Extreme Library Website Makeover

Drupal Edition

Winsted Public Library is in a town of 2100 in rural Minnesota. Its website is very lacking and has very little information. In the fall of 2008, three MLIS students with no prior Drupal experience got a fresh install and one month to create a new site. In that month, they turned the library website from this...

Presented by:

. Chris Oien

. Kay Jacobson

. Lisa Ebert

Into this!

How We Did It.......

Group projects, previously the bane of many a class, was this time a truly fun experience - all thanks to social software. Reading over the comments section of our group wiki we saw that we had posted 99 times. If we had to meet in person to get done what we did, this project would not be done. Being able to look at the wiki and see what needed doing and who needed answers, at any time of day, was a very liberating experience.

It was liberating for a number of reasons. 1. We had a group member who lives outside the Twin Cities metro area, so not having to meet in person was a huge bonus. 2. We could work on our website at any time of day and post to our wiki (I think the average post time was after midnight.) 3. We were able to vent and celebrate in a closed social environment. 4. We were able to try out ideas and sound them off each other quickly.

twitter

#LIS768 I was KNOCKED OUT by what a group of three did w Drupal at St Kate's in just a month! They developed an entire prototype lib site!

mstephens7
Michael Stephens

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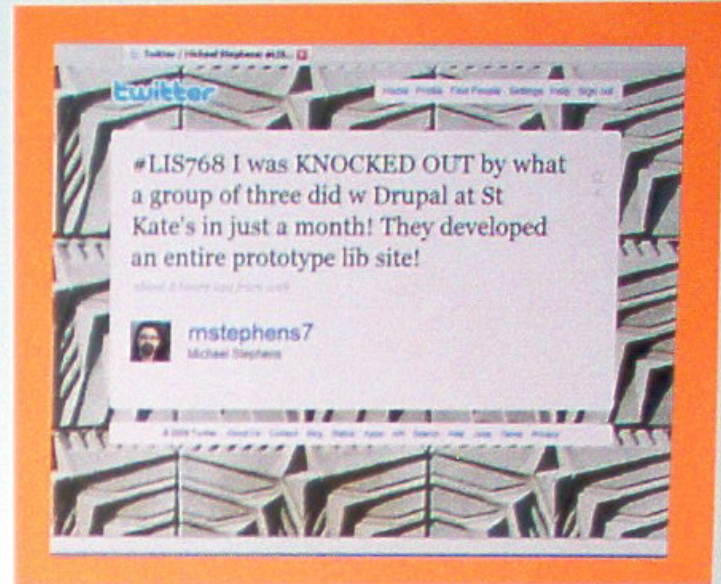
lisa **Said at** 2:07 am on Oct 14, 2008
O-Tay. I just finished building the "About the Library" page...complete with lots of links. Why, yes, I DID use my mad HTML skills (skillz???) to do the links! Glad you noticed. I'd have added a picture, but then I realized that in order to actually be seen by anyone but me, it has to be uploaded to whatever server we're using to build the site. But, if we can figure that out, then we can sure do that-it would be cool.

The MeeboMe thing is more confusing than I thought. Our MeeboMe log in is:

chrisoien@... **Said** at 4:54 pm on Oct 14, 2008
Ok so we have the Meebo code now but it won't work. I tried to put in Google Talk instead but that didn't work either. Can't quite figure out why that would be, both Meebo and the Colbert video look like they're using similar embed instructions, but one works and one does not! I will e-mail Kyle about that.

lisa **said** at 9:29 pm on Oct 14, 2008

Winsted_Library and the password is *****. So, then, I figured out that what is available for Drupal widgets isn't what we need (like I'm sure you also did), so I searched for some help and ended up here:
http://drupal.org/node/78987

Hmmm. The images are uploaded to the library's Flickr account...would that work? I don't have a Tame the Web blog, so I can't do it from there. I do, however, have a Blogger blog, and I think I do have a picture of the library on it (somewhere). Maybe I'll give it a shot and see what happens.

I didn't even think about Google Talk-duh. There's got to be a way to get that code in. For my blog, there's an all-purpose widget app that lets me just paste in the code, and then off it goes. Why isn't there one for Drupal?!?!?

Kay Jacobson said at 11:21 am on Oct 25, 2008
I got the calendar in. I would still like to figure out how to embed the smaller calendar like Franklin Park did, but that can wait til later. I'm going to work on the drop down menu. I will look at the Montevideo site and the Pioneerland website. If I have no hair the next time you see me, you will know that I pulled it all out. Hopefully it won't come to that.

chrisoien@... Said at 10:47 pm on Oct 26, 2008
There's a tick box under Publishing Options for whether a story gets promoted to the main page or not. I just set it so the default is not to go to the main page.

Lisa, you want visitors to the site to be able to add book reviews about whatever book they happen to be reading now that strikes their fancy? If so, I agree with Kay's way of doing it, commenting is the only way the general public should be able to add things to the site.

chrisoien@... Said at 1:34 am on Oct 26, 2008
So, would anyone like to know how I figure things out? By complaining about them. Problem solved. The link had to be manually cleared from the menu. Quirky, Drupal, very quirky! Thank God for Google. Though it took me quite a while to figure out the exact right terminology needed to bring my solution up. Sorry to spam your inbox; now I'm going to bed.

In other news: YAY I finally figured out how people who aren't logged in can have a name other than "anonymous".

lisa said at 1:47 am on Oct 26, 2008
LOL @ Chris-
I figured this all out by just clicking around..."What does this do if I click this? Whoops. Better un-do before Chris sees this..." :D
No kidding about Google though. Thing is, half the time I don't even know what to ask it to get the right answer. "So, hey, I'm having this problem figuring out how the heck to get that secondary page to show up where I want it to...who about an answer?"
I wondered what was up with the calendar. I was hoping it wasn't something that *I* did. Then I realized that I'd just logged out...but then I wondered why I wasn't seeing it anyhow. Makes sense now-I thought you were doing something because of the "Testing testing" page, but couldn't figure out a way to 'talk' to

chrisoien@... Said at 9:36 pm on Oct 27, 2008
So, umm, you guys? Drupal is awesome, and I should not run my mouth about what can and cannot be done before exploring.

Guess what! Users can create their own blogs! They just need to have accounts. So now when anyone is signed in (admin or not) they'll get options in the top left to see their blogs (which I'm calling their book reviews), and I enabled a block that displays recent blog posts (again, labeled book reviews). Check it out, it's total sweetness. This IS a social library website.

What Can You Do From The Front Page?

Search the Catalog

Search the library's holdings for books, eBooks, digital records, images, periodicals, and more.
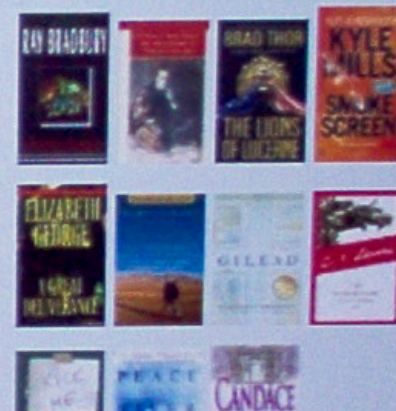
View Entire Collection

Keyword

Submit

Advanced Search

Library Hours

- Monday 2-7 pm
- Tuesday 10 am-1 pm
- Wednesday 2-7 pm
- Thursday 10 am-1 pm
- Friday 2-5 pm
- Saturday 10 am-12 pm

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IM the Library

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- The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money

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