

WordPress as a Library Content Management System

By John DeLooper

Hudson County Community College

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What is WordPress?

WordPress is an open source content management system – in other words, an open source software designed to make creating, editing, and maintaining a website easy. WordPress was originally created as a tool for blogging, but now allows you to develop a functional blog OR an entire website quickly and easily.

Why WordPress?

WordPress is easy to set up and use, and has an extensive community of users – including many librarians. It provides robust controls to set up multiple users who can create content for the page. It also has a variety of templates, themes, and plug-ins that make additional functionality like contact forms, statistics, and photo galleries simple.

WordPress.org vs. WordPress.com – What’s the Difference?

It may be confusing to learn that there are both a Wordpress.com and a Wordpress.org. Wordpress.org is home of the free WordPress open-source content management software that you can install on your own website, while Wordpress.com is a commercial hosting site where you can get a free, ad-supported blog or site that uses the Wordpress.org software, or purchase paid upgrades that improve functionality and remove ads hosted on the Wordpress.com server. Differences are explained in detail at <http://en.support.wordpress.com/com-vs-org/>

Challenges: Users must host their own WordPress site, or pay for an ad-free version. Also, while WordPress greatly simplifies creating content for your website or blog, users who know HTML, CSS, Javascript, and PHP will be able to better customize and tweak their sites than users who cannot. WordPress sites can sometimes be targeted by spammers and hackers, so users should be vigilant, choose strong passwords, and update the software and plug-ins often.

Costs:

FREE! and up: Wordpress.com has a free, ad supported version, and various paid upgrades at <http://store.wordpress.com/>. If your library already has a web hosting provider, or operates its own web servers, you can obtain the Wordpress.org software for free. Various hosting providers like Dreamhost, Bluehost, LIShost, and Hostgator offer plans that start between \$10 and \$20 a month, but can range in price depending on your library’s needs.

Libraries using WordPress:

Libraries both in NJ and throughout the country are using WordPress, either for their site or for their blog. Here are a few:

Chester Library: <http://chesterlib.com/>
Cranbury Public Library: <http://www.cranburypubliclibrary.org/>
Englewood Public Library: <http://englewoodlibrary.org/>
Dartmouth Public Libraries (MA): <http://www.dartmouthpubliclibraries.org/>
Troy Public Library (NY): <http://www.thetroylibrary.org/>
Park County Library (WY): <http://parkcountylibrary.org/>
Patagonia Public Library (AZ): <http://www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org/>
Stevens Memorial Library (MA): <http://www.stevensmemlib.org/>
Northeast Kansas Library: <http://www.nekls.org/>

Get Started!

WordPress has an active community whose members have produced plenty of resources you can use to help learn the software and build a better website or blog.

Examples:

WordPress.org: <http://www.wordpress.org>
WordPress.com <http://www.wordpress.com>
American Libraries Dispatches from the Field: WordPress as a Library CMS:
<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/columns/dispatches-field/wordpress-library-cms>
Battle of the CMSs: WordPress plugins and tools for libraries:
<http://mmitblog.wordpress.com/2011/11/15/wordpress-plugins-and-tools-for-libraries/>
Libraries Using WordPress – Examples: <http://lib20.pbworks.com/w/page/59677899/WordPress-Libraries-examples>
Library Technology Reports: Using WordPress as a Library Content Management System:
<http://www.alatechsource.org/taxonomy/term/106/using-wordpress-as-a-library-content-management-system>
Slideshow: Building a Library Website With WordPress: <http://www.slideshare.net/nengard/building-a-library-website-with-WordPress>
Using WordPress to Build Library Websites eCourse: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3618>
WordPress and Librarians Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/214139591937761/>
WordPress for Libraries Wiki: <http://wp4lib.bluwiki.com/>
WordPress for Libraries: Create Great Library Websites with WordPress CMS (Content Management System): <http://lib20.pbworks.com/w/page/16753907/classes-WordPress-websites>
WordPress for Libraries: Create Great Library Websites with WordPress CMS (Content Management System): <http://lib20.pbworks.com/w/page/16753907/classes-wordpress-websites>
WordPress for Library Websites Webinar:
http://gla.georgialibraries.org/mediawiki/index.php/Carterette_Series_Webinars_Archive
WordPress Plugins and Tools for Libraries: <http://mmitblog.WordPress.com/2011/11/15/WordPress-plugins-and-tools-for-libraries/>
WordPress for Libraries PreConference Workshop: <http://www.slideshare.net/pollyalida/wordpress-preconference-workshop>

Questions? Comments?

jdelooper@hccc.edu (201)-360-4723