Options for Developing a Professional Website

When to use Domains

Domains provides flexibility and customization for Wordpress and other website platforms. Best discoverability may not be free, and if you leave MSU, you need to close the account or pay an annual fee.

- CMS and System Options
  - HTML/CSS, Wordpress, Omeka, Scalar, Drupal, and more
- Domain Name
  - Free domain name at yournetid.msu.domains
  - Option to pay for a specific domain name for ~$12/year (e.g. myname.com or project.myname.org)
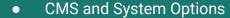- Customization
  - Full control over your site(s) - access to the databases and files
  - No constraints on themes, plugins, etc in WP
- Discoverability
  - Dependant upon domain name purchase and search engine optimization measures on each site
- Portability
  - If you leave MSU, you can take your account with you for ~$30/year
- Storage Space
  - Default server space allocation: 1 gb (across all sites)
  - Individual Wordpress Media Item Size limit: 150 mb

msu.domains

When to use the Commons

The Commons provides an always-free simple Wordpress website setup that connects your site(s) with a wider scholarly community. Discoverability is enhanced through this network and by virtue of an msu.edu domain name option.

- CMS and System Options
  - Wordpress
- Domain Name
  - Free domain name at myname.commons.msu.edu or myproject.hcommons.org
- Customization
  - ~30 Theme options and ~25 plugin options
- Discoverability
  - Connected into a scholarly community across MSU and beyond
  - Domain name connection to msu.edu improves search engine discovery
- Portability
  - If you leave MSU, you can migrate your site(s) to a Commons outside of MSU Commons for free
- Storage Space
  - Site size not restricted
  - Individual Wordpress Media Item Size limit: 24 mb

commons.msu.edu