

New calendar coming later this year

The majority of the live Website Kits are using a module that is no longer being supported in newer versions, and so later this year we will be moving all libraries to the new calendar system. The new system is not only better supported, but will offer new functionality (and easier repeating events!). Sites being built from March 2012 onwards will already have the new system in place. Look for further information later this year about the transition.



This issue

Spring clean your Website Kit **P.1**

Focus on Germantown PL **P.2**

Make One Thing Better **P.3**

Spring cleaning checklist

Get ready to make your library's website a lot better, by using our handy spring cleaning checklist. By fixing these common problems, you dramatically increase the appeal and usability of your website. Learn more about why each item is problematic by clicking on the associated *Kit & Caboodle* link.

_____ No exclamation points ([Fall 2011](#))

_____ No clip art ([Summer 2009](#))

_____ Images are optimized for faster download times ([Summer 2010](#))

_____ PDFs are labeled ([Winter 2010](#))

_____ All images have alternative tags for screen readers ([Fall 2011](#))

_____ The colors of any banner images don't clash with the site design ([Winter 2011](#))

_____ Headlines are well-written and grab attention ([Fall 2009](#))

_____ No use of all-caps ([Summer 2011](#))

_____ Not literally welcoming visitors to your site ([Fall 2010](#))

_____ Each side block truly represents something that users need right in front and is not a temporary promotion ([Fall 2011](#))

_____ All lists of materials and services are annotated and meaningful ([Summer 2011](#))

_____ Visitors are not told to "click here." ([Fall 2011](#))

Featured Module

Each issue we'll highlight a Drupal module (add-on) that you can add to your existing OPLIN Web Kit.

Sitemap

This module provides a site map that gives visitors an overview of your site. It can also display the RSS feeds for all blogs and categories.

Interested in adding this module to your Website Kit? Contact OPLIN Support at support@oplin.org.

Need help?

You can reach OPLIN Support (and usually Laura, too) via our chat room (<http://support.oplin.org>)

Website Kit Documentation

Get the most recent documentation for your OPLIN Web Kit here.

(<http://www.oplin.org/content/website-kit-documentation>)



Germantown Public Library is a small library, located in southwestern Ohio. When this library approached OPLIN about a Website Kit, it felt strongly that it needed something much more dynamic—their old site was static and dated.

Germantown Public Library had just had a new logo designed—a very crisp and modern logo (and one of the better library logos we've seen, here at OPLIN). We wanted to make sure that the feeling of the logo was carried out throughout their new design. Since the logo was very strong, we matched the color template with complementary colors and design elements that would also reflect the library's new, bolder look.

The library also invested in some additional functionality to help make their site better. They included the LinkChecker

module, to allow for automatic checking for dead links. They also wanted to give their Friends group a separate, yet connected presence. To accommodate this need, we designed an additional template (see below) for those pages that held Friends content.

You can see the Germantown Public Library Website Kit at: <http://germantown.lib.oh.us/>.

FOCUS ON Germantown Public Library

A more dynamic site and a new design helped to give this library a fresh new start on the Web

Did you know?

The LinkChecker module is the most popularly requested add-on for Website Kits.



Germantown "Friends" template



Germantown main template, bottom

MAKE **one thing** BETTER

Re-think your library's staff directory

For many OPLIN Dynamic Website Kits, we've often included a page under "About Us," called "Staff Directory." We feel that it's a critical part of establishing credibility for a library website, and many usability experts would agree.

Listing your staff (at the very least the administrators and department heads) provides not only useful information and increases the credibility of a site, but it gives visitors a more humanized interface. Knowing who the library staff is gives your visitors a feeling of

connectedness to their local library. We encourage your library to go beyond just a listing, and take Jakob Nielsen's advice—provide photos as well. "People photos=good," he says. Visitors want to see the people behind the site and their library.



"It's long been a guideline for presenting a company's image online to include portraits of the executive team so that users associate real people with an otherwise faceless corporation."

—Usability expert Jakob Nielsen

Q&A : Why won't my attachment work?

Q: Why won't my PDF (or other attachment) upload? It just keeps spinning, or I get an error!

A: This is the most common question we get about uploads. In about 99.5% of the cases, this happens because you attempted to upload an attachment that is too large. Individual attachments can only be a **maximum** of 2MB. You can attach multiple items to a piece of content (node), but each one cannot be larger than 2MB.

Remember, users on dial-up (and even many broadband users) won't tolerate large downloads anyway.

Focus on getting your PDFs down to a smaller size, or consider splitting them up into separate attachments.

Got another question? Email laura@oplin.org.

Which libraries have a Web Kit underway?

- Gnadenhutten Public Library
- Ft. Recovery Public Library
- Orrville Public Library
- Kirtland Public Library
- Washington County Public Library
- Milton-Union Public Library
- Findlay-Hancock County Public Library
- Centerburg Public Library
- Grafton-Midview Public Library
- Tiffin-Seneca Public Library
- Rodman Public Library
- Richwood-North Union Public Library
- Jackson City Public Library
- SWON Libraries
- Lima Public Library
- Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library
- Licking County Public Library
- Meigs County Public Library