

From: Tim Berners-Lee [timbl@w3.org]
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2005 4:46 PM
To: Gabriel Fenteany
Cc: trygstad@trygstad.org; Michael Chapman; Gerard Manning; Gene Thursby; T.Matthew Ciolek; Hanno E. Lecher; athornhill@conbio.org; Noiret, Serge; Lynn H. Nelson; Lopez Martin, Ignacio; George Laughead Jr
Subject: Re: Resignation from the WWW VL

I am very saddened to hear of this crisis within the VL.

Some organizations can weather such crises and survive.
In fact, many volunteer organizations to have such crises and do survive.

I don't know whether a teleconference or a face-face meeting would be able to help here.

I had hope that the VL would be run as a non-profit association governed in a fair open and democratic way. When such is the case, those in control can always be removed by election.

Have general meetings not been held at all, and the council not been re-elected?
Who currently controls the VL?

I have not been Ccd on the previous emails -- if they are archived, could I have a pointer to the archive? I do not have anything like the full picture.

The Virtual Library is a valuable thing for the global community, and it does represent the integration of a lot of effort from many people. Those involve have a duty to ensure its survival in the original spirit.

Tim Berners-Lee

On Dec 3, 2005, at 13:49, Gabriel Fenteany wrote:

> I have carefully looked over the e-mails sent by the maintainers of
> different History WWW VL sites. I am shocked by what I have
> learned. I am saddened by the fact that all the History WWW VLs are
> leaving the VL project.

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> As a member of the first and only generally elected WWW VL Council
> - elected on Dec. 17, 1999 along with Michael Chapman, Matthew
> Ciolek, Bertrand Ibrahim, Hanno Lecher, Gerard Manning, Lynn
> Nelson, Charles Petrie, Alan Thursby and Ray Trygstad - I can only
> say that the present VL seems to share little in spirit or practice
> to the VL of that time.

>
> I am writing to say that I am hereby resigning from the WWW VL. I
> do not wish to be associated with an organization that: (1) no
> longer respects the efforts and contributions of maintainers, even
> those whose histories with the VL go back to its very origin; (2)
> does not respond to concerns raised by others, again even veteran
> members of the VL community; (3) does not act in complete
> transparency, which has always been the policy of the VL; (4) does
> not re-establish the traditional means of dialogue that the VL has
> used: the two-way, unmoderated VL-wide discussion list; (5) takes
> actions against individual VLs without due process, without
> informing the broader VL community and with opaque motives.

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> I will consider rejoining a WWW VL that operates in the spirit of
> the original one. Until that time, please remove my VL, <http://www.biochemweb.org/>, from the central VL catalog at <http://vlib.org/>. I will make the appropriate changes on my VL to

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> To everyone: I regret this decision and have very much enjoyed
> getting to know many of you. I have worked hard on behalf of the
> WWW VL for the last, close-to 7 years. However, since the present
> VL has changed so much from the original, and since I think its
> viability as a distributed, expert-maintained community of subject
> directories is very much in question, I feel I have no other
> alternative at this time.

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> Thank you and best regards,

>
> Gabriel

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