Newly Designed DERT Website

The Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) is pleased to announce the debut of its newly redesigned website. Its creation is the work of a committee comprising staff from DERT, the Computer Technology Branch, and their contractors from Lockheed Martin Information Technology, in conjunction with a group of internal and external beta-testers. While the URL to the main page remains the same, http://www.niehs.nih.gov/dert/home.htm, you will notice significant changes.

The new website incorporates current web usability guidelines. The site is arranged by content, not organization, with page titles uniquely identifying the content. There is consistency with links and text colors, and the navigation tools are uniform across all pages. Navigation tools include, among other things, a header bar, with a series of tabs to the main topics, and a footer, with links to other related sites and information. Also, all navigation includes either text or text with graphics. There is no use of images alone to navigate the site. Scrolling has been minimized on the navigation pages. In addition, search capability has been improved significantly to allow a search of either the entire site or a specific collection of pages.

In creating this new site, particular attention was given to ensure its accessibility regardless of the equipment used. Download time has been kept to approximately 10 seconds using a 56 Kbps modem, and pages were optimized for 800 × 600 pixels. In addition, it is compliant with all federal regulations regarding accessibility by persons with disabilities.

New to the website are a video message from the DERT director, Dr. Anne Sassaman, and a conversation with Bruce Hammock, a distinguished grantee. Conversations with other grantees will be added in the future. Additional features will be added in the future.

We hope you enjoy the new site and welcome comments.

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