

2008-2009 Website Manager's Report

All of the new content that's been added in the last year resides behind the "Members-Only" section of the website. To access this area, you will need the Username and Password that is published in the most current AMICA Bulletin. This space contains special features that should be kept private for AMICA members. This is not for the general public, but for you, the dues-paying Member. PLEASE preserve the value of this content - and that of your Subscription to AMICA by not sharing the password to these pages.

This year has seen an epic collection of work done by AMICAn Terry Smythe - Completed! - the conversion of every AMICA Bulletin published is now available to Members on our "Members-Only" section of the website. This project, gifted to AMICA from Terry, has spanned several years of laboriously scanning and correcting every page to be as true to the original as possible. Accompanying this work is a fully searchable index to assist you in finding any author or title name in this vast collection. We hope that someday there will be an easy tool to allow any member to search for articles using 'keywords'.

Also notable additions have been in the LITERATURE section of the Members-Only area. Terry has scanned documents belonging to him or otherwise are borrowed, providing high quality replications of various literature published by Manufacturers. Many new additions have been installed on our website.

Placing the Bulletin's cover-page and table-of-contents on the front of the website as a teaser has been valuable in attracting new members. There are many videos posted on YouTube that mention AMICA and judging from the comments on one, these also are attracting new members. We've made it easy to join with a click of the mouse.

Looking forward, our present Membership Secretary will be stepping down this coming year, and depending on the new Membership Secretary's technical skills, I may embark in the next step in automation - to allow members to log in to edit their subscription and Instrument collection data directly. The MBSI organization has done this with some ongoing expenses that I feel we wouldn't have to incur if done in-house. We'll see if this can be a feasible project in 2010.

Karl Ellison

AMICA Website Manager, Salem, MA