Projects module for ImpressCMS

Purpose

The Projects module allows you to prepare 'dossier' pages to showcase your organisation's projects. It aims to help you present the projects you have in hand, and retain a record of what you have done in the past.

Features

The index page shows a list of project summaries plus a lead image for each. Each project has its own dedicated page. Projects can be toggled as active or completed, and the completed ones are archived under a separate submenu item. A configurable 'updated' notice can be set to automatically label projects when you add new content to them (such as the release of a new publication or project milestone).

It comes with a 'Random projects' block, which you can configure to display as a compact list (best used in side columns) or project summaries (best used in centre columns).

Optional tag support can be added by installing the Sprockets module (distributed separately). This enables you to filter both the index page and block contents according to the tags you have assigned to projects.

Requirements

Projects requires ImpressCMS V1.3 or higher. It will not work with V1.2.

Optional tag support

I recommend that you also install the optional Sprockets module, as this enables tagging functionality, which allows you to sort and filter your projects.

Installation

Follow the normal procedure for installing an ImpressCMS module:

1. Copy the 'projects' folder to the /modules directory.
2. Go to administration => modules and press the install icon for the Projects module.

The module is now ready for use. However, you may wish to consider install the optional Sprockets module as well, as this activates additional functionality within the Projects module.

Configuration (preferences)

Help text is provided for every configuration option in the Project module preferences. Those worthy of note are:

1. Display index as a list of summaries: If you select 'no', projects will be listed as a simple table of project titles instead.
2. Logo position: If you enable logo display (a separate item), you can choose to have them displayed on the left or side of the page.
3. Logo display width (index page / single view / block): Projects will automatically resize and cache logos to the dimensions you specify here. If you change the values, the images will be automatically be rebuilt from the original. This makes it easy to change your page layout on the fly. However, the logo you supply should be a bit larger than the maximum size you expect to display it at, in order to avoid pixellation due to upscaling.
4. Freestyle logo dimensions: When enabled, the Projects module will **not** resize logos dynamically, and logos will be displayed as they were uploaded. This function is provided in case you wish to exercise manual control over logo dimensions by resizing them yourself before upload (you may need to do this if your logos vary widely in shape). Otherwise it is best to leave this disabled.
5. Maximum height/width/file size of logo files: Uploaded logos cannot exceed these dimensions.
6. Show date last updated: When you update a project, an 'updated' notice will be displayed for a configurable period of time as set in the "Display 'updated' notice time") preferences.
7. Date format: Set the format of the date in 'updated' notices. To change the format, you need to enter a template string. Please refer to the PHP manual for an explanation of how to construct the template: http://php.net/manual/en/function.date.php.

Using the projects module

The Projects module is quite simple:

1. Projects are added by filling in the submission form in the Projects module administration page (select 'add project'). Only three fields are mandatory, the title, description and completion status. However, I recommend that you fill in as many fields as possible. Particular fields to note are:
    a. The 'Logo' field accepts .png, .gif and .jpg file types. Images will automatically be resized and cached by the module, according to the values set in the module preferences. There are limits on the dimensions and file size of uploaded images (configurable in the module preferences).
    b. The 'Completed' field is used to indicate whether the project is currently running or if it is finished. Only active projects are displayed on the index page. When you mark a project as complete it will be moved to the 'completed projects' page, which is accessible through a submenu item.
    c. The 'Description' and 'Extended text' fields are **independent**. The description is displayed on the index page of the module; the extended text is displayed on the dossier page for that project. Recommended use is to put a one-paragraph summary of your project in the description, and the full project details in the extended text. However, if you do not enter an extended text then the description field will be displayed instead.

d. The 'Last updated' field is used to indicate when you have updated a project page, for example you reached a project milestone or released a new publication etc. Display of 'updated' notices are optional and can be configured to display for varying lengths of time in the module preferences (see below).

e. The 'Tags' field is visible **only** if you have installed the optional Sprockets module. You can assign projects to multiple tags. On the user side of the module, a tag select box will become visible which can be used to filter the page display.

2. In the Projects module administration page you can change a project's completion status, sort order (weight) and toggle it online or offline, by clicking on the icons. Projects that are marked offline are no longer available on the user side and do not appear in search results.

3. The 'Random projects' block allows you to display a configurable number of recent projects. You can choose to randomise the order if you wish, and if Sprockets is installed you can also filter the block contents by tag. Edit block configuration in administration => blocks and click the 'edit' icon for the Random projects block.

Support

Please direct all support questions to the ImpressCMS Module Support Forum, where everyone can help you and others can benefit from solutions. Enquiries for customisation and further development can be sent to simon@isengard.biz.

Support forum:

http://community.impresscms.org/modules/newbb/viewforum.php?forum=9

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