Philadelphia Writing Project
PhilWP Web Presence Timeline

1998: The PhilWP website was designed, offering basic information about PhilWP. Caltropia Wilder, PhilWP’s first technology liaison, added links to descriptions of writing project workshop offerings, the summer invitational institute, and the Advanced Institute, “Inquiry into Practice,” as well as a link to resources for teachers. These resources included lists of websites dealing with the writing process and titles of books about the teaching of writing.

2001–2004: PhilWP’s involvement in Project Outreach 2 from 2001 to 2004 informed our thinking about the urgency of addressing issues of access, relevance, and diversity across our site’s work. The leadership team made an intentional decision to put photos on the home page to reflect the diversity of the site.

2002: In 2002 Tech Liaison Darlene Grey strategically redesigned the website after soliciting feedback on the existing PhilWP website from the leadership teams and teacher-consultants who accessed our listserv. This led to more relevant teachers’ resources on the site, opportunities for critical online communication and engagement, and a general calendar of information regarding local, state, and national writing project events.

2003: The year 2003 ushered in a new plan to redesign the website with an aesthetic focus and to make sure the site reflected the influences of Project Outreach, while taking into account all of the suggestions previously submitted by the leadership teams and other site members. The PhilWP website designers coordinated its work with its host university so the revised website could be uploaded easily to the university’s server.

2006: Mardys Leeper, technology liaison, gained access to a university ID and password that allowed her to access the shared server at PhilWP’s host university in order to facilitate revisions to the website. Meetings were arranged between Mardys and the university’s webmaster, and a system was set up for making website changes and submitting them for uploading. Regular check-in times were established between Vanessa and Mardys to review writing project tech needs and progress toward completion of projects. Mardys has suggested a new expanded PhilWP Tech Team with whom she can collaborate more regularly and get Web revisions attended to more efficiently, while continuing to pay attention to the overall tech presence and needs of the site.

2007: PhilWP was represented at the 2007 Web Presence Visioning Retreat by Jennifer Gee and Mitchell Schwartz, members of our Expanded Tech Team. We continue to create, change, and solve issues related to our website and Web presence and to address Project Outreach goals. The tech team has determined that a portion of the core budget should include funds for a Web designer and training for a small group of Web techs whose work will be continuous updating and revision of the website to reflect the sites needs and changes.