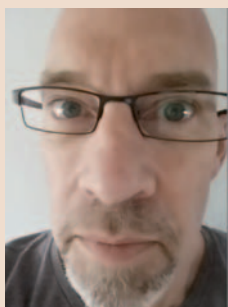


Webwaves



Dave Annetts
ASEG Webmaster
david.annetts@csiro.au

Consolidating changes to the ASEG website

The start of another year, and what better way to crash back to reality than a *Preview* column? Members may be relieved to know that there are no major plans for the website this year. They may also be pleased to discover that two of the major tests of the site viz. the wine offer and membership renewal were passed, largely without drama. Some niggling issues remain, and these are being addressed, but it is safe to say that the site is likely to remain essentially unchanged for the next 12–18 months – before the process of renewing the site begins afresh. Some areas of the website that

will be refined include the history section, the contractor's database and Special Interest Groups (SIG). The process of augmenting the contractor's data base with information such as the geophysical method(s) they employ and where they operate has begun.

Currently, only one SIG is listed on the website. The 'Young Professionals' SIG (YPSIG) is a vibrant group of young professionals who want to champion the interests of young employees in the profession of geophysics. They have a background or interest in geophysics and are Members of the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysics (ASEG). There is no age limit, but the group is intended for people aged under 35, or those new to the profession. Interested Members may contact the group at ypadmin@aseg.org.au.

One other SIG, the Near Surface Group, has yet to obtain the same level of activity as the YPSIG. This is despite the long history of involvement of ASEG Members with near surface geophysics. ASEG Members, or non-members, who are interested in this group should contact the group at nsgadmin@aseg.org.au for more information.

A third category of SIGs is those that do not yet exist. The need for such groups might be established during conferences or Branch meetings, and an SIG may

serve interested parties better than current avenues. An example of such a group would be one dedicated to drones, as was suggested on the segmin (<http://lyris.geosoft.com/read/?forum=segmin>) newsgroup last year, and there are likely to be others. SIGs can be formed with a minor amount of effort. ASEG Members interested in starting a SIG should contact the Secretariat (secretary@aseg.org.au) for more information.

Echoing themes from *Preview* 185 and the current issue, photos and brief descriptions of magnetometers provided by John Stanley have been converted to exhibits in the online Equipment Museum (<https://www.aseg.org.au/equipment-museum>). These instruments cover over 70 years of instrument development from the 1930s.

Figure 1 plots the user age (as determined from Google Analytics) vs number of site sessions between 9 December 2016 and 8 January 2017. Even accounting for the nature of these statistics, the large number of users between 25 and 34 is especially encouraging. However, the age distribution of site users is clearly biased towards older users. As the science of geophysics ages along with its practitioners, so too will the tools that are employed. Some of these are superseded by modern versions, while others fall out of favour as more modern instruments are developed. This leads to questions about what to do with the legacy data. Re-surveying with modern instruments may not be possible (nor even necessary for high-quality data) for a variety of reasons, and while the measurement and its location can often be determined from a data plot, they may not be particularly usable without metadata such as filter settings, times, transmitter currents, etc. Some of these metadata are included in the reports that may accompany the data. In cases where they do not, it may be instructive to refer to original operator's manuals. To this end, the Web Committee has undertaken to upload older manuals to the website (<https://www.aseg.org.au/equipment-manuals-brochures>). Manuals are organised primarily by method, although the search box at the top right of the site can be used as well. Manuals, mostly as PDFs, currently on the site were kindly provided by Kim Frankcombe. Contributions from ASEG members with similar collections are always welcome.

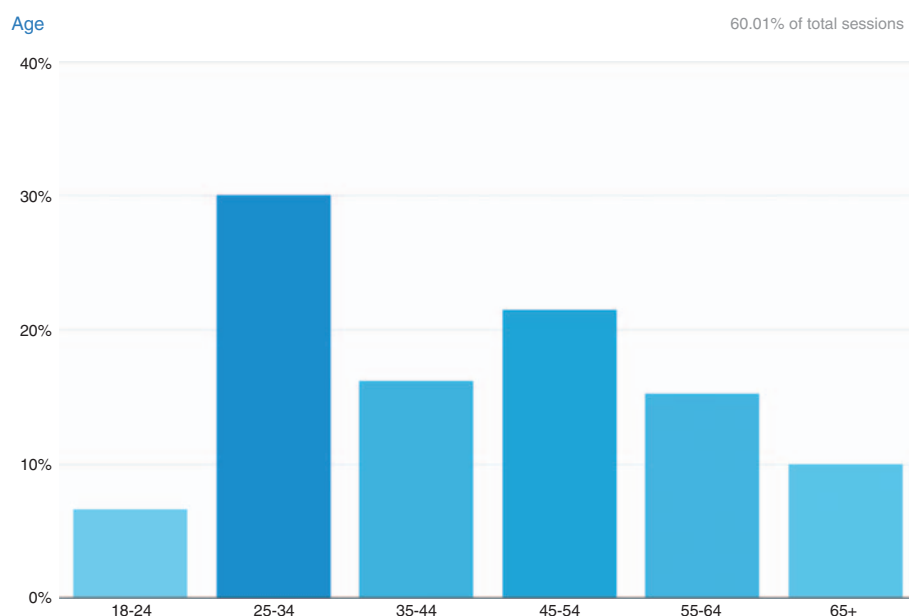


Figure 1. User age (as determined from Google Analytics) vs number of site sessions between 9 December 2016 and 8 January 2017.