Technical Considerations of OJS

Open Journal Systems (OJS) Forum
University of Edinburgh, Main Library
Wednesday, 31st July 2013

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Why Choose OJS?

• Large worldwide user base, over 14,700 OJS titles (October 2012)

• Open Source
  – https://github.com/pkp/ojs

• Actively being developed
  – OJS 2.4.2 available March 4, 2013

• Lots of support and documentation

• Easy to install

• Customisable without modifying code
Environment

LAMP set-up

- Linux operating system
- Apache web server
- MySQL database server
- PHP language
- Similar to other Wordpress and Drupal
- Shared environment
System Requirements

- PHP >= 4.2.x, including 5.x
  - 5.3.3
- MySQL >= 3.23.23, including 4.x
  - 5.1.67
- Apache >= 1.3.2x or >= 2.0.4x
  - 2.2.15
- Any OS that supports the above software
  - Red Hat Linux
Shared OJS or Separate OJS

- **Shared**
  - Easier upgrades
  - Less overhead
  - Central homepage
  - One or multiple URLs

- **Separate**
  - Code Changes
  - Spread load
University of Edinburgh Journal Hosting Service

Edinburgh University Library uses OJS (Open Journal Systems) to provide a platform for academic staff and student groups to publish Open Access journals.

If you are interested in setting up a journal or would like more information about the service please email onlinejournals@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk.

Concept

The Journal of Contemporary Community Education Practice Theory. The Concept Journal offers a lively independent forum for critical debate and exchange of ideas in contemporary Community Education. Community Education is seen in the broadest sense to include community work, adult education and youth work and takes place in a range of settings and agencies. We see the concept of community education as dynamic and diverse and do not seek to reflect a fixed view.

Hydra

Hydra: Interdisciplinary Journal of Social Sciences is a student-focused, peer-reviewed academic journal, which strives to highlight the best of current postgraduate student scholarship at the University of Edinburgh. The journal’s title represents its strong commitment to interdisciplinary research, in the belief that interdisciplinary perspectives are essential to the advancement of social sciences.
How to install

• Download from pkp website
  http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs_download

• Install on to your server and unzip

• Create database schema and user

$ mysql –u root -p
mysql> CREATE DATABASE ojs DEFAULT CHARACTER SET utf8;
mysql> GRANT ALL ON ojs.* to pkpuser@localhost IDENTIFIED BY 'password';
mysql> exit;
(Example for database schema called ojs and user pkpuser)
• Create files folder and make writable (outside OJS installation)
• Change permissions on two folders and one file: Public, Cache, config.inc.php file
• Follow instructions on screen

Pre-Installation Steps
1. The following files and directories (and their contents) must be made writable:
   • config.inc.php is writable (optional): NO
   • public/ is writable: Yes
   • cache/ is writable: Yes
   • cache/t_cache/ is writable: NO
   • cache/t_compile/ is writable: Yes
   • cache/_db is writable: Yes
Issues when installing

- Permissions
  - Directories
- Permissions
  - File Store
- Permissions
  - Config file
- Permissions
  - Database
Recommended Configuration

- Completed through the installation
- Turn on Captcha
  
  ```
  captcha = on
  ```
- Increase Apache upload file size in etc/php.ini
  
  ```
  post_max_size = 120M
  upload_max_size = 100M
  ```
• Date settings – change to be UK

Short and long date formats

\[
\text{date\_format\_trunc} = \"%b %d\"
\]

\[
\text{date\_format\_short} = \"%d-%b-%Y\"
\]

\[
\text{date\_format\_long} = \"%B %e, %Y\"
\]

\[
\text{datetime\_format\_short} = \"%d-%b-%Y %I:%M %p\"
\]

\[
\text{datetime\_format\_long} = \"%B %e, %Y - %I:%M %p\"
\]

\[
\text{time\_format} = \"%I:%M %p\"
\]

(Change in config.inc.php)
Test Environment

- Restricted Access
- Manual migration
- Play Area
  - Configuration
  - CSS
  - URL
  - Upgrades
  - New Journals
  - Plugins
  - Administrative settings
URLs

- Can use one or multiple URLs within one OJS installation
- Apache rewrites
- Friendly Unix Administrator or permission to change Apache
- Set-up in configuration config.inc.php
- A journal may have an existing URL
Customisation

• Through Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
• Change colours
• Change fonts
• Change spacing
• Change borders
• Change the look of the journal
• Onsite JISC Netskills Training
Other Customisations

- Favicon
- Header banner
- Journal Logo
- Added in Journal Manager > setup > step 5

5. **The Look**

   Homepage header, content, journal header, footer, navigation bar, and style sheet.
Vol 4, No 2 (2013)
Concept Journal Summer 2013

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- Taria de St Croix
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- Liam Kane
- Credit Where Credit is Due in Non-Credit Adult Education
- Mike Newman
- Community Education in Policy: Learning to Value Ambivalence
- Jo Northedge
- Community Work Today: Competing Demands In Practice
- Mao Shaw

Inspirations
- Mad, Glad and Dangerous to Know
- Jo McFarlane
The South Asianist is an open access, interdisciplinary journal intended to spur critical debate on social, environmental, linguistic, religious, political and economic issues in South Asia. At its core is the need to open research on and in South Asia to as wide an audience as possible. With this in mind, peer-reviewed articles and reviews will be complimented by a variety of experimental formats including exploratory essays we call 'tea-stallers', as well as a section dedicated to video vignettes. Finally, the South Asianist Blog has been created to follow more week-to-week activities of fieldwork and is run by a dedicated Blog Editor and a team of regular contributors.
# Vol 1, No 1 (2013)

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- **In a State of Exception: National and International Perceptions of Piracy in Somalia**
  - Toke Andreas Wolff
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  - Peter Michael Yatos

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Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

- Added to user interface in latest version OJS 2.4.2
- Code change to improve the display
- Existing plugin to generate DOIs for submission to CrossRef
- Requires CrossRef account
  [http://www.crossref.org/](http://www.crossref.org/)
Technical Support

- Time to support
- Low maintenance
- Nightly Backups
- Support time depends on the number of installations and configuration
- Server set-up impacts support requirements
Upgrades

• PKP upgrade instructions
  http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/UPGRADE

• Code changes
  – need to be re-implemented
  – unless accepted into PKP code-base

• Easy upgrades with no code changes

• Backup public and files directories and database

• Quicker with fewer installations
Thanks

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