



WORDPRESS

Pedagogical Assessment of: WordPress

Website: www.wordpress.com

Usage

As a blogging tool when it was first established WordPress ranges from simple website, to portal and enterprise websites, and even mobile application; many of which include useful educational content.

WordPress combines simplicity for users and publishers with extensive programming options; making it flexible whilst still being easy-to-use. In our opinion and experience it is the ideal tool for online course creation. WordPress is an open source - that means it's free and also has a very large community of developer and contributors working on it.

Below we have listed some of the features of WordPress but we feel it is particularly effective for course creation, primarily because it's responsive which means that it automatically optimised how your course is displayed across different devices such as phones, tablets and laptops.





Usages

The following is a list of some of the features that come as standard with WordPress; however, there are thousands of plugins that extend what WordPress does, so the actual functionality is nearly limitless.

Here are some of the features that are very useful:

-Flexibility: With WordPress, you can create any type of online course be it: a personal blog or website, an online course, a full Learner management system, an online community, even a network of websites. This flexibility makes WordPress a highly useful educational tool as it can be catered to the course/learning requirements.

-User Management: Not everyone requires the same access to your website. Administrators manage the site, editors work with content, authors and contributors write that content, and subscribers have a profile that they can manage. This lets you have a variety of contributors to your course, and let others simply be part of the learning community; contributing to greater collaboration and sharing.

-Easy Theme System WordPress comes bundled with two default themes, but if they aren't for you there's a theme directory with thousands of themes for you to create a beautiful website.

-Extend with Plugins: WordPress comes packed full of features for every user including social networking, forums, calendars, fine-tune controls for search engine optimization, and forms.

-Multilingual: WordPress is available in more than 70 languages.

-Freedom: WordPress is licensed under the GPL which was created to protect your freedoms. You are free to use WordPress in any way you choose: install it, use it, modify it, distribute it.

-Community: As the most popular open source CMS on the web, WordPress has a vibrant and supportive community. Community is at the heart of WordPress, making it what it is today.





Pedagogical Assessment

Due to its ease-of-use, WordPress allows educators and training professionals to quickly create valuable content. The simplicity and the variety of themes available in WordPress provides an opportunity create a visually engaging user-experience, while at the same time providing optimised delivery across all devices. This software caters to different learners, particularly visual and kinesthetic learners. However, the success of WordPress largely depends on the resources made available to students (content including videos, quality of material) and how the website is structured.

Example of how WordPress can be used depending on the nature of learning/aims:

-In order to track student's progress through the course, add an LMS plug-in.

Advantages

- It is an open source and free to use. People create themes and plugins for others to download.
- It has an app for IOS, Android and Windows devices. Also, the website is very responsive.
- WordPress is easy and hassle-free to set up and use.

Disadvantages

- There have been some security concerns so it is important to install updates as they become available.
- Some technical knowledge is required.

Conclusion

If you want to create a visually engaging online course content which optimises across devices, Wordpress is the best tool available.

