

Joni Halabi

Web Creator, Author, and Speaker

Summary

As a website creator and self-appointed “middle-end” developer, I enjoy creating accessible web-based narratives, developing custom code to support my storytelling, and making up my own titles. I specialize in WordPress editor customizations, content architecture, digital accessibility, and public speaking..

Contact

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Skills

- WordPress
- Technical and narrative writing
- Digital accessibility
- Public speaking and teaching
- HTML / CSS / SCSS
- Gutenberg API
- JavaScript
- PHP 8
- Twig / Timber
- Markdown
- Eleventy
- Jekyll
- SVG
- Photoshop
- Git / Github

Current Work

Georgetown University

Senior Web Manager – Office of the President, 2024 - present

- Build, grow, and maintain websites for the President’s Office, including the President’s website and other university sites for special initiatives.
- Designed and published a website to commemorate the work of our previous university president.
- Research and write engaging content to promote key university initiatives.
- Maintain an archive of videos, photos, stories, and other communications.

Senior Web Developer – University Information Services, 2016 - 2024

- Developed a common WordPress framework, used by over 400 departments, schools, and offices across the university.

- Built custom WordPress post editor blocks rendered via a central KSS-based pattern library using the Gutenberg API, PHP, and Twig.
- Authored technical documentation of custom blocks and their integration with an external pattern library.
- Architected a series of PHP-based migration scripts to convert blocks written with the Advanced Custom Fields plugin to custom Gutenberg blocks.
- Converted university site themes from Drupal into WordPress.
- Led the university's accessibility development efforts, resulting in our sites achieving and maintaining WCAG 2.2 AA compliance.

WP Accessibility Day

Translation Team Lead, 2024 - present

- Working with an all-volunteer team to develop a maintainable and cost-effective plan to translate both past and current WordPress Accessibility Day conference videos into a variety of spoken languages.

Previous Experience

2015

Lead Web Developer @ Atlantic Media Strategies

- Led and grew the web development team by establishing project workflows.
- Created an internal development resource library, containing base themes and reusable custom libraries and WP plugins.
- Led the development of a redesigned, responsive WordPress website for The Chicago Community Trust, which won the 2015 OMMA award for website excellence.

2009 - 2014

Senior User Experience Developer @ Optaros

- Worked with creative and back-end teams to develop user-focused client e-commerce sites for a variety of enterprise companies, including Macy's, Stella & Dot, and AAA.

Degrees and Awards

- **Georgetown University President's Excellence Award**, 2017
- **Master of Fine Arts, Electronic Arts @ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**
- **Bachelor of Science, Electronic Media & Computer Science @ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

Speaking & Teaching Engagements

I love to share my work in web technology, accessibility, and general development practices with audiences big and small. I have been speaking at conferences, meetups, and classrooms since 2015.

- **2025:** Hallway Chats: Episode 178 – A Chat With Joni Halabi – *Guest*
- **2025:** The State of WordPress in Higher Education Research Webinar – *Expert Panelist*
- **2024:** Gutenberg Changelog #110 – *Guest Host*
- **2024:** Gutenberg Changelog #97 – *Guest Host*
- **2023:** Gutenberg Changelog #91 – *Guest Host*
- **2023:** WordPress Accessibility Day – *Speaker*
- **2023:** Gutenberg Times Live Q&A – *Panelist*
- **2023:** WPCampus 2023 – *Speaker*
- **2022:** HighEdWeb 2022 – *Speaker*
- **2022:** Gutenberg Developer Hours – *Panelist*
- **2022:** WordPress Social Learning Meetup – *Panelist*
- **2021:** HighEdWeb 2021 – *Speaker*
- **2021:** WPCampus Online 2021 – *Speaker*
- **2020:** WPCampus Online 2020 – *Speaker*
- **2020:** JavaScript for WordPress Conference – *Speaker*
- **2019:** WPCampus Online 2019 – *Speaker*
- **2017:** edUi – *Speaker*
- **2017:** ConvergeSE – *Speaker*
- **2017:** NoVA Code Camp – *Speaker*
- **2015-2016:** General Assembly – *Instructor, Front-end web development*
- **2015:** Northern Virginia Community College – *Guest Instructor*