



General considerations before setting up a research website

Aims

- *Purpose*: why do you need a website? Is it a standard WordPress website or a bespoke application?
- *Audience*: Who are you trying to reach?
- *Budget*: do you have one?
- *Longevity*: How long will the website be maintained and how will it be archived when it's no longer required?
- *Content strategy* (eg: *map, community, multilingual*): what content will you display (text, images, moving image)?

Develop

- *Web tool*: Web hosting / Point & Click website builder / Free service.
- *Domain name*: Do you need a unique own domain name?
- *Interface design* (*minimal, template, bespoke*): See budget.
- *Including 3rd party apps*: does your choice of web tool work with specialised external apps?
- *Technical skills*: do you need to find someone with specific technical skills to build/customise your website?

Manage

- *Content (creation & authoring)*: who will create and upload the content to your website? Are there licence fees?
- *Maintenance*: who will maintain the website? Will there be community comments that need to be moderated?
- *Back-up / Archiving*: how will you preserve the website and its content when it's no longer needed?

MelbUni supported options

TOOL	DESCRIPTION	CONSIDERATIONS	EXAMPLES
Blogs (Wordpress)	<p>WordPress is a very popular open-source web publishing software for creating websites or blogs. It is very customisable with a flexible template system, referred as Themes.</p> <p>https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to create content • University supported • Free • UniMelb domain name • UniMelb templates • Limited customisation • Access 	<p>https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/archives/</p> <p>https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/librarycollections/</p>
Omeka	<p>Omeka is a free, open-source content management system for creating online digital collections. It has a number of extra features that support mapping tools, extended metadata fields, etc.</p> <p>https://gateway.research.unimelb.edu.au/resources/platforms-infrastructure-and-equipment/research-computing-services/services/data-storage-management/omeka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular with GLAM, digital collections • University supported • Free • UniMelb domain name • Limited customisation • Access 	<p>Execution Ballads</p> <p>Melbourne Directories · Melbourne Directories · Melbourne History Resources</p> <p>Browse Exhibits · Grainger Museum Online</p> <p>Americanisation</p>

	https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/23researchthings/2017/10/04/draft-thing-11-omeka/		
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External options

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CONSIDERATIONS	EXAMPLES
Open-source	WordPress.com: Create a Free Website or Blog Omeka.net	Free account has limited functionality so you can't access all the bells & whistles unless you pay for a hosted account.	Out and Proud Project – Out and Proud Melbourne
Website builders (Software as a service)	Point & Click website builders	Professional looking design-focused websites that don't require coding experience. (see pcmag.com review of best website builders for 2020)	Active Schools Darren Booth Lift[ED]
Social/Tech platforms	Facebook (FB) Google Sites / Blogger (GS)	(FB) Easy to create, but users must have an account, can't modify structure/layout, ads, etc, etc. (GS) Sits on Google's domain: <i>sites.google.com/view/yoursite</i>	The Research Project - Home

Commercial hosting	Supported WordPress accounts; hosted server space with dashboard of pre-installed tools & domain name.	Range of paid plans (\$ month / annual). Technical support available for hosted space, but on your own to install & configure apps.	See options below
Free services	Netlify works by connecting to your GitHub repository to pull your source code. Free and Unlimited Web Hosting with PHP and MySQL	Netlify builds and deploys websites directly from Github repositories. No databases to set up or servers to configure.	https://digiarch.netlify.app

Commercial hosting

Companies offer a range of web building and hosting services that can range from a standard Wordpress site, to DIY website builders, and server space to host specialised interactive applications such as interactive maps and data visualisations.

Web hosting & Wordpress websites

- [Melbourne IT: #1 Domain Registration & Digital Agency](#)
- [Create Your Own Website for FREE with GoDaddy](#)
- [Crazy Domains AU](#)
- [DreamHost | Web Hosting](#)
- [Shared Hosting – Reclaim Hosting](#)

Point & Click website builders

- [Bubble](#)
- [Squarespace](#)
- [uncoded](#)
- [WIX](#)
- [Webflow](#)
- [Weebly](#)

(Advanced) Cloud hosting environments

- [Melbourne Research Cloud \(UnMelb\)](#)
- [Nectar Research Cloud](#)
- [Amazon Web Services \(AWS\) - Cloud Computing Services](#)
- [DigitalOcean – The developer cloud](#)
- [Reclaim Cloud](#)