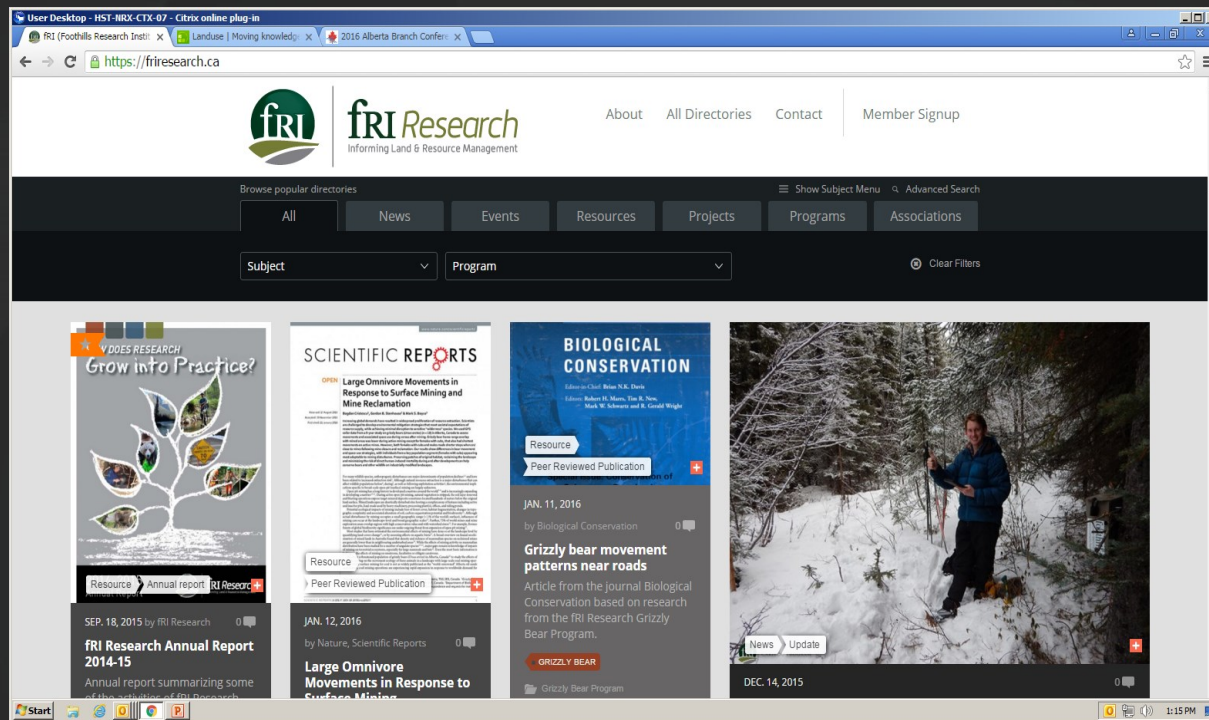# Website Development & Organization
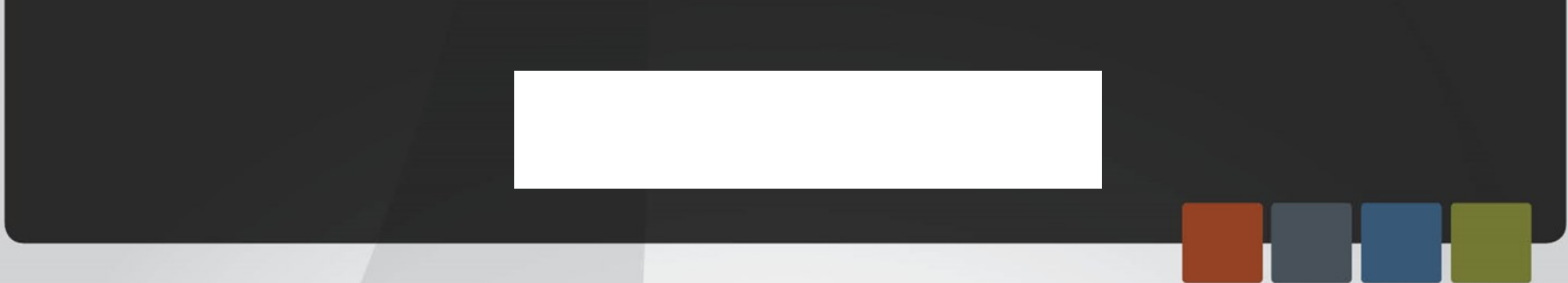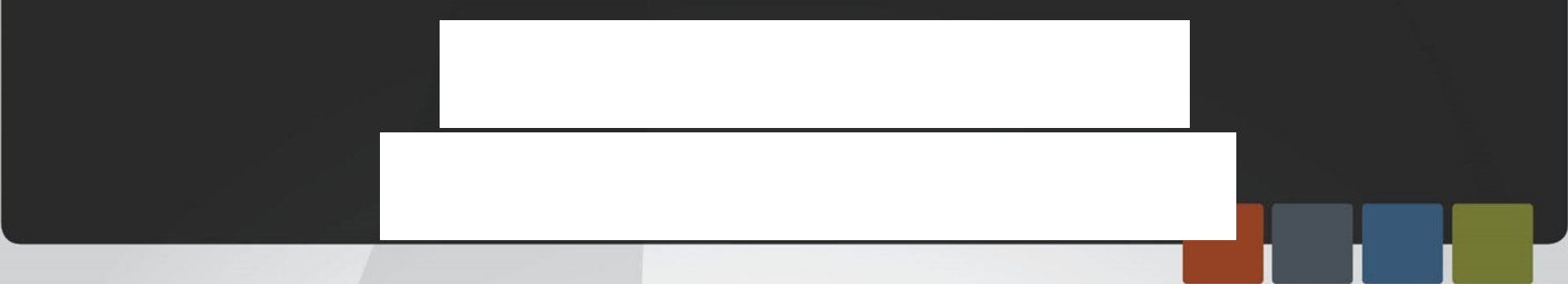

Examples from fRI Research and Alberta Land-use Knowledge Network

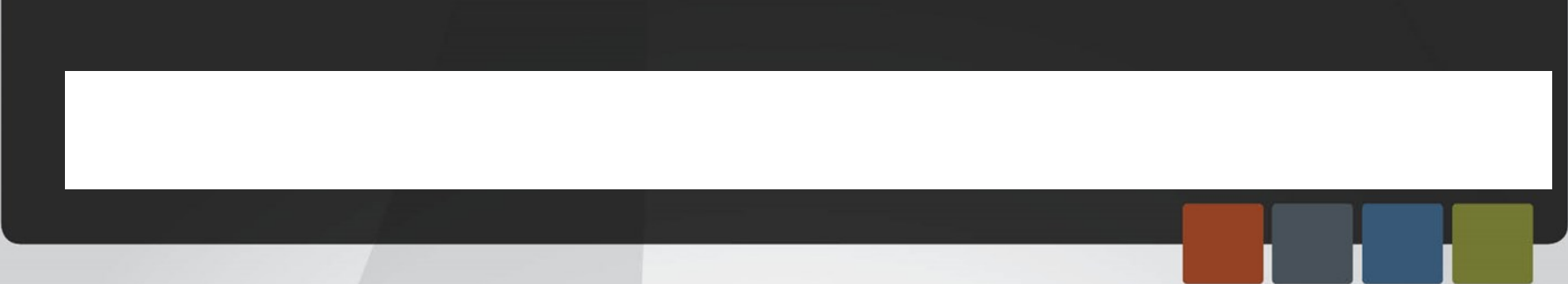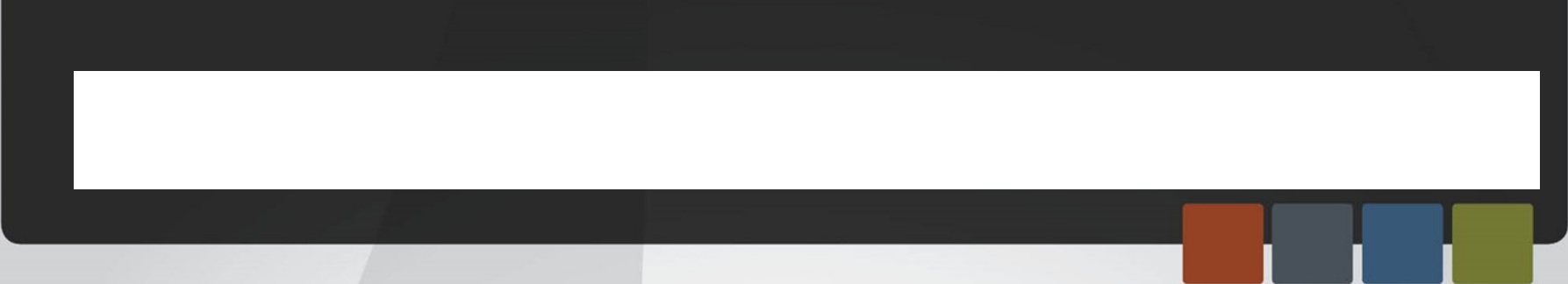# DUC BMP Workshop
Jan. 20, 2016

fRI Research
informing land and resource management

- Started in 1992 as part of the Canadian Model Forest network (as the Foothills Model Forest)
- Various research programs engaged in multiple research projects with different partners
- Large volume of information to include in website

- Started in 2011 as a program with fRI Research
- Intended to be a portal for accessing good, trusted information related to land use in Alberta
- Website creation was the first step

- Most critical time: identify what the website is intended to do, what information needs to be there, how people will need to access it
- Organizing data was priority #1
- Hired a metadata librarian to create a taxonomic structure for landusekn.ca
- Content cataloging system based on libraries & their core metadata fields

- Website created with Drupal
- Content Management System (CMS) is used by internal staff to add resources
- Designed to be used by both **landusekn.ca** and **friresearch.ca**
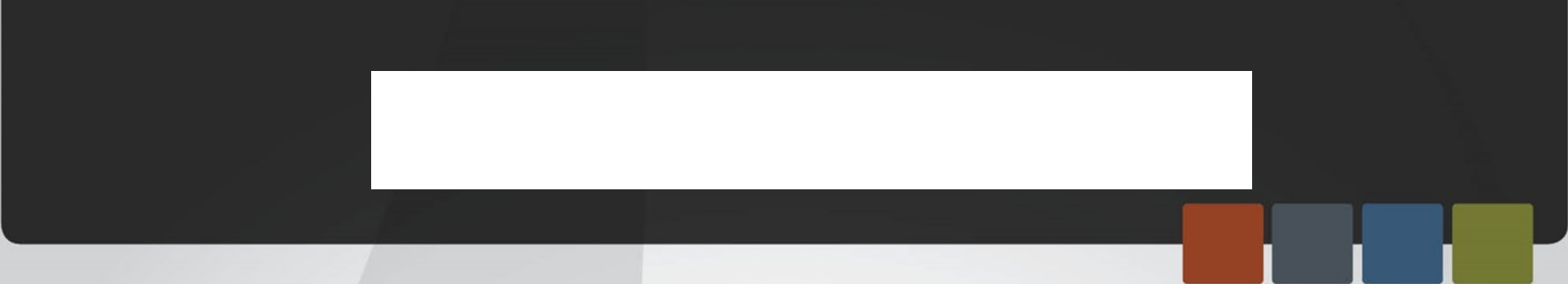- CMS is the same, front end designs are quite different

- Resource library for landusekn.ca has evolved over time – went live with almost nothing in the library
- fRI Research content existed, but had to be catalogued in the new CMS
- Hired a summer student for 4 months of scanning & cataloging work: consistency is critical

- frirsearch.ca

- landusekn.ca

- Follow us on Twitter: @landusekn and @friresearch

- Start with a strong, solid cataloging process for content and a good, user-friendly content management system
- Consistency of data entry is important so content can be found
- Plan the structure before you style the front-end
- Don't over-estimate users' willingness to engage: takes time to build the trust for users to comment, ask questions, or contribute