

NEW LOOK FOR SGI-USA WEB SITE

The completely redesigned official sgi-usa.org Web site will be up and running on Nov. 18. In addition to a fresh, new look, the site, originally launched in 1995, takes advantage of the latest Internet technologies.

Currently, more than 16,000 people visit the site each month, making it a tremendous vehicle for communication among our membership as well as a natural promotional tool for the SGI-USA.

With this in mind, the SGI-USA's Information Systems department undertook a complete redesign. "Our purpose in hosting this site is to help make the SGI-USA's message and SGI President Ikeda's spirit available to both members and new audiences in a convenient way," says Gerry Hall, director of the department. "Many people, in their search for answers to any question, look to the Internet first. When they encounter our site, we want to make sure they not only understand the information, but also the spirit of our organization."

The new site is fully searchable and divided into three areas: the SGI-USA organization, an introduction to Buddhism, and our Publications. Some new features include a searchable reference library, video and audio clips, flash animation, a virtual tour of the Florida Nature and Culture Center, a children's section and an interactive map section that will direct visitors to their closest SGI-USA community center.

One of the most exciting elements is a new members section, which will feature articles on the basics of Buddhist practice, an interactive guide to the altar and even an audio file for practicing gongyo!

In the near future, the Information Systems department hopes to add more information and multimedia content, as well as on-line ordering for the *World Tribune* and *Living Buddhism*.