

# Global Website Project

Workgroup facilitated by Eckhard Müller and Norbert Pape

ECITE reader material:

Over the past 8 months, Dieter Heitkamp, Tinu Hettich, Eckhard Müller, Norbert Pape and Nancy Stark Smith worked on developing possible models of websites that would support the global CI community, sharing following wishes:

## our wish:

- \_\_\_ for a global calendar (to make it easier to find the CI classes, jams, special events happening worldwide, without having to post things in many places or look in many places to find everything), with space for individuals and regional websites to exist and thrive.
- \_\_\_ to serve the work, not any one individual
- \_\_\_ to support what has developed with contact improvisation over the last 36 years and support its continued good development with communication among the developers and practitioners of the dance form
- \_\_\_ to help create an intelligent, neutral, visionary, clear and open framework/ scape/ container for the development of and exchange within contact improvisation. a "lobby" or welcoming, empty space, container for our focus.
- \_\_\_ that the global contact improvisation community is served by this "lobby" and will continue to support it, to participate in creating and maintaining it.

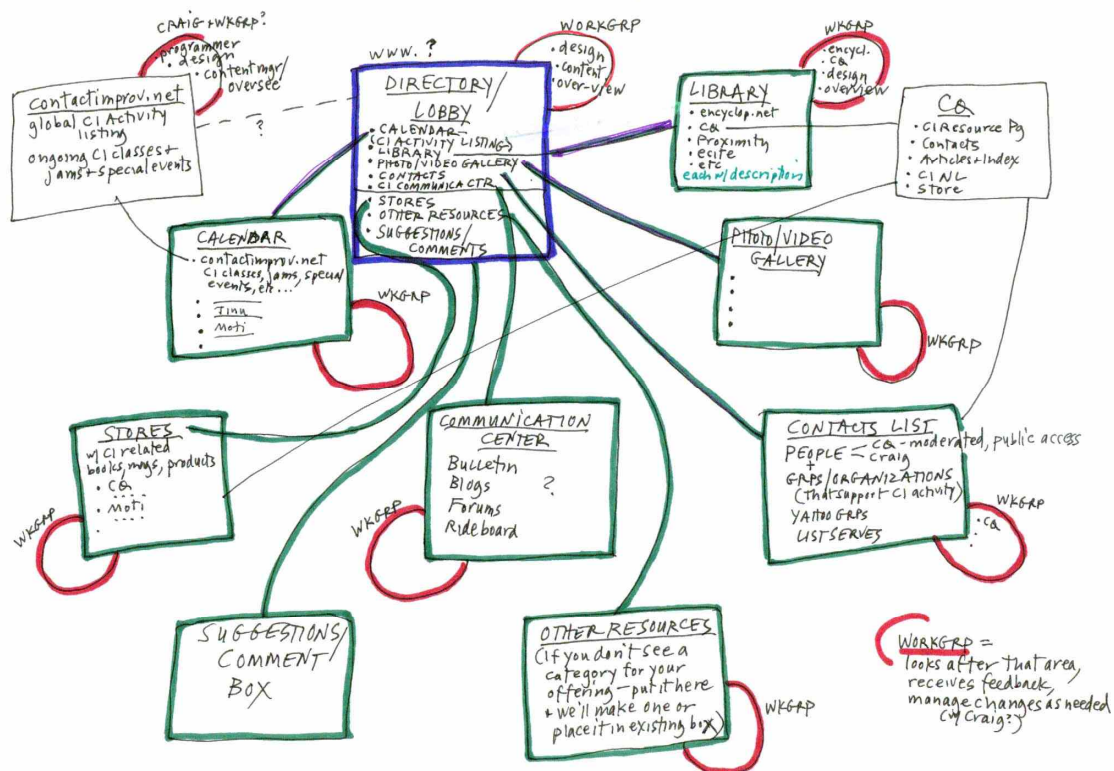
## more wishes:

- \_\_\_ that this effort will help develop structures, that will support further development and documentation of CI
- \_\_\_ considering political and organisational aspects: that this project could give support for individuals and group initiatives in the field of CI to get funding from their cities, regional or national governments or associations, for organising events or festivals, to show the scope and complexity of the work, its international reputation, —and its importance for society—.
- \_\_\_ that the Lobby/Directory will provide EASY ACCESS TO CI RESOURCES. Even more so by establishing a common tagging system for resources, so that the available resources can be searched easily.

We offered the following proposal: a neutral, intelligent, transparent "CI lobby" on the internet with a well organized, self-service, lightly-moderated Directory that would simply point people to the available resources in order to use the internet more efficiently and to integrate the many efforts and already existing sites.

Thus our conversations began.

# CI DIRECTORY / LOBBY



During our workgroup discussions, following wishes, fears and hopes came up:

## Wishes:

Participation of different sub-communities  
 Get support by motivating others  
 Different points of entry and view  
 Regions, continents

Ride board  
 Advertisement of teachers  
 Sharing research results  
 Online newsletter  
 Complaints box  
 Less emails (yahoo groups)  
 List of annual CI events (festivals, annual jams, ...)

Transparent and anarchistic  
 Efficiency  
 Broad range of contents  
 Transparency  
 Work structure: roles  
 Considering the project as technical, political and social  
 Multilingualism

Clarifying the rules, ethics, policies  
Better design  
Welcoming, inviting

No rush  
Involve professionals!

### **Fears:**

What will happen after Steve Paxton?

Who choose what is listed?  
Language barrier  
Limitations, exclusion  
Lack of information flow during the creation process  
Competition

Quick and easy solutions could endanger the existing fragile ecosystem of websites

Power structures  
We create hierarchy

Lobby model too big  
Concern with too much traveling: local vs. global  
Hiding real interest of Lobbying  
Rights

Sustainability  
Not enough people  
Not enough money  
Not enough time  
Failure  
Stagnation due to complexity of the project  
Wrong order  
Why not simply Google?

Money always goes to the gurus  
Virtual jungle / Darwinism

### **Hopes:**

Reflection process about the CI community and network  
Change of politics  
Conception work serves the dance  
Last and first instance is the dance!!!

Give credit to all  
Serve the community  
Good quality of content

Easy access

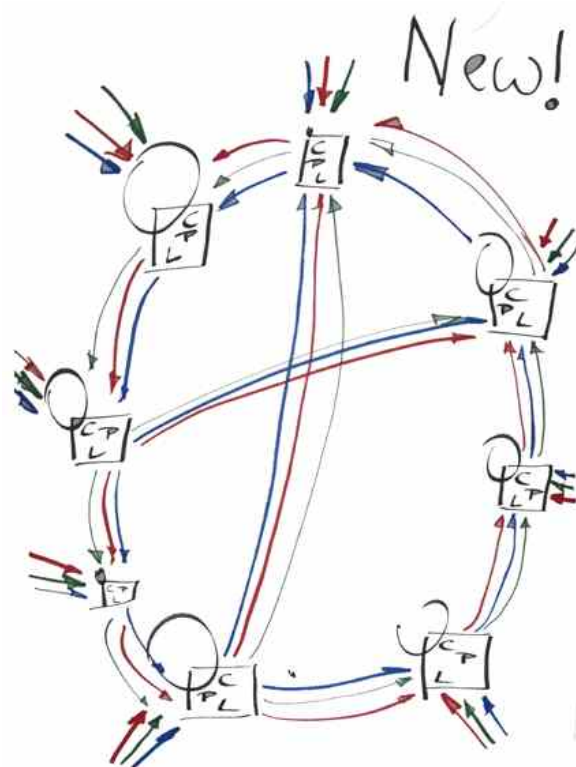
Inform the community (more than just ECITE participants) of the working process  
Consensus in process and outcome  
Constructive communication

Donation led funding  
Support network  
Common will

A recurring question was: "Who is 'we' ?"

After a week of fascinating (and intense) discussions about the relationship of power structures, information flow and technology, we ended up designing a very powerful and innovative web tool that we call:

## **synchronized data / decentralized calendar**



(circles are regional, or private websites, C = calendar, P = peoples list, L = library)

The calendars of the different websites automatically synchronize. There is no central database. Every webmaster of CI related websites could connect his site to the network by uploading the tool. A basic package is provided, but it will be possible to create individual or adopt the existing visualization of the calendar.

The entry points reside on certain websites, not necessarily on all.

The Webmasters of the regional and local sites will slightly moderate the entries made through their site (e.g. delete clearly foreign content or spam entries).

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All calendars are always up to date.

The local websites keep their autonomy.

The work of the many local practitioners who gather local data informs the world.

No single point of failure

Individual design of the calendar tool is possible

Local focus on the local site to start with, zooming out to the world is possible

Multi language support on all local websites (with a local preferred language)

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Many points of failure (but smaller, partial)

A high amount of communication with local webmasters is needed.

Individual solutions need to be found for each new type of CI website.

Time and effort consuming project in its realization.

## Agreement

Goal is

- to enhance the flow of information between the existing CI related websites
- to ensure the further existence and relevance of the existing websites and their connection to their communities.
- To make the information around CI as accessible as possible by giving access, enhancing the flow of information, and working with a consciousness of a need for multilingualism.

Policy

- a team (see further down: caretaking team, technical team) is responsible for supporting webmasters and users now and in future times.
- the communication structure must be transparent, reliable and sustainable.
- The multilingualism of the tool can only go as far as the knowledge (and needs) of the active participants of the project range: help yourself and your community by translating into your language.

Additional functions:

Once the synchronized calendar is functioning, it will be very simple to also have a synchronized global peoples list, as well as a synchronized global content index, or any other additional list.

Technical team:

Tinu Hettich  
Martin Hülsen

## Steering Committee:

Eckhard Müller  
Norbert Pape  
Dieter Heitkamp  
Nancy Stark Smith

## Blog:

Daniel Hayes

We received a very positive resonance after the presentation of the synchronized data model to all the participants of ECITE09. We therefore chose to commit to its realization. In three months from now, the steering committee and the technical team will evaluate the progress and decide based on consensus how to go on according to the results.

Tinu Hettich and Martin Hülsen are the team in charge of the realization of the tool. They will define their roles and the ones of the further participants of the technical team.

During the time of the creation of the prototype, they will take decisions on their own based on the results of the discussions at ECITE 09 and before.

They expect a working version to be up and running in approximately one year from now.

Tinu and Martin need a time for conception and getting in touch with possible cooperating programmers before being able to delegate jobs and modules. The software will be open source and documented to make it possible for other programmers to take over should Tinu and Martin not be able to continue the work.

Ecki, Nancy, Dieter and Norbert form the steering committee until the tool is functioning. The next check in, review and evaluation and planning of further steps will take place a year from now, hopefully at the ECITE 10.

A documentation of the process will be posted on a blog created and moderated by Daniel Hayes and Norbert Pape. ([URL still unknown](#)) Readers of the blog can contact the steering committee via Email.

The steering committee will stay in close dialog with the technical team. Should it turn out that the realization of the synchronization tool takes much longer than expected, the steering committee might look for intermediate solutions.

The steering committee will think of ways of rewarding the effort of the technical team (fundraising, raising awareness of the community of the work being done, ...) .

The synchronized calendar is a first step. The software will allow additional functions, such as peoples lists, content index, list of websites containing photo and video galleries, archives, forums, stores selling CI related products.

~~Since, the concept of a global lobby as it was presented has changed into that of a synchronized data network, the steering committee will have to rethink the function and need of a community moderated directory on a central website.~~

First thoughts about the future of the project:

Once the software is functional, the steering committee will turn into a caretaking team of 3 representatives of CI communities of different cultures / continents. The caretaking team will change regularly according to a rotation principle.

The caretakers will replace the steering committee members one by one in order to assure a good transition and support a continuity.

The details of this process will be clarified in a workgroup during a conference once the completion of the tool is in sight.