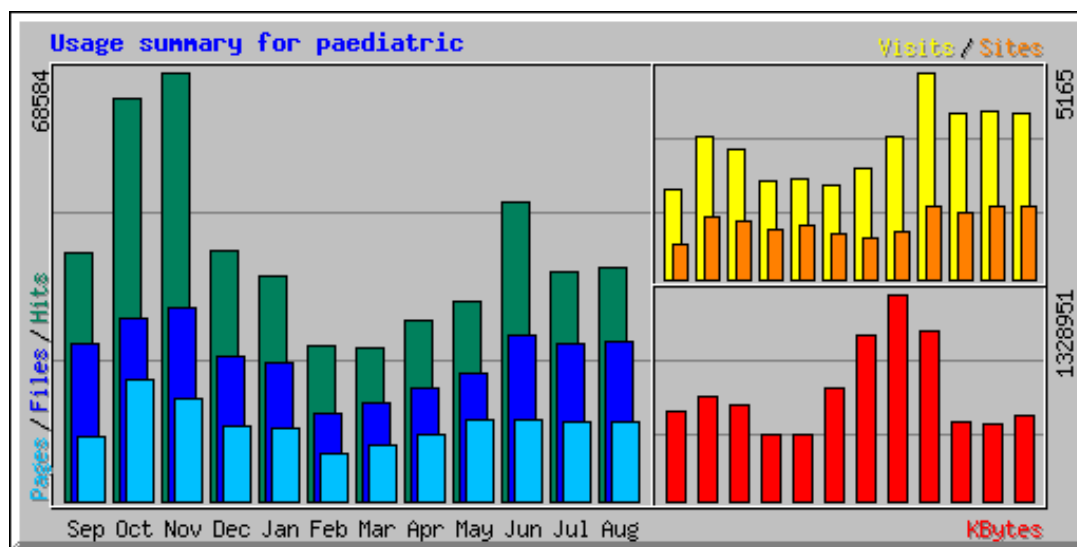




## PPS Website Report 2009

In the past year, I am pleased to report that the Society's website, [www.paedpath.org](http://www.paedpath.org), has continued to grow and develop.

The website has now received 162,000 unique visits to the homepage since the new site was started in 2006. There were 480,000 hits on the website from 1st September 2007 to 31st of August 2009 – an increase of ~50% over last year. There have again been peaks of usage of the website during this year, particularly in the run-up to and in the aftermath of the annual meeting. This also coincides with an increase of traffic on the site at around the time subscription payments become due in November/December.



Following welcome feedback after last year's meeting, I have published an archive of the membership lists in a more printer (and eyesight)-friendly PDF format. I have also created a function to enable members to view an up-to-the-minute list of member contact details. I hope that everyone has found this to be a useful feature.

Dr Liz Hook has agreed to edit the Journal Watch page ([www.paedpath.org/articles.php?article\\_id=35](http://www.paedpath.org/articles.php?article_id=35)) on the site for us and her first contribution to this was made in August. Please take some time to have a look at what she's done and please send your suggestions to her ([journalwatch@paedpath.org](mailto:journalwatch@paedpath.org)).

I know that many members will be interested in the expanded pages about the IPPA courses that I've been able to add to our site this year. I am particularly grateful to Jean Keeling, Gordan Vujanic, Nick Smith and others who contributed photographs and identified past participants and tutors. The pages now form part of IPPA's official web presence which we currently host on our site. From November 2009, this will move to a more distinct IPPA subsite ([www.paedpath.org/ippa](http://www.paedpath.org/ippa)).

Also coming soon to a paediatric pathology website near you is our very own Digital Slide Server. This is an important, EUR20,0000, investment to which the PPS has contributed £5000. IPPA, Birmingham Children's Hospital Endowment Fund and a UK MRC funded research group are also contributing to this project. This will enable us to greatly expand and archive our educational activities, including the annual slide seminars, via the website.

There have been a few continuing issues with lost passwords but these have been (thankfully) much fewer than last year. I have now changed the system so that members who have difficulty logging-in, should contact me at [webmaster@paedpath.org](mailto:webmaster@paedpath.org) and I will continue to manually reset their passwords.

In June this year, the website was the victim of a serious automated hacking incident. This was spotted by our antipodean early warning system (Nick Smith) and caused only a relatively small amount of damage to the system and was quickly and competently dealt with by Melcomedia. We have now made good the damage and instituted a major upgrade of the site's software engine and have changed all the administrator passwords. I encourage all members to regularly change their website passwords (but don't forget them, please!) in the interests of website security.

The flexibility of the online payment system was reported as an issue by the Treasurer last year and we have addressed this in time for this coming year's subscriptions. In conjunction with Membership Secretary and Treasurer, we have successfully taken the annual reset and edit of the member database in-house. This will generate some website cost savings year on year. We have now made the necessary changes to the Credit card/PayPal payment system page system for the 2010 subscription year which, I hope, will also be a bit easier for everyone to use. Subscription payments for 2010 can now be made in page 3 of the "Edit Profile" section on the website when a member logs in.

There is still no usage of the online member Discussion Forums despite me giving these a more prominent position in the Navigation panel. Any volunteers interested in starting / leading / supervising discussions in these fora should contact me. Any other suggestions or (polite) comments about the website are also very much welcome. This is OUR website so members should all feel entitled to use it to its full capabilities!

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25/09/2009