

The use of WordPress Plugins on library websites: a case study

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Introduction

WordPress (<https://wordpress.org>) is a feature-rich and popular Contents Management System,

Useful to build **website**, **portal**, **blog** and **e-commerce** platform,

Free Software and large community of developers,

Easy deployment and customisation,

User friendly control centre.

Problem statement

Mahatma Gandhi University Library has been using WordPress for last few years (<http://library.mgu.ac.in>).

Updating tables in web pages takes time and lead to errors,

Staff directory and e-resources list need constant updates,

Changing content on directory and lists using HTML and CSS need more skill sets.

WordPress Plugins

WordPress plugins are apps that allow adding new features and functionality to the WordPress website,

The Plugins can integrate and run on the WordPress software engine,

Plugins for various purposes available in the WordPress Plugins directory.



Browse: Blocks


Plugins that offer blocks for the block-based editor.



Yoast SEO

★★★★★ (26,412)

Improve your WordPress SEO: Write better content and have a fully optimized WordPress site using...

 Team Yoast

 5+ million active installations  Tested with 5.1.1



Jetpack by WordPress.com

★★★★☆ (1,382)




The ideal plugin for stats, related posts, search engine optimization, social sharing, protection, backups, security,...

 Automattic

 5+ million active installations  Tested with 5.1.1

WordPress Plugins control centre

- Dashboard
- Posts
- Media
- Pages
- Comments 1
- Simple Link Directory
- Teams
- Appearance
- Plugins 3** 1
- Installed Plugins
- Add New
- Editor
- Users
- Tools

<input type="checkbox"/>	Deactivate	Version 1.2.1 By Nagdy View details
<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;"> There is a new version of Salt Shaker available. View version 1.2.2 details or update now.</div>		
2	Simple Link Directory - Lite	Directory WordPress plugin to curate topic based link collections. Curate gorgeous Link Directory, Local Business Directory, Partners or Vendors Directory
	Deactivate Upgrade to Pro	Version 6.9.0 By QuantumCloud View details Upgrade to Pro
<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;"> There is a new version of Simple Link Directory - Lite available. View version 7.3.0 details or update now.</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TablePress	Embed beautiful and feature-rich tables into your posts and pages, without having to write code.
	Activate Deleting...	Version 1.9.1 By Tobias Bätthge View details
<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;"> There is a new version of TablePress available. View version 1.9.2 details or update now.</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Team Members	A responsive, simple and clean way to display your team. Create new members, add their positions, bios, social links and copy-paste the shortcode into any post/page. Find help and information on our support site . This free version is NOT limited and does not contain any ad. Check out the PRO version for more great features.
	Deactivate	Version 4.1.2 By WP Darko View details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plugin	Description

Bulk Actions Apply

6 items

Plugin for the staff directory

Assistant Librarian



Sreekumar V.

Head, Technical Section



Anil Kumar A.T.

Electronic Theses and
Dissertation



Anirudhan S.

Head, Circulation Section



Magesh Rajan



Raju Varghese



Sebastian Joseph

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Staff directory control centre

The screenshot displays the 'Staff directory control centre' interface for Mahatma Gandhi University Library. The top navigation bar includes the library name, a refresh icon, and notification counts (10, 1). A left sidebar menu lists various administrative options: Dashboard, Posts, Media, Pages, Comments (1), Simple Link Directory, Teams (selected), All Teams, Add New, Appearance, Plugins (3), Users, Tools, Settings, and Collapse menu.

The main content area is titled 'Member details' and contains the following sections:

- Member details:** Includes input fields for 'First name' (Anirudhan S.), 'Lastname' (e.g. Doe), and 'Job/role' (e.g. Project manager).
- Description/biography [?]:** A text area containing 'Head, Circulation Section' and an 'Edit biography' button.
- Social links [?]:** A table for adding social media links.
- Photo:** A section for uploading a member's photo, featuring an 'Upload photo' button and a small profile picture of a man.

Link type	Title attribute [?]	Link URL
-	e.g. Faceook page	e.g. http://fb.com/member-profile
-	e.g. Twitter page	e.g. http://tw.com/member-profile
-	e.g. Google+ page	e.g. http://gp.com/member-profile

✓ Links with the email type open your visitors' mail client. [?]

Plugins for the staff directory

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E-resources list control centre

The screenshot shows a web application interface for managing e-resources. The top navigation bar includes the site name 'MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY', user information 'Howdy, mgul', and navigation links for 'New' and 'View List Item'. A left sidebar contains menu items: Dashboard, Posts, Media, Pages, Comments (1), Simple Link Directory, Manage List Items, New List, List Categories, Import, Support, Settings, Help, Upgrade to Pro, Teams, and Appearance. The main content area is titled 'Databases' and 'List Elements'. It features a 'Create List Elements' form with a 'Remove' button. The form has three columns: 'Item Title' (with a placeholder 'Title of the list item'), 'Item Link' (with a placeholder 'With http://, Example: http://www.google.com'), and 'Upvote Count' (with a placeholder 'Total upvote for this element'). Below these are checkboxes for 'No Follow', 'Open Link in a New Tab' (checked), and 'Mark Item as Featured'. There is also a 'List Image' section with a placeholder 'Preferred Size: 100X100px' and an 'Add Image' button, and an 'Item Subtitle' field containing 'Collection wise'. On the right, a 'Publish' panel shows 'Status: Published', 'Visibility: Public', and 'Published on: Feb 15, 2019 @ 09:11'. It includes buttons for 'Preview Changes', 'Move to Trash', and 'Update'. Below that is a 'List Categories' panel with tabs for 'All List Categories' and 'Most Used', a list of categories including 'e-journals' and 'Databases', and a '+ Add New List Category' link.

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY 10 1 + New View List Item Howdy, mgul

Databases

List Elements

Create List Elements

Please add your list items here.

[x Remove](#)

Item Title	Item Link	Upvote Count
<i>Title of the list item</i>	<i>With http://, Example: http://www.google.com</i>	<i>Total upvote for this element</i>
<input type="text" value="E-ShodhSindhu"/>	<input type="text" value="https://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ess/collection_wis"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>

List Image No Follow Open Link in a New Tab Mark Item as Featured

Preferred Size: 100X100px

Item Subtitle

Publish

[Preview Changes](#)

🔑 Status: **Published** [Edit](#)

👁️ Visibility: **Public** [Edit](#)

📅 Published on: **Feb 15, 2019 @ 09:11** [Edit](#)

[Move to Trash](#) [Update](#)

List Categories

[All List Categories](#) [Most Used](#)

- e-journals
- Databases

[+ Add New List Category](#)

E-resource list control centre...

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY 10 1 + New View Posts Howdy, mgul

Manage List Items [New List](#)

All (7) | [Published \(7\)](#) Search List Item

Bulk Actions All dates [Upgrade to Pro](#) 7 items

<input type="checkbox"/> Title	Number of Elements	Shortcode	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Access resources	2	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="229"]	Published 7 hours ago
<input type="checkbox"/> Courseware	2	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="227"]	Published 7 hours ago
<input type="checkbox"/> Reference sources	6	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="135"]	Published 2019/02/15
<input type="checkbox"/> e-books	5	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="132"]	Published 2019/02/15
<input type="checkbox"/> e-journals	6	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="130"]	Published 2019/02/15
<input type="checkbox"/> Databases	5	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="116"]	Published 2019/02/15
<input type="checkbox"/> Helpful links	2	[qcopd-directory mode="one" list_id="106"]	Published

Dashboard
Posts
Media
Pages
Comments 1
Simple Link Directory
Manage List Items
New List
List Categories
Import
Support
Settings
Help
Upgrade to Pro
Teams

Advantages of WordPress Plugins

- ❖ Easy to install and manage.
- ❖ Availability of simple graphical interface to update the content.
- ❖ The user can choose from a large number of plugins for similar purposes.
- ❖ Easy to place and display the content using plugins to anywhere on the website.
- ❖ Paid support also available for premium service.
- ❖ Search engine friendly.
- ❖ Compatible with any devices like mobile phone and computers.

Conclusion

- ❖ Plugins give more control over the content on the library website for website managers.
- ❖ Save the time of the library staff and help to publish error-free information on the website.
- ❖ '**Team Members**' and '**Simple Link Directory**' Plugins are very popular with good community support.
- ❖ Both plugins are subject to constant changes based on users feedback.

Thanks

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