ipl2 Member, please contact:

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