



HIST 5237 Issues and Methods in Public History
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Introduction to Wordpress

Components of a successful WordPress site

- Attention to user needs & expectations
- Responsive design (something that will draw in the audience)
- Theme/format compatible with mobile phones
- User friendly navigation
- Categories or tags (if you are writing posts)

Questions to consider when planning a website or Wordpress site

- What is the purpose of this site?
- What are the essential components I need to get this point across?
- How can I make my site easy to use?
- Who is my audience?
- Which widgets or plugins could I use to make my site more effective?

Wireframing

This is a great way to plan out a website before you jump into making pages and posts.

- MockFlow: <https://www.mockflow.com/>
- Wireframe CC: <https://wireframe.cc/>

Examples of Good Wordpress Sites

- <http://ecda.northeastern.edu/>
- <http://moyabailey.com/>
- <https://bostonresearchcenter.org/> *
- <https://marathon.library.northeastern.edu/> *

*Uses CERES plug-in managed by the DSG (Digital Scholarship Group)

Wordpress Tutorial Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itvFwhzdvlv>



Using WordPress:

1. Go to <http://wordpress.com/> and click “Get Started” in the upper right hand corner
2. Fill out the “Create a Site” information
 - a. Keep in mind the purpose of the website in entering this information
3. Your dashboard
 - a. Where you can add new posts and pages and customize your site
4. Choose a Theme
 - a. In the left-hand column of your dashboard, scroll to “Design” and then click the “Themes” button
5. Add Posts and Pages
 - a. Go to your dashboard and click “Site” then either click “Pages” or “Posts” (depending on what you want to add)
 - b. Click the “Add new” button on the top right hand corner of either the “Pages” or “Posts” page
 - c. Both will provide options to style your content (font size, colors, images, etc.)
6. Customize your site
 - a. The “Customize” menu is a bar on the left-hand side that shows global changes you can make on your site
 - i. To get to the Customizer click “Design” on the left-hand column of your dashboard and click “Customize”
 - b. Site Menu
 - i. In the “Customize” menu, go to “Menus,” which will allow you to add pages, posts, and other content to the top menu bar
 - ii. You can create dropdown menus by sliding one page under another
 - c. Header
 - i. You can change your header by clicking “Site Identity” under the “Customize” menu
7. Widgets
 - a. Small applications and components that appear on your site in specific areas
 - i. For example, a “Footer” widget will appear at the bottom of your website across different pages
 - b. Think about where and how you want your information to be presented
8. Plugins
 - a. Like widgets, plugins are another way to customize your site
 - b. You can Google or use the plugin search box to find plugins suitable to your needs
 - c. Do not overload your site with plugins!