Blacksburg to Guatemala Archive Project

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Final Repot

Client: Kimberley Homer; Delegate, Christ Church Blacksburg Sister Parish

CS 4624 (Multimedia, Hypertext, and Information Access)

Professor Edward Fox

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1 Executive Summary

The primary objective of the Blacksburg to Guatemala Archive Project is to create a medium for cultural exchange between Christ Church, Blacksburg, and their sister parish in San Andres Itzapa, Guatemala. This project will create a website and will allow for these two parishes to remain in close contact following the recent visit of a delegation from Christ Church, Blacksburg, to Guatemala in January 2015. We are completing this project as soon as possible in order to minimize the delay between their visit and the establishment of such a cultural exchange. Both parishes will benefit from our project, satisfying a desire to remain in-touch and embrace cultural differences.

We decided to use WordPress to offer the simplest possible solution. WordPress will allow the client to easily maintain stories on the website and will also give readers an easy way to enjoy them. We chose a simple theme and then further perfected it to reduce any complications. We decided to only display aspects that were absolutely necessary to the project. Aside from the stories, categories and search are the only other modules that are visible to the readers. The website also allows users to leave comments on every story so they can interact with the parishes in an easy way.

Another big request from the client's end was to allow for stories written in Spanish. We incorporated WordPress's bilingual tools to support this functionality. Stories can be written in either language and they will be formatted appropriately. A search engine has also been implemented to display results in both English and Spanish.

Overall, the website was a success. The primary focus was usability and the tests we ran proved the website was easy to use. The client was also happy with the results and can see the website being very useful to both parishes.

2 User's Manual

The purpose of this user manual is to show users how they can interact with the website. The manual will walkthrough the features of website. The website can be accessed at: <u>www.blacksburg2guatemala.wordpress.com</u>. The website is responsive so the user should not have a problem with using it on mobile devices. The home page is shown in Figure 1.



Mi Primera Historia Española!	Search	SEARCH	
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, appareat laboramus consequat ad pro, ne duo posse dicta	RECENT POSTS		
malorum. In has dolore essent feugait, ceteros offendit epicurei nec ad. Homero populo vituperatoribus et sit, et duo urbanitas deseruisse quaerendum. Audire facilis	Mi Primera Historia E	Española!	• Follow

Figure 1: The home page of the website

The home page serves to be the central hub on the website giving users a list of stories sorted from the most recent to the oldest. The home page also displays a right sidebar, which contains a search field to search stories. Below the search engine is a list of recent posts on the website. The menu items right below the featured image are categories the stories will be broken down into. Clicking on of these will display stories in the respective category.



Figure 2: Story page

Clicking on a story will show then full content including pictures if any pictures are associated with the story. The image will be clickable to view at full resolution. The client can embed more than one image/video. The menu items will still be at the top of the page. The side bar will also persist for easy navigation to search and recent stories.

Leave a Reply

Enter	your comment here	
Fill in y	your details below or click an icon to log in:	🕥 💟 😭 😣
	Email (required)	(Address never made public)
	Name (required)	
	Website	
- Notifi	v me of now commente via amail	Post Comment

Figure 3: Reply dialog

Every story will also have a commenting section on the bottom of the page. Here the user can leave a reply if they desire. A reply can be anything from a reflection or a way to communicate with the parish. The reply dialog box will require users to enter email and name to prevent spam.

HOME / FOOD / WATER / SCHOOLS / CALENDARS / LANGUAGE / PEACE / D	HISTORY / ABOUT	and the second se
SEARCH RESULTS FOR: FIRST	first SEARCH	
First Story! MARCH 27, 2015 / LEAVE A COMMENT This is your very first post. Click the Edit link to modify or delete it, or start a new post.	RECENT POSTS Mi Primera Historia Española! First Story!	
If you like, use this post to tell readers why you started this blog and what you plan to do with it. Happy blogging!	RECENT COMMENTS ARCHIVES O Follow	

Figure 4: Search result functionality

Figure 4 shows how users can use the search engine. A user can search a story using the search bar on the right side bar. Stories can be searched in both English and Spanish. The user can also search categories. The results will be displayed based on how relevant each article is to the search term.

RECENT POSTS
6 22 min
Mi Primera Historia Española!
First Story!
RECENT COMMENTS
ARCHIVES
March 2015

Figure 5: Water category page

Figure 5 shows what a sample category page looks like. Stories that are tagged to that category will be displayed in each subsection. Users can view a particular category that interests them the most.

3 Developer's Manual

The purpose of this developer manual is to show how the parishes can upload content and generally change the website as they desire. The developer end of the website can be accessed at:

https://wordpress.com/wp-login.php. The login page is shown in Figure 6. The username and password is as follows:

Username: ccblackburg

Password: multimedia

Email or Username	
Password	
✓ Stay signed in Log In	
Register Lost your password? ← Back to WordPress.com	

Figure 6: Login window for parish

🛞 My Site 🖪 Reader					Go Premium	💽 🖪 લ
🚯 Dashboard 🖌					Screen Options 🔻	Help 🔻
Home Comments l've Made	Tighten your account's security: Two-si	ep authentication is now available on WordPres	s.com	. <u>Enable now</u> or <u>learn more</u> ,		×
Site Stats My Blogs Blogs I Follow Akiemat State	Dashboard					
Omnisearch	Tip: Get more readers by upgrading your curre	ent web address, blacksburg2guatemala.wordpr	ess.co	m, to a custom domain name like blacksburg2guatemala.com.		×
📜 Store	A custom domain name makes your site easie Register blacksburg2guatemala.com for only	r for people to find, makes it look more professi \$18 per year.	onal, a	and it lets you personalize your site with its own, unique web add	dress.	
🖈 Posts						
9; Media	At a Glance		A	Quick Draft		A
🖉 Links	A 2 Posts	8 Pages		Title		
Pages	WordPress.com running Hemingway Rewritten	theme.		What's on your mind?		
Comments	Akismet blocks spam from getting to your blog					
🔳 Feedback	There's nothing in your spam queue at the mo	nent.				
🔊 Appearance	3,072 MB Space Allowed	9 3 10.50 MB (0%) Space Used		Save Draft		
👗 Users						
🔑 Tools	Activity		A	Stats		
Settings	Recently Published			25		
Collapse menu	Mar 27th, 8:47 pm Mi Primera Historia	ispañola!		20		
	Mar 27th, 8:28 pm First Story!			15		
			_	10		

Figure 7: Dashboard Page

The successful login in will lead to Figure 7. One must click on "My Site" in the upper left corner. Clicking on that will lead to the dashboard for the



WordPress website, as shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8: WordPress specific site Dashboard

Many tasks can be accomplished from this page. The landing page contains analytic information to see how many views the website is getting. Statistics can also be broken down by each category and page. One can also see what countries are visiting the page on a daily basis.

🛞 My Site	🗊 Reader							2	200	20	200	2	i	20	🤣 💿 🔹
		blacksburg2guatemala blacksburg2guatemala.wordpress.com	Published Draft	s Scheduled	Trashed		Q								
		+ ADD NEW WORDPRESS	Mi Primer	a Historia	Española!										
		View Site	Lorem ipsum d	olor sit amet, aj	ppareat laboramus con	sequat ad pro, n	e duo								
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		ili Stats	() A month ago			• *	③ 7								
		PUBLISH	@ Edit	17 View	di State	fi Tr:	ach								
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		D Pages Add			A. A.	WE MAN									
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		🥑 Themes 🛛			1										
		 Customize 	Leng	114											
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		CONFIGURATION	- Person	CONTRACT OF		and the second									
		🍲 Sharing	First Story	7!											
		👗 Users 🖸	This is your ver	y first post. Clic	ck the Edit link to mod	ify or delete it, o	r start								
		🌣 Settings	a new post. If years and what you p	ou like, use this lan to do with it	s post to tell readers wl t. Happy blogging!	hy you started th	is blog								

Figure 9: Blog post display

Clicking "Blog Posts" in the left side bar will lead you to this page, where one can manage all the posts on the website. A list of recent posts will be shown here. Clicking the pencil icon on the upper right will allow the client to post a new story as seen in Figure 10. From here the story can be added to the website. The story can be given categories and pictures can also be added.

🛞 My Site	📰 Reader			2
				Current Status: New Draft
	blacksburg2guatemala blacksburg2guatemala.wordpress.v	com	Title	
			93 Add Media	Visual HTML
	CHANGE STATUS Publish Immediately		B I ∧≪ ⊟ ⊟ 46 - ≞ ± ∄ Ø ಔ ⊑ ॐ ⊠	
	TAGS & CATEGORIES			
	FEATURED IMAGE			
	-SHARING			
	••• EXCERPT			
	ADVANCED SETTINGS			
			p	Words: 0
			Preview	Save Draft Publish

Figure 10: Creating a new blog post

🛞 My Site	🗊 Reader				😿 💿 🔹
		blacksburg2guatemala blacksburg2guatemala.wordpress.com	Published Drafts Trash	۹	
		+ ADD NEW WORDPRESS	© 7 DAYS AGO		
		🕄 View Site 🖉	History		
		🕔 WP Admin 🧭	Peace		
		ili Stats	Languages		
		PUBLISH	Calendars		
		Blog Posts Add Ad	Schools		
		D Pages Add			
		LOOK AND FEEL	Water		
		🥝 Themes 🖉	Food		
		🔦 Customize	© A MONTH AGO		
		iΞ Menus	About		
		CONFIGURATION	<i>©</i>		
		🌫 Sharing			
		👗 Users 🖉			
		Settings			

Figure 11: Pages display

Clicking "Pages" on the left side bar will display the categories already on the website as seen in Figure 11. New categories can be added from this page as well. Many other tasks can be accomplished using the dashboard, including changing the look and feel of the website and changing commenting settings.

4 Lessons Learned

4.1 Timeline/Schedule

The project was broken down into multiple two week long phases, with deliverables due at the end of each phase. The project was spilt up into 4 two week long phases. Phase 1 was about identifying the tools that would be used on the project and website hosting. A big part of this phase was to investigate how the client will upload content to the website.

Phase 2 was to implement the website design. The design needed to be easy to use and free of extra noise. This means modules not absolutely necessary should be left out. Phase 3 involved publishing the stories and pictures to the website. This phase was heavily client dependent as the stories came from the client. The last phase was to implement a search tool that would search all possible stories and categories.

In general, we kept up with the phases and the two-week deadline for each phase. Phase 3 gave us some trouble, as the client was not ready with the stories. We instead worked on other aspects of the website while the client brought together the stories.

4.2 Problems

The biggest problem faced was theme selection for the WordPress website. The project required a particular theme to appeal to readers. The design had to be easy to use and clean, meaning obtrusive elements should not exist. The theme also needed to be multimedia friendly, as many stories have accompanying pictures/videos.

We found it hard to find a theme that satisfied all the requirements. Many themes did not have a coherent way of showing both pictures and text. The remaining themes were too busy in their design approach and had many unnecessary elements.

Another problem was bilingual support. WordPress automatically corrected Spanish stories as the software thought they were in English. This removed all the accent marks.

4.3 Solutions

To properly solve the theme problem, we had to customize a template. We went through each element of the theme and customized it to the requirements of the project. We cleaned up the way pictures were shown alongside stories. We also got rid of redundant elements on the page. We then added things we needed such as an About Us page.

To solve the language problem, we dug deep into the WordPress developer documentation and found a way to enable Spanish content. This stopped WordPress from automatically correcting the Spanish text.

4.4 Future Work

The deliverables specified in the contract with the client were completed. However, the website needs to have much more content. The parishes can accomplish this at a later date when there are enough stories to share. Following the developer's manual will enable the parish to easily post new pictures and stories.

Furthermore, a translation feature can be added so that stories can be viewed in either language. We explored this feature, but there was no way to keep the full meaning. If there is a way no meaning can be lost in translation, this feature should be added.

5 Acknowledgements

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