Clicking around the six Orange County delegate's Web sites is more than a traditional trip down legislative lane. One member's site offers an autographed photo; some provide greeting cards from President Bush; two have blogs; and another is tri-lingual. In a time when Google reigns supreme and peop... Clicking around the six Orange County delegate's Web sites is more than a traditional trip down legislative lane. One member's site offers an autographed photo; some provide greeting cards from President Bush; two have blogs; and another is tri-lingual.

In a time when Google reigns supreme and people are using the Internet to pay bills and find their soul mates, Congress members must continually upgrade and add to their Web sites to keep up with plugged in constituents, lawmakers said.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher launched the newest version of his site in June. Rep. Ed Royce added a multimedia section to his in May. Rep. John Campbell renovated his in March. And Rep. Gary Miller recently gave his site a top to bottom makeover.

"We're evolving with the technological age," said Rohrabacher, R-Huntington Beach. "Originally it was just newsletters, then it became a way to communicate, now we have to have an interactive Web site."

But not all sites are created equal. They all allow the local members to be in multiple places at once, 24/7 -- at least on a computer screen -- but vary in what they provide and how.

Some, such as Rep. Ken Calvert, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, Campbell and Royce,feature videos of floor speeches and media appearances.

At the top of his homepage, Campbell has a video of him complaining on the House floor about rising gas prices. In his archive, there's a video that welcomes visitors to the new site – a kind of Mr. Roger's guide to Campbell's digital neighborhood.

Two members blog

Campbell, R-Irvine, also hashis "Green Eyeshade" blog, which is updated almost daily. His blog posts cover Capitol Hill goings-on, gas prices and in a recent one showcased a political cartoon poking fun at overspending Democrats. Rohrabacher, the surfing congressmen, also has a blog called "Surfs up with Dana." His first post features him in an Uncle Sam top hat.

"Some other elected officials have tried to do blogs that weren't successful. It needs to be timely, short, and in my view needs to be somewhat pithy in order to attract interest," Campbell said. The blog was a new addition to the site in March and in May it got 300,000 hits.

The Internet has become the primary source for constituents to learn about and communicate with members of Congress, according to a study released in June by the Congressional Management Foundation, which tracks Congress' efficiency.

According to the study, which surveyed 10,500 by telephone and online, 92 percent of Internet users who contacted Congress had visited a member's Web site. Also, 43 percent went online to do so. That's about twice as many who contacted their member via snail-mail or telephone.

To meet this demand of plugged in constituents, all membersinclude e-newsletters sent to constituents' inboxes. Royce, R-Fullerton, recently updated his e-newsletters. Now they can be forwarded and contain video clips. They are his favorite feature on his site, he said.

A new feature on Rohrabacher's site allows constituents to take an online poll. The poll is another way to stay in touch with constituents' views and interests, he said. One poll asks about opinions on offshore drilling.

Although none have official profiles on networking sites such as Facebook, both Rohrabacher and Campbell provide a link to share press releases on Facebook profiles. Also, both Calvert and Sanchez, D-Garden Grove, have Facebook groups made by supporters.

Sanchez has the only multi-lingual site among the local members. It's in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Her Vietnamese version features her in traditional Vietnamese garb - a big straw hat called a " Nón and a flowery gown called a "Áo Dài." Her district has a large population of Spanish and Vietnamese speakers and she wants them to feel welcome online, she said.

Here to serve

Constituent services links are a common denominator among the sites. The local members

provide roughly the same services such as help with federal agencies, booking tours of the Capitol (a top reason constituents visit the sites), information about issues and press releases. They also provide links for future voters—kids and high school students—to learn about government.

As with all the correspondents from constituents lawmakers get, it's their office staff that actually runs each member's Web sites. Communications staffers take care of most of the editorial content while Information Technology staff members upload content and make sure the sites run properly.

All have information about committee assignments and sponsored legislation, however, some are easier to find than others. Information on bills is easily found at Calvert's "Ken's Briefcase" link, which is conveniently shaped like a briefcase.

But they all look different. Miller's, R-Diamond Bar, looks like it can join the ranks of ReMax Realtors— it's clean and simple. Royce's looks like a PowerPoint presentation. Sanchez's is dark blue and Campbell's is bright red.

Although Web sites are important, most said that the Internet will never trump personal communication. The sites are merely additions to over-the-phone help and face-to-face community meetings, local members said.

"We live in these modern times…but we have to make sure we don't take the personal nature of communication out of the arena," Rohrabacher said.