

Analysis of EarthCube's Governance Web Site

Indiana University

NSF asked us to examine reorganizing Ning web site following lead of workflow group. We attach on next page a sitemap of the complete Ning EarthCube site with the governance area given in detail.

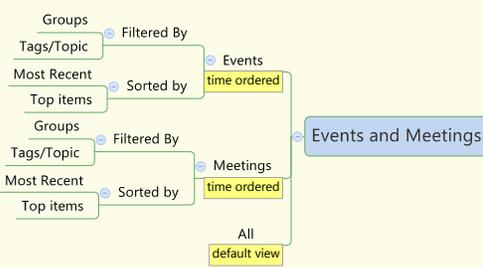
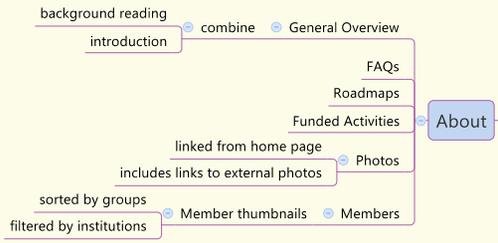
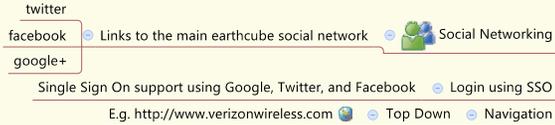
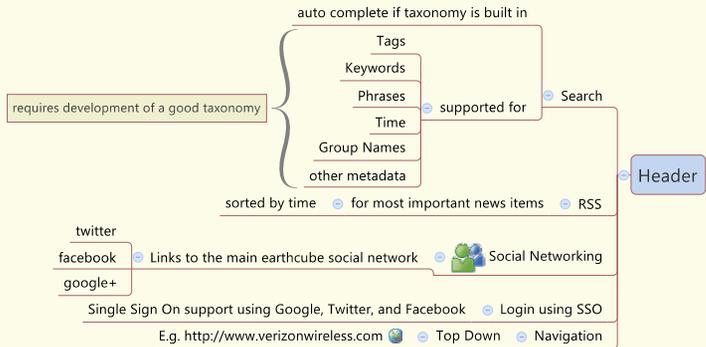
We indicate that in Ning many components are ordered by time or by time plus tags. This reflects Ning's design point as a social networking tool. Social networking is particularly good at capturing what's happening now and many social networking sites are centered on a time ordered stream of information. Of course this model is familiar from both chat and email and many of the Net Generation (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation_Z) uses sites like Facebook as a more attractive version of email. This point was made by Indiana University undergraduates in Fox's research class where majority of students used Facebook as a replacement for email and said it was their choice (with Skype and Google docs) as a collaboration/interaction tool.

Note from Governance sitemap that discussion forums are major holder for information with 50 entries and 33 replies (83 total) by June 7 2012. As popularized by gmail, one can use tags to highlight different streams with 8 categories, which are again internally time ordered. In contrast, the workflow group has 14 discussion entries with 9 replies – a significantly lower number.

Time ordering is good way to capture time sensitive collaboration but typically not a good way of organizing scholarly work even if tagging used. One would often use Wikis, Google Docs or equivalent for collaboratively prepared material where organization (by other than time) is important. Note an interesting difference between the Net Generation and the scientific community. The latter use email as a critical communication and so are less likely to use Ning's version of time-ordered (tagged) streams for communication. All generations are likely to not want too many such streams; flipping between Facebook, Google+, email and various custom sites is not obviously plausible.

One could take information in discussion forums and organize in a typical hierarchical fashion according to content not time. However, a better alternative could be to use the Ning time ordered streams for time sensitive material and use traditional web tools as main structured information resource including Wikis and Google Docs for collaborative work.

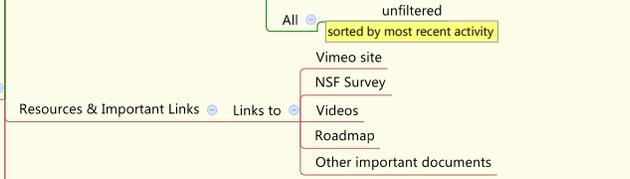
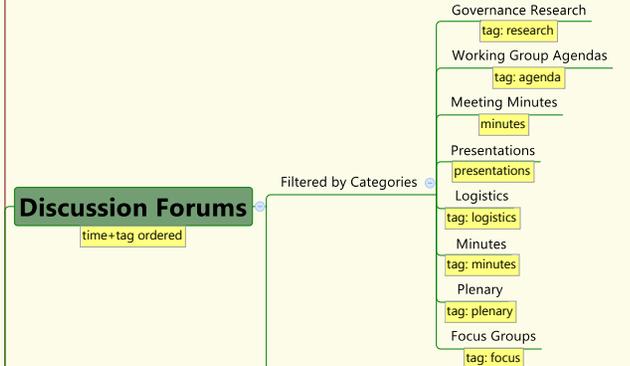
Note a sitemap is a good organizing tool for designing web sites. The one on next page was prepared using a tool at <http://www.xmind.net/>



EarthCube

Heirarchical Architecture

- Education and Workforce Development
- Layered Architecture Concept Award
- Brokering Concept
- Data Discovery, Mining, Integration
- Semantics and Ontologies
- Earth System Model Concept
- Web Services Concept
- Interlop Concept
- Workflow



Calendar Interface

| June 2012 | | | | | | |
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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

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