

Pressbooks basics
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Martha Attridge Bufton

Welcome to this short video from the Carleton University Library and the Digital Pedagogy project entitled Pressbooks basics.

This video introduces Pressbooks, an open-source, do-it-yourself book design and production platform available from eCampus Ontario and Carleton .

Why use Pressbooks for open access publishing

In general, Pressbooks can be used to format a variety of content into various readable formats. The platform can help you easily get your writing in a form you can share while avoiding the costs of expensive ebook developers and book designers.

Pressbooks also allows individuals to create, adapt, and revise open education resources, courseware, and academic content.

More specifically, one, there are minimal barriers to publishing.

Authors and editors have control over the entire process.

The publishing process is timelier when compared to traditional publishing.

And, while each project requires expertise (content development, design, editing, technological, and project management), there are no external publisher expectations.

In addition, the platform is relatively easy to use.

Developed by the WordPress community, the platform requires low technical proficiency to learn and use. As such, the platform is user-centered and supports collaboration.

In addition, some users may already have some functional familiarity if they have worked with WordPress.

Finally, if the platform is accessed from eCampus Ontario, publishing projects may have access to peer review and funding opportunities.

Here is an example of one project supported by the Digital Pedagogy Project at Carleton University and eCampus Ontario.

Do we take shelter? Evaluating “high stakes” information is an immersive role-playing game.

The gamer handbook (i.e., the textbook for the game) was created on the Pressbooks platform and published this handbook on the eCampus Open Library.

Students access the content by clicking on the Read Book button.

The chapters are accessed by clicking on the drop-down menu next to the Contents heading.

A Pressbooks publication will have a relatively shallow structure as the platform limits the nesting functionality.

Nested content is accessed by clicking on the plus (+) function to the right of a chapter title.

Typically, content appears on a one-dimensional web page. Text, graphics, and media such as H5Ps and videos, can be added to a page.

To create and edit a project, obtain a user account. Then login from the Pressbooks site where the account has been created. In this case, the login is from the eCampus site.

To access a particular project, click on the My Books function in the top left-hand corner of the screen.

From the drop-down menu, choose the project to be edited.

The platform can be accessed from the left-hand navigation, as well as the navigation in the middle of the page.

To see the structure of the publication, click on the Organize option.

The platform offers basic publication sections, such as front and back matter. Customized sections or chapters can be added using the Add Chapter and Add part functions.

Pressbooks offers built-in themes, available by clicking on the Appearance functions.

The book information includes author, title, Creative Commons license data. This information appears on the book's cover and title pages and in the metadata of the publication and exported files.

Finally, media such as images, can be uploaded to the Media Library using the Media function. Once in the library, this content can be added to individual pages.

To recap, why use Pressbooks to publish?

One, there are minimal barriers to publishing.

Two, the platform is relatively easy to use.

And three, if the platform is accessed from eCampus Ontario, publishing projects may have access to peer review and funding opportunities.

This is the end of this video.