

Thursday, September 2nd, 2:00-5:15 pm

ONLINE WRITING:
CRAFTING WEB AND E-NEWS CONTENT
TO ENGAGE YOUR SUPPORTERS

Welcome

- Kelly Hornbuckle: Director of Marketing & Communications, Georgia Restaurant Association (Non-Profit Trade Association)
- www.GArestaurants.org



Non-Profit Involvement

- Atlanta Community Food Bank: Atlanta's Table, Hunger Walk
- Atlanta Public Schools Career Technical Education
- Communities in Schools: Dine Out For Kids
- March of Dimes: Dining Out
- Share Our Strength: Great American Dine Out, Taste of the Nation, Operation Frontline Advisory Board
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Georgia: Chocolate!
- Green Foodservice Alliance

Goals

- Learn the Difference Between Writing for Web and Writing for Print
- Use Search Engine Optimization Tactics in Your Web-Based Communications to Drive Traffic to Your Website
- Engage and Communicate More Effectively With Your Online Audience
- Do More with Less Using Web 2.0 Tools to Market, Manage and Measure Your Brand

Agenda

- 3 Hour Workshop
 - First Two Goals
 - 15 Minute Break
 - Second Two Goals
 - Reception







Goal

 Learn the Difference Between Writing for Web and Writing for Print

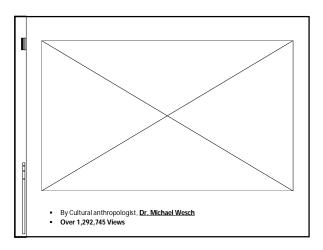
Print vs Online





Advantages of Digital Content

- Trackable
- Viral
- Accessible
- Affordable
- Greener
 - The CO₂ emissions from 41 pounds of advertising mail received annually by the average United States consumer is about 47.6 kilograms (105 pounds) according to one study.^[29] The loss of natural habitat potential from the 41 pounds of advertising mail is estimated to be 36.6 square meters (396 square feet).



Manipulating Digital Text With Shortcuts

- Ctrl+A = Select All
- Ctrl+C = Copy
- Ctrl+V = Paste
- Ctrl+Z = Undo Last Action
- Ctrl+Y = Redo Last Action
- **Shift+Alt** ↑ or ↓ = Move Highlighted Text Up or Down
- Ctrl+B | Ctrl+I | Ctrl+U = Bold, Italicize, Underline Highlighted Text
- Shift+F3 = Change Case of Text
- Ctrl+Shift+< or > = Shrink or Enlarge Font Size

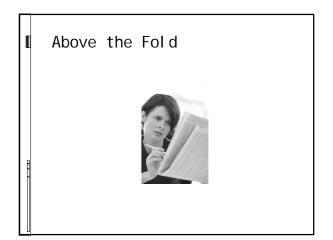
Can You Raed Tihs?

• It deosn't mttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteers be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Writing For Web

- 79% scan, only 16% actually read
- Users spend 4.4 seconds for every extra 100 words on a page
- Web users are active, not passive
- Eye-tracking studies show users view Web pages through an F shaped pattern
- Jakob Nielsen, Ph.D., www.useit.com/webwriting





Google Website Optimizer

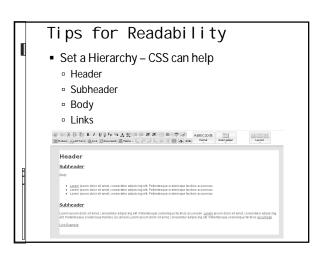
- Automatically test different site content in order to maximize visitor conversion rates.
 - Choose the pages and content to test
 - Test these changes with your visitors
 - Learn what changes drive the most conversions

Tips for Readability

- Get to the Point (First Three Words Are Key)
- Start with the Conclusion, Then Support
- Group in Concise Paragraphs
- Use Bold & Bullets
- Use Active (intentional) White Space

Why Whi te Space?

Google



Web-Safe Fonts • Arial / Verdana • Palatino Helvetica Garamond · Georgia • Times New • Bookman · Comic Sans Roman / Avant Garde MS Times • Trebuchet · Courier MS New / Arial Courier **Black** Impact

Text-to-Background Contrast

- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international community that develops <u>standards</u> to ensure the long-term growth of the Web. <u>www.w3.org</u> They provide the following guidance on contrast.
- Two colors provide good color visibility if the brightness difference and the color difference between the two colors are greater than a set range.
- Color brightness is determined by the following formula:
 ((Red value X 299) + (Green value X 587) + (Blue value X 114)) / 1000
 Note: This algorithm is taken from a formula for converting RGB values to YIQ values. This brightness value gives a perceived brightness for a color.
- color.

 Color difference is determined by the following formula:
 (maximum (Red value 1, Red value 2) minimum (Red value 1, Red value 2) minimum (Green value 1, Green value 2) minimum (Green value 1, Green value 2) minimum (Blue value 2, Blue value 2) minimum (Blue value 1, Blue value 2))
- The range for color brightness difference is 125. The range for color difference is 500.

Examples of Contrast

• Easy to Read:

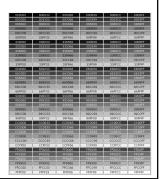
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adpiscing elit. Suspendisse viverra, neque sit amet consectetur vestibulum, enim ipsum tristique est, id luctus risus neque ac dui. Donec pellentesque sodales ipsum. Allquam erat volutpat.

• Difficult to Read:

• In print, light reflects off the page. Online, light shines from the page.

Web Colors

- HTML colors are defined using a hexadecimal notation (HEX) for the combination of Red, Green, and Blue color values (RGB).
- 216 "Web Safe Colors" were suggested as Web standard
- Now, the combination of Red, Green, and Blue values from 0 to 255, gives more than 16 million different colors (256 x 256 x 256).
- 150 color names are supported by all major browsers



Basic HTML

- $\qquad \text{$$\bullet$ $$ <$html} > \text{$* Starts the HTML Document}$
 - < head> * Contains Scripts, Style Sheets, Meta Tags
 - <title>Title goes here</title> *Defines a title in the browser toolbar,
- </head> * Ends the Head Element
-

 body> * Starts the Body

Visible text goes here...

- </body> * Ends the Body
- </html> * Ends the HTML Document

Key HTML Tags

- Bold
- <i> /i> Italic </i>
- <u>> Underline </u>></u>
- A paragraph formatted with font.
- <u>This</u> <u>Creates a Hyperlink to mowaa.org</u>
- <u>This</u> <u>Creates a Link to My Email</u> Test Website

Hello, World!

Goal Summary

- Learn the Difference Between Writing for Web and Writing for Print
- What we Learned:
 - Text Manipulation
- Readability
- Content Strategies
- Formatting Tactics

Goal

 Use Search Engine Optimization Tactics in your Web-Based Communications to Drive Traffic to Your Website

What is SEO & Why Does it Matter?

- Search engine optimization (SEO) is the process of improving the visibility of a web site or a web page in search engines via the "natural" or un-paid ("organic" or "algorithmic") search results.
- Think of Search Engines as Your Home Page for People Who Don't Know Your url

SEO vs. SEM

 Search Engine Optimization is to Search Engine Marketing as Free PR is to Paid Advertising



SEO Overview

- Drive Traffic to Your Website with:
 - Keywords
 - Cross-Linking
 - Metadata
 - Navigation



Some Ways to Increase Organic Search Rankings

- Keywords: Use relevant, frequently searched words in content
- Cross-Linking: Between pages on the same site and relevant content from similar sites, avoiding links to and from irreputable sites
- Metadata: Add relevant keywords from content to Title and Description
- Navigation: Use search engine-friendly urls, text navigation, simple hierarchy and site maps

Writing For SEO

- Two Sets of Eyes Read Your Content:
 - People
 - Robots Index Web Pages for Search Engines





Best Practices

- Keep Your Users in Mind
- Identify Keywords
 - Words that REAL PEOPLE searching for you would use.
 - Words your target audience would use.
 - Words that make sense to your current audience.
- When Using Keywords in Copy Be Concise, Not Contrived

Cross-Linking Using Anchor Text

- Hyperlinking content (preferably keywords) to relevant urls
 - Anchor text helps enhance search engine rankings.
 - □ Anchor text helps enhance search engine rankings.

"nofollow"

- Tells search engines that certain links on your site shouldn't be followed
- Why? Spam Comments, Bad Examples
- Can be applied to pages, or specific links

Ex. 1: <head><meta

name="robots" content="nofollow"></head>

Ex. 2: This is Spam

Image Optimization

- Use Common File Types (.jpg .gif etc.)
- Surround the image with relevant content
- Save Image Files as Short, Relevant Names Separated by – or _.
 - Meals_on_Wheels.jpg
- Use the alt tag for description
 -



Metadata

- The <meta> tag provides info about the HTML document that will not be displayed.
- Meta elements are typically used to specify page description, keywords, author of the document, last modified, and other information.
- The <meta> tag always goes inside the head element.
- The metadata can be used by browsers (how to display content or reload page), search engines (keywords), or other web services.
 - http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_meta.asp

Title

- Page Title Should be Quick & Easy
 Less than 7 Words Like a Billboard!
- Describes the Page (Different for Each Page)
- Defines a title in the browser toolbar
- Provides a title for the page when it is added to favorites
- Displays a title for the page in search-engine results
 Example: <head><title>Georgia Restaurant
 Association Home</title></head>



Description

- Your "Elevator Pitch"
- Displayed as "Snippet" in Search Listing Ex.

<META NAME="description" CONTENT="Our mission is to serve the needs of Georgia's restaurant and foodservice industries by providing a voice and value for its members in four key cornerstones | Political Advocacy Professional Development Business Development Community Involvement">

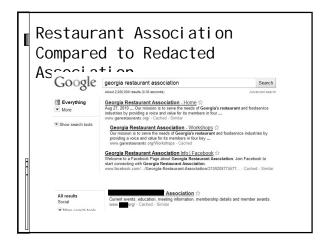
Georgia Restaurant Association - Home 😭 Aug 27, 2010 ... Our mission is to serve the needs of Georgia's restaurant and foodservice industries by providing a voice and value for its members in four ... www.garestaurants.org/- Cached - Similiar

Metadata Keywords

Separate by commas, no spaces

Ex

EX.
<meta name="keywords" content="Georgia Restaurant Association, Restaurant Associations, Hospitality Associations, PCI-DSS, Healthcare Reform, Food Safety, Food Safety Training, Alcohol Training, Menu Labeling, Nutrition Labeling, ServSafe, Serv Safe, Serve Safe, Political Advocacy, PAC, Political Action Committee, IPD, Institute for Professional Development, Catering Boot Camp, On the Menu, Restaurant Start-Up Help, Buyers Guide, FOG, GRACE Awards, Taste of Asia, Georgia Food Code, Foodservice, Food Service, GRA</p>
Forum, Industry, Georgia, County, City, Regional, Spokesperson"





Redacted Association <html> <head> <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" /> <title Redacted Association</title> <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" /> ink rel="shortcut icon" href="/sites/default/files/nata_marina_favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon" />-meta name="keywords" content=""/><meta name="description" content=""/> </head> All results Social Wilden Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. Wilden Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education, memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education memberahip details and member awards. **The Association Content=""/> Carrier events, education memberahip details and memberahip details and

Google WebMaster Tools

• upload an XML Sitemap file

- analyze and generate robots.txt files
- remove URLs already crawled by Googlebot
- specify the preferred domain
- identify issues with title and description meta tags
- understand the top searches used to reach a site
- get a glimpse at how Googlebot sees pages
- remove unwanted sitelinks that Google may use in results
- receive notification of quality guideline violations and file for a site reconsideration

Navi gati on

- Use Search Engine-Friendly URLs: http://www.non-profit.org/take-action.html
- Use Mostly Text Navigation
- Have a Logical Hierarchy
- Build a Sitemap
 - Include it on Your Site
 - Submit it through Google Webmaster Tools: www.google.com/webmasters/tools/

Activity: Metadata

- Write the following for the Donations page of your organization:
 - Title
 - Description
 - Keywords
 - Search Engine-Friendly URL

Goal Summary

- Use Search Engine Optimization Tactics in your Web-Based Communications to Drive Traffic to Your Website
- What We Learned:
 - SEO vs SEM
 - Writing for Users & SEO
 - SEO Tactics
 - Testing Optimization

BREAK

- What We've Learned:
 - The Difference Between Writing for Web and Writing for Print
 - How to Use Search Engine Optimization Tactics in your Web-Based Communications to Drive Traffic to Your Website

Goal

 Engage and Communicate More Effectively With Your Online Audience

Website vs Web Presence

- Your Website is Your Home Base
- Web Presence is More than Just Your Website
 - Social Media Sites Push & Pull
 - Blogs
 - eMail Marketing
 - Search Engine Prominence
 - Info About Your Organization on Other Websites
- Your Web Presence Should be Designed to Drive Traffic to Your Website
 - Be Sure Your Website is Fully Functional
 - Work with the End in Mind: What's Your Goal? More Donations? More Volunteers?

Enhance Engagement By Cross-Promoting

- Sign-Up for eNewsletter on Facebook
- Share Buttons in eNewsletter
- Follow Buttons on Website
- Twitter Feeds on Blogs
- Videos on Website
- Active Content Increases Search Engine Ranking



Monitoring Your Web Presence

- Google Alerts: Set Search Terms, and Google will Email You Results
 - News, Blogs, Updates, Video, Discussions, Everything
 - As-it-Happens, Daily or Weekly
- Social Media Mentions
 - HootSuite Track Custom Search Terms for Free on up to Five Social Media Networks

Tracking Your Audience

- Google Analytics:
 - Track Visits, Impressions, Click-Throughs
 - Mobile Tracking: For Web-Enabled Phones, Mobile Websites and Mobile Apps
 - Benchmarking
 - Ad ROI and Ecommerce Reporting
- Social Media:
 - Fans, Friends, Likes, Followers, Lists, etc.
- Email Marketing:
 - Opt-ins, Open Rates, Click-Throughs, Hard & Soft Bounce Rates, Abuse Complaints, Unsubscribes

Components of Email

- Subject Line
 - Tell, Don't Sell
 - Be Concise & Relevant
- "From" Name
 - Name of Your Organization, or Individual
- "From" & "Reply-to" Address
 - Should be short, valid email addresses
- Body
 - Best Practices of Web Writing Apply

Avoid Spam Filters

- Have prominent "Unsubscribe" Button
- Avoid:
 - ALL CAPS
 - Excessive Punctuation: !! ??
 - Words like "free" "test" "double your" "click" "guarantee" "limited-time offer" "urgent matter"
 - Images accompanied by little or no text
 - Colored Fonts
 - Attachments
 - Background Filters

When's the Best Time?

- Generally, 2-3 pm Eastern
- Generally, Thursdays
- Caveats:
 - Know Your Audience
 - Stay Tuned in to Changes in Your Open Rates

Response Rates

- E-Mail Marketing Rates for Non-Profits
 - Open Rate: 27.66%Click Rate: 4.06%
 - According to MailChimp.com
- Direct Mail: 2-10%
 - According to the National Mail Order Association

Goal Summary

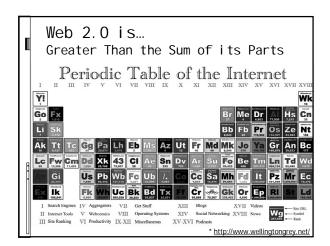
- Engage and Communicate More Effectively With Your Online Audience
- What We Learned:
 - Optimizing Web Presence
- Tracking Participation
 - Communicating with Email Marketing

Goal

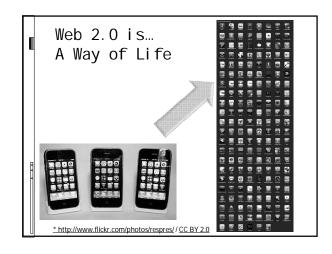
 Do More with Less Using Web 2.0 Tools to Market, Manage and Measure Your Brand

What is Web 2.0?

A perceived second generation of web development and design, that facilitates communication, secure information sharing, interoperability, and collaboration on the World Wide Web. Web 2.0 concepts have led to the development and evolution of webbased communities, hosted services, and applications; such as social-networking sites, video-sharing sites, wikis, blogs, and folksonomies.







Web 2.0 is... the New World Order

- 94% of 18 year olds actively use the internet₍₁₎
- June 2008: average number of text messages per user = 188 a
- 93% of Americans believe an organization should have a presence on social media sites (3)
- 85% believe organizations should use these services to interact (3)



(1) www.pewintemet.org (2) www.ctia.org (3) 2008 Cone Business in Social Med

Why is Web 2.0 so powerful?

- Harnesses "Word of Mouth"
- Is Participation Driven
- Instantly Updatable in Real Time
- "Broadcasts" seeds of info across multiple platforms
- Maximizes "Opt-In" Communication
- Quick & Easy Info Sharing
- Interactivity Makes Ideal for Engaging

■ Old School = Networking New School = Social Networking

Visualize social networking as real networking:

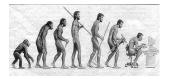
- Find a good place to network
- Scope out your surroundings
- Say your hellos
- Listen to the tone of the conversation
- Add to the conversation
- Monitor the reactions
- Keep it Natural: Don't want to be too overdressed for the party!



In Other Words

- Market Your Message
- Manage Your Brand
- Measure Your Efforts
- ... repeat!
- Always Use the 3 M's of Web 2.0

Best Practices: It's an Evolution



- Legal Issues of Social Networking: <u>Pro Bono</u> <u>Partnership of Atlanta</u>
- Free Daily Social Media Briefing:
 SmartBrief.com/Social Media @SBoSM

Best Practices

- Be Candid, Open, Accessible, Relatable
- Provide a Human Face and Voice for Your Organization
- Web 2.0 is a Conversation
- Lives Forever on the Internet
- "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all"

Best Practices

- Don't Outsource
 - Removes the Benefit!
- Don't Over Think
 - If you can email, you can use web 2.0!
- Don't Over Do





http://www.flickr.com/photos/cookipedia// CC BY 2.0

Best Practices

 Personal VS. Professional Use – Know Your Users and Your Privacy Settings



Social Networking: Getting in on the Conversation

The BIG Social Media Online Communities:

- MySpace: Over 186 Million Users
- Facebook: Over 175 Million Users 35-50 year-old increased 256%
- LinkedIn: Over 35 Million Professionals
- Twitter: 3rd Most Used Social Media Outlet

Social Networking Cheat Sheet: Are You My Friend or Follower?

- MySpace = Friends
- Facebook = Friends
- LinkedIn = Connections
- Twitter = Followers
- This illustrates fundamental differences in the platforms

Create a Non-Profit Page



- account, select "Create a Page for My Business"
- Choose the "Non-Profit" Option
- Be Sure to Carefully Select Your Admin

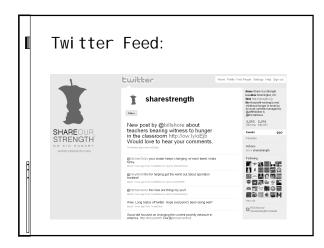


Twi tter

- Like broadcasting your text messages
- Can be done from mobile phone
- 140 characters or less = microblogging
- Real time updates
- Media darling
- Powerful way to give & get information
- Opt-In: Followers instead of Friends
- www.twitter.com

Key Twitter Terms

- Tweet: 140 character message which shows up on your twitter page and in the twitter feed of your followers
- Re-Tweet (RT): when you copy something someone else says and give them credit – ex: RT @cmuth "social networking is awesome"
- Hashtag (#): a way to mark key phrases for easy search – ex. #sxsw
- @ reply: a way to reply to a fellow twitterer publicly – ex. @cmuth social networking IS awesome
- Direct Message (DM): private 140 character communication





Selecting Your Twitter Name

- Secure your real name and organization name
- Keep it short
- Case doesn't matter
- Avoid underscores
- You can easily change Full Name, Username is more difficult
- Ex: @GArestaurants / Kelly Hornbuckle



Link Shorteners & Tracking:

- Copy your long link
- Paste it in the box
- Shorten
- Copy short link and use
- Track



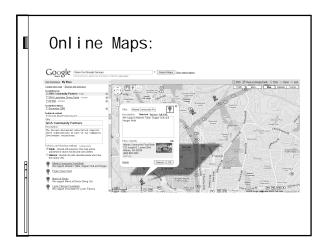
Podcasts:

- Audio and/or video files which are available over the web through syndication (RSS Feed)
- RSS = Really Simple Syndication



- Another tool for getting your message out
- Be sure to have a plan, but don't overthink

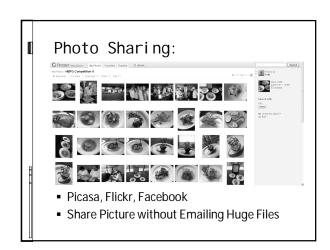




Google Places

- With your free Google Places account you can...
- Be found
 Verify your information to make sure people can find you on Google
- Stand out Engage customers with photos, coupons, public responses and more
- Get insights
 Use info about your listing to make smarter business decisions





Video Sharing:

- www.YouTube.com/nonprofit
- Create a YouTube account
- Create a Channel
- Upload Videos

YouTube Channel:

You Tube Channel:

New Videos Every Saturday!!

Music: iTune or more Head an Dance Music, com

Connect: My Spake. Com//make imBallet

What I so you I read to com//make imBallet

Connect: My Spake. Com//make imBallet

Confident in a spake in the sp



Goal Summary

 Do More with Less Using Web 2.0 Tools to Market, Manage and Measure Your Brand

What we Learned

- Web 2.0 Tools... and How to Leverage Them
 - Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Google Maps, Wikis, Blogs, Link Shorteners, Flickr, Widgets.... And Many Morel
- How to Do MORE with LESS with Web 2.0 Tools
- How to Market, Manage & Measure Your Brand with Web 2.0

Goals Summary

- Learn the Difference Between Writing for Web and Writing for Print
- Use Search Engine Optimization Tactics in your Web-Based Communications to Drive Traffic to Your Website
- Engage and Communicate More Effectively With Your Online Audience
- Do More with Less Using Web 2.0 Tools to Market, Manage and Measure Your Brand

Final Thoughts

- The majority (if not all) of these tools are FRFF
- They require time investment, but provide measurable return
- Let technology do the work for you
- At the end of the day, it's all about advancing the mission
- Have Fun!

