# Now You See It…
## Now you don't

### POLICIES AND PRACTICES
### FOR UPDATING
### A WEB SERVER

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## Growth by Accretion

- Single-project servers
- All Unix, low volumes
- Trivial site management
- Limited facilities
- Provider accounts added one-by-one
- Little training required

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## First page

```
                    THE CURIA IRISH MANUSCRIPT PROJECT      Thesaurus Linguarum Hiberniae

This corpus is collecting and generating machine-readable copies of Irish
manuscript texts from 600AD to 1600AD. You can browse some of them here. For
further details, see the Introduction and Administrative sections below.

Introduction[1]      to the CURIA project.

List[2]              of texts being processed, with their current status.

Browse[3]            through a selection of the texts using worldwideweb.

Database[4]          details of access using the PAT text database
                     software.

Technical[5]         description of software and hardware and the standards
                     used.

News[6]              latest updates and changes.

Administrative[7]    details of staff, contact addresses etc.

Submission[8]        of contributed texts to the CURIA collection.

For other information available at University College Cork, see UCC[9].
1-9, Up, Quit, or Help:
```

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## First shocks



- Providers who care more about appearance than content
- Institutions who care more about appearance than content

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## Other changes

- Text changes daily in some cases
- Some providers farm everything out
- Navigation must follow user needs
- Some providers want the latest bells and whistles regardless of usefulness
- PR professionals must be involved
- Site must be usable by everyone

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## Assumptions

- Text would be static for long periods
- Providers would take responsibility for their own information
- Navigation would be largely hierarchical
- 'Everyone' understands the structure of a university (and it won't change)
- Computer Centre would maintain core pages with high content percentage

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## Major realisation

Visitors to the site don't know and don't care about the College's internal structure (faculty/department/unit/office/project).

They just want to find the information they came looking for.

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## Tools

- shtml for simple in–line inclusions
- PHP/JSP for more complex transclusion
- Server scripts in Perl or Bourne shell
- XML and XSLT for higher–level textual manipulation
- PDF for immutable documents
- Some Word files on intranets

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## XML

- Facilitating technology, not an end in itself
- Currently powers:
  - email/phone lookup and department indexes
  - UCC Research Bibliography 1992–2000
  - Academic/Research CVs (in development)
  - some document projects
- Enables the College's custodial mandate
- Not necessarily applicable everywhere

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## Groundrules

- No big graphics without warning
- All valid public HTML, no proprietary or manufacturers' vanity markup
- Navigation on every page
- Text must work in all browsers
- No dependance on scripts or stylesheets
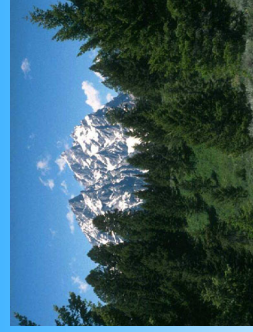- …but who does all the work?

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## Next stage

- Data mountains
- Data trees
- Merging with the desktop
- Customising the view for visitors
- Handing over control

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