

Updating the USGS Karst Interest Group Website by Converting it into a Dynamic Web Application

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Abstract

The Karst Interest Group (KIG) maintains a website that is a valuable resource for USGS scientists and also is a gateway for bringing USGS science to the broader scientific community and the general public (<http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/ogw/karst>). Historically, the website has been maintained on a volunteer basis and its content has been relatively limited. Recognizing the importance of karst-water resources and the expertise of the USGS in this field, the authors are expanding and updating the website by developing new content and presenting it using dynamic web technologies. New content includes a national-scale map of karst regions, a list of major USGS karst investigations and monitoring stations (past and present), and a list of key karst publications by USGS scientists both in journals and USGS publications. The new content is stored in relational database tables and linked together using common keys. Content is being presented using dynamic web technologies, which create web pages on-demand using information from a database (as an example, NWISWeb uses dynamic web technologies). The dynamic nature of the website allows the map to be interactive, presents the latest content in a flexible and maintainable way, and provides the ability for internal USGS users to submit suggestions for content updates and corrections.