

LibPress Community Call

Nov 3, 2021

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Agenda

- Staffing
Changes/Introductions
- Unpacking the Survey
- Future Plans

Staffing Changes and Introductions

- Neil Firkins departure
- Introducing the new LibPress Coordinator Christine Wallace
- Introducing other Co-op Staff who Support LibPress
 - Sam Edwards
 - Christine Burns
 - Jennifer Pringle

The Survey

- Reads mostly positive but a few areas seem worth unpacking
 1. Need for continued training offerings
 2. Overall control of the site's design
 3. Development (or perceived lack thereof) of new features

But first some context

- LibPress launched in 2013 as a new (Co-op provided) low-cost home for libraries
- Those original 30 libraries have now become 72
- Current price to libraries averages around \$350, higher or lower depending on a few factors
- This is underwritten by a subsidy from the BC government. Manitoba libraries pay the same amount but without an additional provincial subsidy
- Uses standard template and functionality to keep costs low for these 70+ libraries
- Originally offered in a “train the trainer” model (like Sitka) where training is done at implementation and then libraries expected to retain & pass on training

Improvements since last survey (Feb 2019)

- Menu editing pilot
- Carousel fixes
- Chat client at start of pandemic
- Accommodated multiple external content vendors (i.e. Niche Academy)

Survey Ask #1 – Need for continued training offerings

- As I mentioned as context, all libraries sign an agreement for LibPress that specifies a “train the trainer” model
- However we recognize this doesn’t seem to be working, especially with smaller libraries. So we’re proposing two changes
 - “Continued Education” webinars throughout the year
 - Video “walk throughs” that demonstrate how to do certain tasks to supplement the manual
- We are not positioned to offer ad hoc re-trainings for free though, but will also be exploring as part of a larger re-think at the Co-op whether these can be offered for a fee

Survey Ask #2 – Need for more control over look and feel

1. Theme redevelopment and the “Customizer”
2. Redeveloping how Highlights work on the front page
3. The need for constraints and Standalone Hosting as an option

Survey Ask #3 – More feature development

On the survey you ranked these proposed changes to features:

1. “More control over overall website layout, colours and design”
2. “Better control over highlights” and the “Ability to edit the menu myself,”
3. “Fast way for patrons to see all items the library has on-order” and “Automated Link Checking”

Often requested - ability to paste arbitrary code in our sites (and why we can't just do this)

Additional Development Plans

- Replacing time.ly, the calendar plugin
- Accessible Slideshows
- High Availability for LibPress sites
- More transparent development roadmaps

“Enhanced” LibPress discussion

**What does that actually mean to
you?**

Communications, Service Governance and Mutual Aid Between Libraries

- Why we chose to do a “Community Call” and what other methods work for you
- Is there a need for a formal “business function group” - pros and cons
- Mutual Aid - how can we all act more co-operatively on our websites?
 - Library-to-library discussions
 - Shared content

THANK
YOU

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