WORDPRESS REVIEWS FROM MICHLIB-L

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--We have been using WordPress for our library's website since 2012. The hosting is handled through our cooperative (Suburban Library Cooperative). Any other site maintenance, including security, version upgrades, and content are taken care of by staff. We do not use a paid for theme. Instead, we are using a free theme called Suffusion (more here: <http://aquoid.com/news/themes/suffusion/>). The only problem with Suffusion is the developer has not update it in 9 months, so that is a bit of a concern. Overall, we have had few problems. There have been some minor issues, but overall WordPress has been working well for us.

Warren PL

--It works great, I have used Wordpress  for our library site since August 2013. Still playing with some of the colors as time goes on, but the system is very flexible. Charlottelibrary.org Our IT person built our newest website using WordPress.  Before that it had been in Publisher.  What a nightmare that was! I maintain the website.  Everything I have learned with WordPress has been self-taught, after an introductory session with our IT. It's very user friendly.  If there are things I don't understand, I go to Google or WordPress and usually find an answer.  If I can't figure something out, I then defer to our IT person.  I love using WordPress for our website.

Charlotte Community Library

-- We use Wordpress here.  We went live in January and are happy with how it works as a content management system.  We actually don’t make much use of the blog functionality.  Overall it has been easy to manage and customize.  We have installed it locally and manage the site entirely.  We do not use Wordpress.com to host our site, and it is my understanding that there are some differences in whether you host your own vs. having them host for you.  If you have any specific questions I’d be happy to cc the guy here who manages the site for us, just let me know. <http://dearbornlibrary/org>

We love it.  Take a look at [www.dearbornlibrary.org](http://www.dearbornlibrary.org/) There is a learning curve, of course, but we struggled with Joomla for several years and couldn’t make it work. We pay $99.00 per year for the Premium Wordpress subscription and $55.00 to Updraft.com for the extra plug-ins.

 Dearborn Public Library

-- We use WordPress for our website – hastingspubliclibrary.org – it works well for distributing the pages to multiple staff members to update but we still find we have pages that are very out of date and it is a challenge to keep up with everything.  We have scaled back once and will probably do so again since we can tell from statistics that not many people are going beyond the basic pages.  We also find the web site gets more use when we link to it from Facebook and our Constant Contact emails. Our Network Administrator, Ed, would be able to give you more details on how he chose the framework – I copied him on this note.

Hastings Public Library

-- Ours is working just great. We have support from the one who designed it for us and didn't charge us an arm and a leg. Our website is: [alleganlibrary.org](http://alleganlibrary.org/)

Allegan District Library

-- I have used Word Press for a variety of sites, including the site for Woodlands Library Cooperative - [http://woodlands.lib.mi.us](http://woodlands.lib.mi.us/)  I find it incredibly versatile and easy to use & tweak.

-- Orion Township has used WordPress for a little over a year and it's been great.  We're using a paid theme and two paid plugins with several free plugins and a few in-house customizations.  We're running it on IIS and most of the online help is geared toward Apache, but that was really our only speed bump when first starting out.  We also tried to set up WordPress multisite and were never able to get it worked out.  More IIS issues.

We got the theme on sale for $42 (now $99) with lifetime updates and support but WooThemes has since changed their business model for new customers.  Support and updates are now only included for a year with optional renewal.  The slider you see on the home page, also from WooThemes, is now $49 with support and updates for 1 year with optional renewal.  Our purchased theme has a built-in slider but the purchased slider is more versatile allows us to include it on multiple pages.  We also pay $59 per year for Akismet spam protection. We’re self-hosted so we don’t pay for server space.

Orion Township Public Library

-- I've found using WordPress for the site has been a great experience.  It's worked out well for us, offering a flexible and creative foundation for site development.  We use the Weaver II theme, which has also proven to be very user-friendly and easy to administer. Have a look at our site at [http://www.southfieldlibrary.org](http://www.southfieldlibrary.org/) The Weaver II theme "Pro" version is about 50 or 60 dollars, I believe. . .there may be minor incidentals but nothing else comes to mind.  Open source is exciting and fun! ( - :

Southfield Public Library