

Website Report (www.a-c-m.ca)

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The Active Ageing research network has a website called “Ageing-Communication-Media” (www.a-c-m.ca). The website serves as the public face for the research team, as a means to connect with other researchers in the field and to engage with community organizations. The website was constructed by Antonia Hernandez and Giuliana Cucinelli, and they still work on the technical aspects of the website. Mariam Esseghaier is in charge of updating the content on the website. The website includes information about the network members, their research projects, and call for papers for conference and publications in the field. The website also serves to document the activities of the research network.

The Purpose of the Website

The Active Ageing network is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research grant, which is a government-funded grant. In this respect, there is a responsibility on behalf of the research team to keep the Canadian public up-to-date on their research. There are five co-applicants on the Active Ageing grant, and they include Kim Sawchuk (PI, Concordia University), Mireia Fernandez Ardevol (IN3 Open University of Catalonia), Line Grenier (Universite de Montreal), Barbara Crow (York University), and Chui Yin Wong (Multimedia University of Cyberjaya). Each team member is working on an individual project and these projects are listed with descriptions on the website. By creating and updating the website, the research team is fulfilling obligations on behalf of the grant by being accountable to Canadians.

Below I detail the different website pages, their content, and their objectives.

The Homepage

The homepage features the various projects of the five co-applicants and their research assistants. These projects all deal with issues surrounding ageing, media, communication, and technology. The homepage also features a “news and events” section which is updated as call for papers, events, and activities become available. This is used as a means to make the network members aware of these events, but also as a way to make connections with other scholars in the field. The homepage serves as an introduction to the team, their research, and their activities.

Mandate

The “mandate” page identifies the initiative of the research team, the project description, and the members of the team. The project description is included in English, French, Catalan, Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), and Malay. This demonstrates the international-nature of the research team, the desire to create networks with research in the field around the world, and the desire to reach people from different cultures.

Team

The “Team” page features biographies of all the team members and their respective research assistants. This page operates to provide the public with a full description of the research team’s research, publications, and institutional affiliations. It also serves as a way for scholars in the field to identify the team’s previous research.

Projects

The “Projects” page goes into detail about the team members’ various projects. These projects all deal with ageing and communication, and they each fall into one of three categories: 1-Mobile Media, 2-ICTs, 3-Cultures of Ageing. “Mobile Media” are studies that are more specifically on mobile media and ICTs. The approaches tend to be from a social science perspective. “ICTs” are studies that incorporate participatory design or action research on ICTs with older adults. Finally, “Cultures of Ageing” is work about seniors that involve an analysis of “seniors” in specific cultural contexts, but they are not explicitly participatory. They document aspects of this culture. This webpage then identifies these clusters and the projects that relate to these fields.

Publications

The “Publications” page allows the ACM team to make their research available to the public. This page identifies completed publications and projects from the team. This includes, not only peer-reviewed articles and books, but also projects like MemorySpace, and also reports on initiatives of the team, including Zotero, ResourceSpace, and the website.

Meetings & Events

The “Meetings” page keeps the public up-to-date about the activities of the team. The team meets twice a year for face-to-face meetings. These meetings and their related documents are archived on the “meetings” page. These documents include schedules, and this includes two major schedules throughout the week-long meeting. The first is the week-long schedule which details the week’s activities, topics to be covered, and issues to be addressed, the second is the symposium schedule which outlines the presenters invited to present at the symposium who are local researchers in the field, and their abstracts. This also serves as a means of making connections with other scholars in the field as the team’s work in progress is being presented in the form of abstracts and relevant issues in the field are identified in the schedules. Scholars in the field can use these documents to identify the direction of the team’s research.

Resources

The “Resources” page is connected to the team’s Zotero account which identifies relevant research and influential scholars in the field. This serves as a resource for the team members, but also for researchers outside of the network who research in the field. For more information on the network’s Zotero, see the full Zotero report.

Partners

The “Partners” page serves to identify grants, community partners, and institutional partners involved in the Active Ageing network. This allows the research network to credit these partners for their financial and research contributions and to demonstrate the breadth of this research network. The ACM team is not only one of university professors, but incorporates many different kinds of partners which add a richness and diversity to this research team.

Ultimately, the website operates as a mean to connect the Active Ageing network to each other, but also serves as a resource for researchers in the field outside of the network. The website also operates as a deliverable of knowledge mobilization where the public can become

aware of the research. At this point we have not received any feedback on the website from the public and have not received comments on the webpage, so it is difficult to estimate if the website is operating in the manner in which it is intended. However, the website was only recently launched, and the team is only two years into their three year grant, so it is possible with time we will have more feedback through the website.