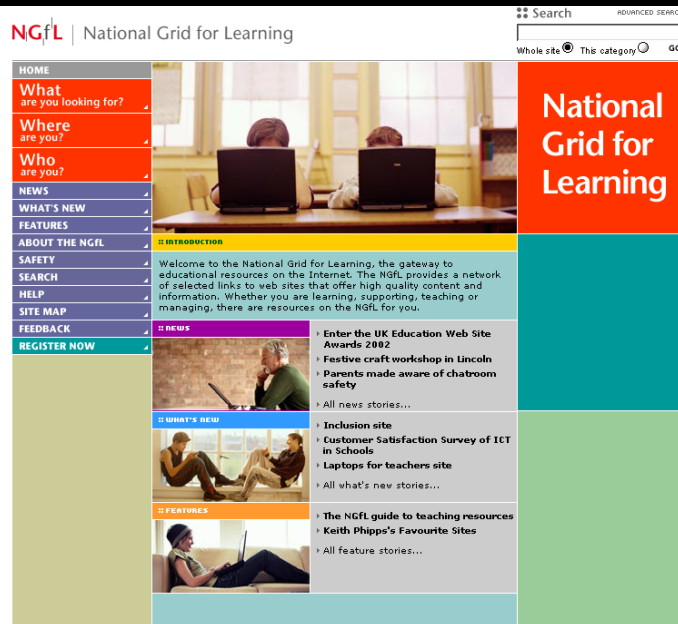


The National Grid for Learning

Gateway to educational resources on the internet

www.ngfl.gov.uk



Introduction

Launched at the Education Show, BETT 2002, the National Grid for Learning (NGfL) aims to be the worlds largest education portal, providing a network of selected links to web sites that offer high quality content, information and resources. The site is aimed at anyone involved with or participating in a learning, support, teaching or educational management role.

A number of companies were invited to tender with Symbiosis being commissioned by BECTa to undertake the necessary design and build of the necessary interface templates.

Features

To simplify its use and ensure access to relevant information, the web site can be accessed through a number of categories eg the type of person (adult learners, children, lecturers, parents etc), location, type of information or actual school or a search function. The available resources, such as lesson plans, museum or library web sites or government information can then be viewed.

Symbiosis worked closely with BECTa to interpret, reflect and apply their brand identity, to develop the most appropriate interface and to ensure adherence to the necessary accessibility issues. The programming of the site was handled internally and the completed templates supplied to BECTa for inclusion within the site.

Benefits

The use of an external agency to handle the development of the visual appearance and navigation of the site, ensures the application of a questioning, fresh and yet appropriate approach, with intuitive navigation and speed of response being contributory factors to the success of a site. To date, traffic to the site has averaged 5,000 hits per day.

Additional benefits include:-

- Use of modules and templates - to ensure scalability and future-proofing
- Strict adherence to accessibility and style guidelines – to cater for needs of vast audience
- Rapid turnaround and implementation of site – through concurrent development of visual appearance, navigation and programming.

Technology

- Macromedia Fireworks
- Hand coded HTML Templates
- JSP Pages

