

Ben Hodgson | Technical Officer

About Me

I'm a 21 year old final year student of BSc Media Production at De Montfort University in Leicester. I've had a heavy interest in radio from a young age, and have been involved with our student radio station, Demon FM, since joining university. My other interests include photography, cars, DJing, technology and the internet.

Relevant Experience

I have been designing and developing websites, both on an amateur and professional basis, for the past 8 years, teaching myself skills in all areas relevant to modern web development.

I am currently the Head of IT for Demon FM. Alongside my work on the station's web presence over the past two years, which earned us a Best Technical Innovation nomination at the 2007 SRAs, I also have real world experience, having worked as a full time Web Developer at the EMEA headquarters of a leading AV systems manufacturer.

Manifesto

As far as the standard day-to-day administrative and maintenance work of this role is concerned, I feel that my previous experience leaves me suitably qualified for the role. However there are other areas where the SRA's online presence could be further developed to provide various innovative and useful features for its member stations.

One of my first aims would be to make a more pro-active effort to find out what members want from the website, and work from there.

Encourage more stations to use the SRA discussion forum regularly. It is a fantastic resource for stations to pool their resources, share ideas and help each other out. The greatest example of this is the SRA Chart, which went from a couple of posts in the forum to reality within a year.

The current website itself has stood the test of time fairly well; it will be four years old this year. It has a clean design and contains all the right information. Whilst I would not look to instantly change the key elements of it, I would seek to work with the Marketing officer (and the newly created Press & PR Officer position) to identify areas in which the website's design could potentially be refreshed, possibly in line with the SRA's new 'I Love Student Radio' marketing campaign.

Finally I would look at providing a website resources service, giving member stations access to a wide range of useful tools for their own websites, from site templates and flash players to helpful bits of code, provided in a similar vein to the current wiki where content is provided by other member stations. It may also be feasible to look at providing a low cost, or free, website hosting service for member stations.

Please vote Ben Hodgson for Technical Officer