Onni is a digital repository for social innovation projects that combines features found in collaborative platforms, such as GitHub and Open Ideo, with the social features found in other sites such as Slack, and numerous other social media platforms. By allowing innovators to collaborate on similar projects, create new ideas, and discuss with their peers, Onni aims to create a community of collaboration and social innovation.

Onni’s core structure lies in the concept of projects. Projects are social innovation initiatives, and can include extensive written documentation, images, and other file uploads. These projects are organized by user-created tags as well as pre-defined categories, allowing other users to easily search and find the type of projects they’re looking for. Projects may also have child projects: essentially another user’s implementation of the same concept, similar to a fork of a GitHub repository. These are linked to their parent project, but have all the properties of another project.

Onni seeks to meet the needs of four distinct user groups: creators, collaborators, guests, and administrators. The abilities and permissions of each user group are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| User group | Search | Download | Create child project | Upload + organize files | Add comments | Create parent project | Manage users and projects | View reports |
| Guest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Collaborator |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creator |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Administrator |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Onni’s organization system, composed of a hybrid of tags and categories, allows users to narrow their search to find exactly what they’re looking for, and combined with a significant amount of other metadata, allows administrators to view detailed reports of Onni’s usage. A relational database backend allows administrators to have complete control over users and projects, and a minified data structure allows faster page loading, so users can access what’s important to them.