

Agenda Item 9.0 NIMSS Redesign Update (as of June 16, 2015)

Presenter: Jeff Jacobsen

Overview of the New NIMSS: The new NIMSS system is project based, rather than task based, as the old system is. Depending upon their level of permission (such as regional admin, Station Director, AA, basic user), users will log in and immediately see updates and reminders for projects with which they are associated. From there, users can easily search for a project and access all related functions, such as editing participants, uploading reports and reviews. All text input boxes/editors now allow authors to format their content in a similar way to Microsoft Word. Auto-generated emails will be updated with appropriate links and helpful instructions, if needed. Database security will be greatly improved and our current contract with the Clemson University's Information Technology Team (ITT) will ensure ongoing maintenance and upgrades, at least for the next two years of our contract. Overall, the new system has a modern look and feel, with improved functionality that should make tasks easier and faster for all users. *Attached Branding and Architecture pages below this update illustrate what the new system looks like and how it functions.*

Main NIMSS Functions: Function and styling for Projects, Participants, Reports/Meetings, Impact Statement, and Reviews options are complete. The Directory is the only remaining function that still needs development. The User Interface Team is now going back through and styling intermediate screens, such as the login landing page and others. A few of the review forms may be updated at some point, as request by (we are waiting on updated forms, but believe that the forms can be updated in the system later, as needed). Jeff Jacobsen, Sarah Lupis, and Chris Hamilton are also working on streamlining and re-wording the NIMSS email auto-notifications.

Existing NIMSS Data Migration: Data migration from the old to the new system is underway. Clemson ITT has created a data map and they are working to make sense of the old system and existing data. This will take some time, but Jason Eichelberger is working on creating software to re-run and remodel the data to current, modern standards, which will improve future structure and efficiency. Data will also be indexed to enable and enhance search functions.

BETA Testing: Once styling and data remodeling is complete, Clemson ITT will have a functional system for beta testing. Chris Hamilton and Sarah Lupis will share this testing link with the NIMSS Redesign Team over the summer to make sure things work properly and identify any gaps. Currently, we can look at the testing system and follow the completed menu structure, but without data, it's not possible to explore functions properly. More information on how the ESCOP NIMSS redesign team and Clemson ITT will interface will come in the future. Chris Hamilton/Sarah Lupis will be in touch with the NIMSS Redesign Team as soon as testing can begin, either by email or phone, depending upon scheduling.

Migrating Data to NIFA: Chris Hamilton and Jason Eichelberger had a call with NIFA on 6/9 to introduce Jason to the NIFA REEport IT team. Jason is now in contact and working closely with NIFA to learn what they need from the new system. He's gone through the old system and located the existing interchange file protocol for NIFA and indicates that it will be fairly straightforward to give them the data they need.

Updated Password Protection: The new NIMSS will have updated 256 bit encryptions of passwords, so all users will be prompted to change their existing passwords immediately upon accessing the new system. This will result in a much more secure system.

System Launch: We tentatively expect to shut down the current system in late August to allow all remaining data to be migrated to the new NIMSS system. This could take up to two weeks, but we expect less. After the data is migrated, the new NIMSS will launch and be ready for immediate use. Estimated launch is August/early September. After launch of the new system, the old NIMSS will not be accessible for use.

Contract: The contract with Clemson University's Information Technology Team) was executed April 2015 for the three year period as articulated in NRSP1. APLU (Peter McPherson, President) on behalf of the ESS, and Clemson University (George Askew, Vice President Public Service Agency) were the signatories.

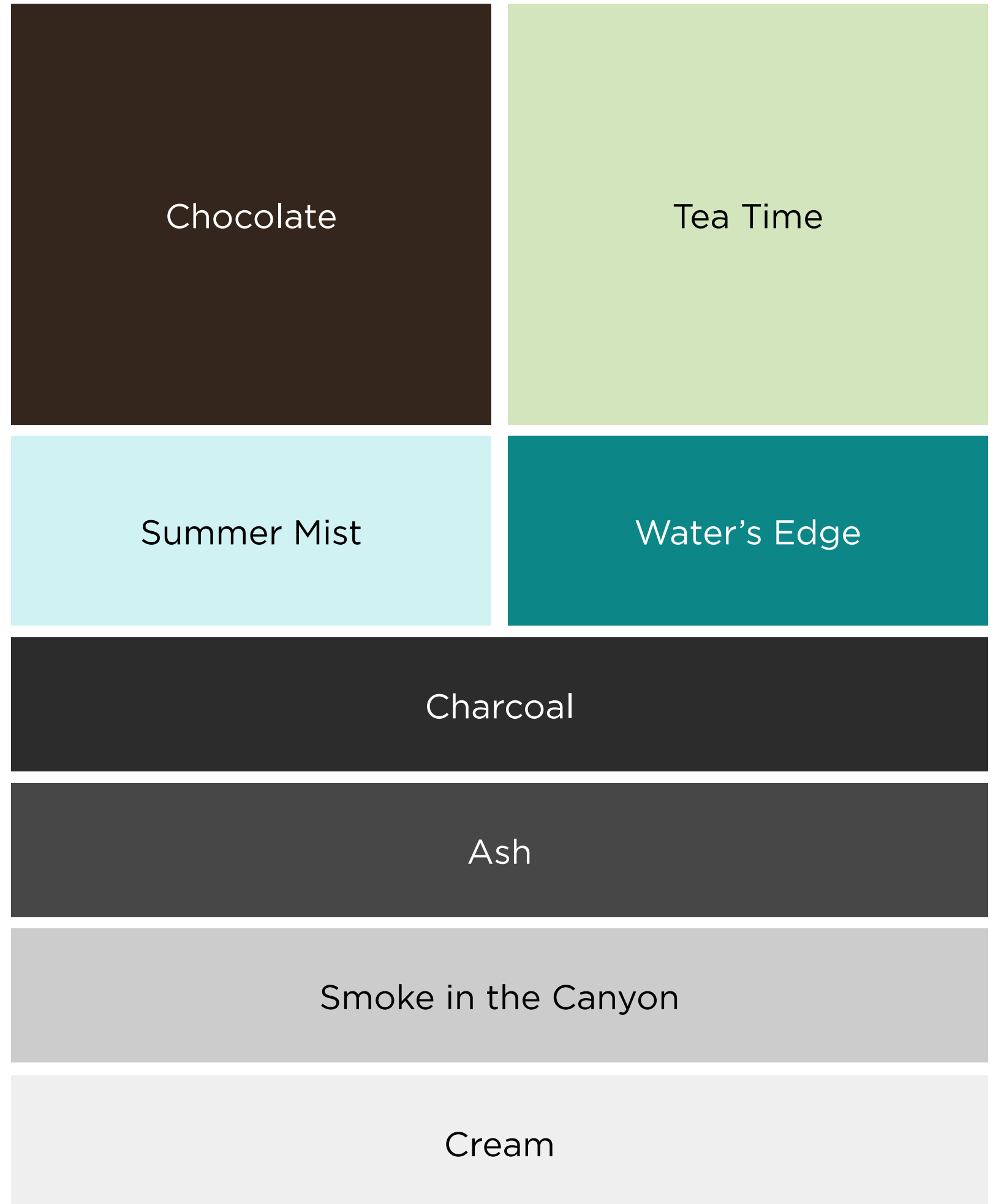
NIMSS

Brand Concept

Colors

During our introductory call, we heard you ask for colors inspired by earth tones. Since the work connects back to nature, we used a warm palette of brown, green and blue.

The application will use color conservatively to maintain a professional appearance.



The Logo

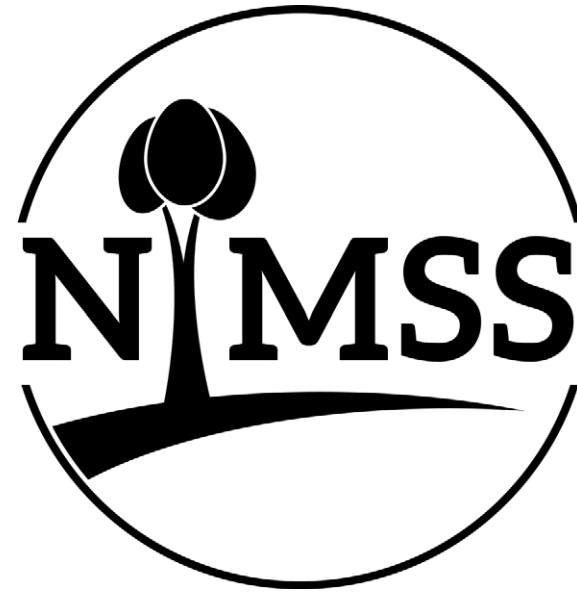
NIMSS is deeply connected to nature and agriculture. We like the way the circle and color brown connects to the idea of the earth.

The tree is intended to remind existing users that they are still on NIMSS, but with an upgraded system.



Other Treatments

Most of the time, the logo won't be presented in the full-color stamp version. We've created these alternatives to show different ways the logo can adapt to changing environments.



Black

Here, the tree and hill remains, while the sky has been removed to ensure clarity.



Slim

Useful for situations in which vertical space is at a premium. Particularly on the web.



White

Similar to the slim, just reversed for contrast on colored backgrounds.

Iconography

For the new NIMSS, we are introducing a system of icons to visually represent different concepts on the site.

These icons will help differentiate tasks and provide visual cues for navigation.



Project



Participants



Dashboard



Reports



Impact Statement



Reviews



Directory



Proposal
(under consideration)

Typeface

We are designing the new NIMSS in Helvetica Neue. The typeface is the updated cousin of the famous Helvetica.

It is recognized for its flexibility and straightforwardness and used by Apple for the iPhone, as well as many modern apps.

To the right is a type demonstration of the font.

Helvetica Neue

A font of such practicality

The Swiss and Their Fonts

What is it about the Swiss? Or, to be precise: what is it about the Swiss and their sans serif typefaces? Helvetica and Univers both emerged from Switzerland in the same year—1957—and went out to shape the modern world. They would sort out not just transport systems but whole cities, and no typefaces ever looked more sure of themselves or their purpose.



Email Address

Password

Log In

[Forgot Password?](#)

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NIMSS

Site Architecture

Revising the Structure

The present structure of NIMSS is difficult for a novice user to understand and use.

Our starting point for this redesign was to ask the question: “what are real people here to do.” We haven’t fully answered that question, this is just a taste of our direction.

To us, the central piece of content on the site is the project. Everything flows from there. You can review a project, write an impact statement, schedule a meeting, or assign an advisor. Most users care about

a single project. A few key administrators watch over group of the projects for which they are responsible. As a result, we want to flip the way we think about NIMSS.

The old system asked two questions: 1. What task do you want to complete?
2. Which project are you working on?
We think people will find it easier to understand by choosing a project first, and then completing their task for that project.

* The designs included in this document are meant to be mockups, not locked-in final versions. We expect them to evolve over time as we begin building the system.

All Projects

The list of Projects will be a key focus for usability. We want users to be able to find their project via:

1. Search
2. Station
3. Status (active, proposed)

From there, clicking on one of the projects will show the screen on the following page.

Additionally, we've added pagination and sorting to keep the list from getting out of hand.

Home > Projects

Projects

All | Active | Proposed | Terminated | Expired

Station Type Filter [Search Projects](#)

Number	Title	Advisor	State	Mid-Term Review	Expiration Date
NC205 Edit View Public	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1023	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1100 - Expired	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1183	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1184	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1186 - Proposed	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1187	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1029	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1030	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016
NC1034	Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Other Lepidopteran Pests of Corn	S. Pueppke, MI (01)	MI	2014	9/30/2016

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Project Landing Page

The screenshot shows the NIMSS Project Landing Page for project NC205. The page features a dark sidebar on the left with navigation links: Dashboard, Projects (selected), All Projects, New Proposal, Participants, Reports, Impact Statement, Reviews, and Directory. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail 'Home > Projects' and the project title 'NC205' with the subtitle 'Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Lepidopteran Pests of Corn'. A green notification bar at the top states 'New Participant: John Smith is awaiting approval.' Below this is a row of six icons representing different project components: Outline, Participants, Meetings, Reports, Impact Statement, and Reviews. On the right side, there is a summary box showing the project status as 'Approved, Active' with dates '10/2010 - 9/2015', a list of advisors (Steven Pueppke, John Smith, Henry Cloud), and the NIFA Representative (Robert Nowierski). At the bottom, there is a table of notes with an 'Add Note' button.

Note	Date
John Smith approved as an administrative advisor	1/6/2014
Midterm review is due in 6 months.	12/31/2014
Annual Meeting authorized by Christina Hamilton .	11/5/2014
Project created.	9/1/2014

Project Landing Page

The project landing page is the “homepage” for each project. From there, you can access all the major tasks as well as get an overall status. We believe that this adjustment will vastly simplify NIMSS.

Navigation

Based on the status of the project, different navigation on this page will be clickable. For example, it’s not possible to schedule a meeting for a project still in “Proposal” stage.

This navigation forms the structural backbone of the application. Users will choose based on their particular task.

Alerts

We’ve added project-specific alerts – shown here as a green bar. For example, when a project’s annual meeting needs to be scheduled, users will see a notification reminding them to schedule that meeting. These are dismissable, and include links to complete the task, where possible.

History

This is the large box at the bottom of the page. This area is for administrators to keep track of what has happened on a project. They will be able to automatically see people joining, meetings scheduled and more. Plus, an administrator can add custom status notes to keep track of what’s happening.

Right side status bar

At a glance, see the most important information about a project. This will also include a “View Public” link.

One Place to Bookmark

An occasional user can bookmark this page within NIMSS and come back to it only when necessary. This removes their need to even see the dozens of other projects.

Edit Project Outline

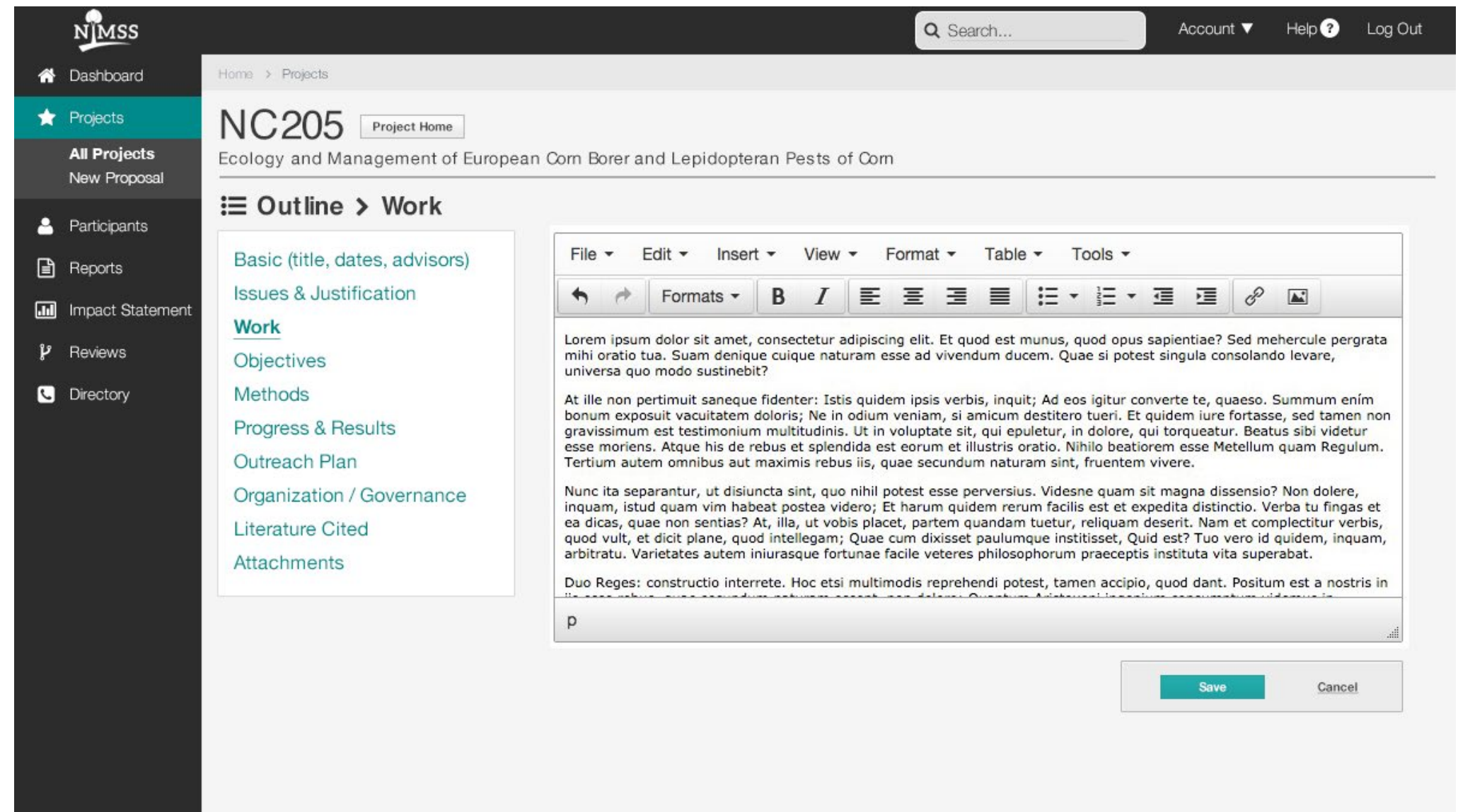
One of the most important functions of NIMSS is to coherently allow people to enter large amounts of data into the outline.

Text Editor

We will be featuring a much-improved text editor to allow authors to format their content in a similar way to Microsoft Word. This will make adding and editing long documents much faster and easier than previous generations of the software.

Optimised Forms

Previously, some forms used small sections to write long amounts of text. The new system will have forms that work for entering large amounts of text.



Structure Part 1

These pages are arranged in a new way from the previous NIMSS system. Page 1.1, for example, is the landing page for each project. Clicking “Outline” would take you to a screen to edit that project.

This structure makes sense to us to allow an average user, who only cares about one or two projects, to stay focused on those without being distracted by the large number of tasks available in the system. They have one place to go, and their tasks are laid out with clarity. For example, pulling up an impact statement will be as simple as searching for a project, clicking “Impact Statement” and there it is.

On the following page, we outline the administrator-level need to edit multiple projects at the same time. These sections will handle all participants together, and allow the admins to make adjustments more quickly.

By combining these two approaches, you get a more robust system – the software can show you the report for NC205 and all reports from the last six months.

1.0 Projects ([shown](#))

1.1 Project ([shown](#))

1.1.1 Outline

- 1.1.1.1 Basic (title, dates, advisors)
- 1.1.1.2 Issues & Justification
- 1.1.1.3 Work ([shown](#))
- 1.1.1.4 Objectives
- 1.1.1.5 Methods
- 1.1.1.6 Progress & Results
- 1.1.1.7 Outreach Plan
- 1.1.1.8 Organization / Governance
- 1.1.1.9 Literature Cited
- 1.1.1.10 Attachments

1.1.2 Participants

- 1.1.2.1 Invite Participants
- 1.1.2.2 New Participant (Appendix E)
- 1.1.2.3 View Committee

1.1.3 Meetings

- 1.1.3.1 New Meeting
- 1.1.3.2 Meeting Detail

1.1.4 Reports

- 1.1.4.1 New Report (SAES-422)
- 1.1.4.2 Report Detail

1.1.5 Impact Statement

- 1.1.5.1 New Impact Statement
- 1.1.5.2 Impact Statement Detail

1.1.6 Reviews

- 1.1.6.1 New Review

1.2 New Project

Proposed Structure Part 2

2.0 Participants

- 2.1 New Participant
- 2.2 View Committees

3.0 Meetings

- 3.1 New Meeting

4.0 Reports

- 4.1 New Report

5.0 Impact Statements

- 5.1 New Impact Statement

6.0 Reviews

- 6.1 New Review
- 6.2 Forms
 - 6.2.1-6.2.10 various forms

7.0 Account

- 7.1 My Profile
- 7.2 Station Profile
- 7.3 Regional MRC Profile
- 7.4 NRSP Profile

8.0 Help

- 8.1 Glossary
- 8.1 Forms
- 8.3 FAQ

9.0 Search

10.0 Administration

- 10.1 Users
 - 10.1.1 New User
 - 10.1.2 Edit User
- 10.2 Groups
 - 10.2.1 New Group
 - 10.2.2 Edit Group
- 10.3 Permissions