



Click! focuses on World Wide Websites, PC software, and hardware that can be used to listen to international broadcasters and other English language public broadcasters via Internet-based technology. Broadcaster websites and other web resources are covered. Feedback and suggestions are always encouraged – please include Click! in the subject line of any e-mail.

BBC World Service continues to tweak its website

About 18 months ago I participated in a “vitruual” focus group regarding the redesign of the BBC World Service website. I and my fellow group members would be directed to visit URLs that led to test versions and configurations of the website, and we’d offer opinions as to how intuitive navigation was, how the page was rendered in our browsers, and similar usability assessment. It was an interesting process, because I can see how some of the design elements we discussed at the time were eventually incorporated in the rollout of the new site.

The BBC’s International Radio Station The World Service is again working on some website initiatives, but this time around the surveyors are interested in understanding program preferences as well...why we prefer some programs to others, what sort of navigation practices we use to discover new programs, and other questions regarding how we listen to the World Service.

The dialogue also seeks to understand why one delivery platform is preferred over another – why some people prefer the radio vs. online listening when they have access to both resources.

I am not sure yet what the outcome of this effort will be – it appears to be a separate effort from the “Global Minds” initiative I mentioned last month.

Radio Netherlands’ new website still a work in progress



After last month’s mention of Radio Netherlands’ redesign effort, there has been lively online discussion concern the missing pieces and hard-to-find information that used to be readily accessible. Apparently the redesign had to be rushed forward before it was quite ready for prime time, as the

prior version required much more effort to maintain than Radio Netherlands could invest to do so, given the fiscal challenges they've been facing. To their credit, the Radio Netherlands website team – primarily Andy Sennitt, who is well-known to fans of *Media Network* – has been developing missing pages and cobbling together information that's hard to find in order to fill the gaps that still existed.

If you do have constructive suggestions as to the restoration of missing content, or if there are categories of information that you can't find on the website that used to be available, Andy recommends they be sent to letters@rnw.nl to ensure they are forwarded to those responsible for the work.

Radio Moldova International – the *other* Moldovan international broadcaster

You've probably heard, or heard of, Radio PMR – it's the voice of the Pridnestrovskaya Moldavskaya Respublica, a separatist section of the Republic of Moldova that happens to include the Grigoropol transmitter of the former Radio Moscow. Broadcasts from that transmitter reach North America pretty easily; Radio PMR is considered a clandestine broadcaster because Pridnestrovia – or Transnistria – is not recognized as a separate state by Moldova. According to Wikipedia, Transnistria sported a population of 555,000 in 2004, with ethnicity roughly 1/3 Moldovan, 1/3 Russian, and 1/3 Ukrainian. By comparison, the overall population of Moldova, estimated as of July 2009, is approximately 4.3 million according to the CIA's World Fact Book; this population is 78% Moldovan or Romanian.

Unless you have been to its website, however, you might not be aware that Moldova has an international broadcasting presence that reflects the government's view of things – *Radio Moldova International*, at the URL <http://www.trm.md/> -- look for the icon on the upper right side of the page.



Radio Moldova International (RMI for short) offers a 30-minute English broadcast every weekday, with archives dating back to June 1st, 2009. There are a series of weekly features that rotate amongst the days of the week; these are listed on the RMI website.

If you follow events in this part of the world, you might want to make RMI part of your listening habits.

Staying in the region...*Radio Ukraine International*

Back in the day, this was Radio Kiev – I remember occasionally listening them on shortwave as a pre-teenager back in the 1960s. Back then, The Ukrainian SSR was a constituent republic of the USSR; today, Ukraine is the 28th largest country in the world measured by population, which is estimated at 45.7 Million as of July 2009. Radio Ukraine International continues on shortwave, but its programming is also available both live and on-demand from its website, <http://www.nrcu.gov.ua> ; click on the British flag to see the English language content; a week-long audio archive appears to be available. The live schedule for streaming audio can be found by clicking on the <Channels> link on the main English language page, then clicking on the <Radio Ukraine International> link.



RUI's website is a decent website for a broadcaster of its ilk, with individual news stories, lists of contacts, and audio files for each individual program segment: if all you wanted to hear was *world.ua*, the weekly press review program, you don't have to listen to the entire Friday program just to catch that segment.

Would I arrange my listening day just to catch up with RUI? No, probably not, but I'm always looking for variety in my listening, and RUI provides some of that spice.

Radio Romania International



Let's close out this edition of *Click!* with another nearby broadcaster, *Radio Romania International*, <http://www.rri.ro> . The website has the usual mix of domestic news and written content that accompanies audio features, but there aren't any links to on-demand listening. However there are links to live audio from RRI and a list of times when you can listen to RRI via their live webcasts. Relatively high-bandwidth audio (up to 128 kbps). RRI's on-demand audio is offered via the World Radio Network at its website, <http://www.wrn.org> .

Hope you are enjoying your summer...drop a line if you get a chance!