

A Staff Guide to... Plan your WordPress site with paper

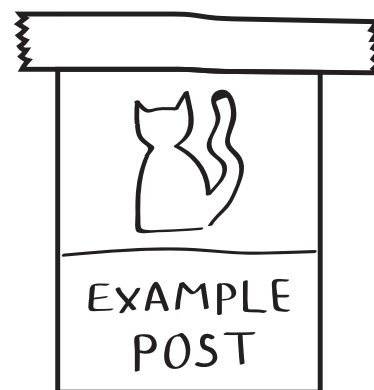
Overview

'Design Your Own Domain: Plan your WordPress site with paper' has been designed by the Disruptive Media Learning Lab (DMLL) to support staff and students to plan the structure of their websites as part of the CU Domain of One's Own initiative. The tool provides a printable, offline means of introducing students and staff to the different elements and potentials of building a website, without needing any prior knowledge of web design or content management systems. The tool can be used in a classroom environment or be disseminated as a resource for self-guided practice.

For those who have not had experience of creating a website or blog before, creating a domain from the ground up can seem like an intimidating thing to do. This paper-based toolkit includes bite-sized, user-friendly information for those with limited web literacy, and takes a hands-on approach to guide learners through the initial steps of designing a website with WordPress. The tool prompts learners to consider elements such as: the purpose of their domain, the expected audience of their resulting site, what content to include, and how to structure their site.

Content

1. A cut-and-stick "design your own domain" activity
2. A glossary of basic terms and elements of a WordPress site
3. An introduction to WordPress as a content management system
4. An introduction to WordPress themes and how to choose the right one
5. An explanation of the difference between "pages" and "posts"
6. An explanation of the difference between "tags" and "categories"



Value added

Staff:	Students:
> Printable, offline and easy to deliver	> Develops web literacy
> Suitable for learners with any level of web literacy	> Develops creative thinking
> Suitable for both classroom-based learning and self-guided practice	> Friendly introduction to WordPress as a content management system
> Hands-on, user-friendly engagement with web design	> Builds confidence to develop and interact with online spaces

Deliver

Use this paper-based activity to introduce learners to the different elements and potentials of building their own website. This tool has been designed to be suitable for both classroom-based learning and to be used in self-guided practice.

In a classroom-based workshop...

Deliver this activity alongside guidance on how learners can setup their own domain and information on different means and strategies for building an online presence. Provide printed copies of the tool, scissors and table space so that workshop participants can engage with the hands-on activity.

As a group, look at existing websites relevant to the cohort's discipline area as a springboard to discuss what presentation formats, site structures, and visual styles are appropriate for prospective site audiences. Encourage learners to suggest websites of interest and facilitate group discussion around appropriate content and design. This can be done through learners researching during the session or prefacing and advertising the workshop as a show-and-tell session where learners need to bring examples of relevant websites to share with peers to take part in the activity. If research needs to take place during the workshop, make sure participants have access to an internet connection and necessary equipment, such as: smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers, display screen or digital projector.

For self-guided practice...

Offer this tool as a resource paired with technical support and guides on how to set up their own domain and information on different means and strategies for building an online presence. Clearly signpost contact information on how to receive additional support and offer remote feedback as necessary.