Oldham County Public Library prepares for the future with new website

The Oldham County Public Library needed to improve its website to better reflect its expanding events programming and physical facilities. Among other initiatives, the library is anticipating a capital campaign for two new locations in the Louisville, Kentucky, metropolitan area this year. But its old site didn't support OCPL's innovative vision.

"We knew we needed to update the site, with our plans for growth, but the prospect of this kind of project is always a little daunting," said Jessica Powell, OCPL's director. "There's always more than you expect to deal with, and our main focus is always going to be on serving patrons, not technology."
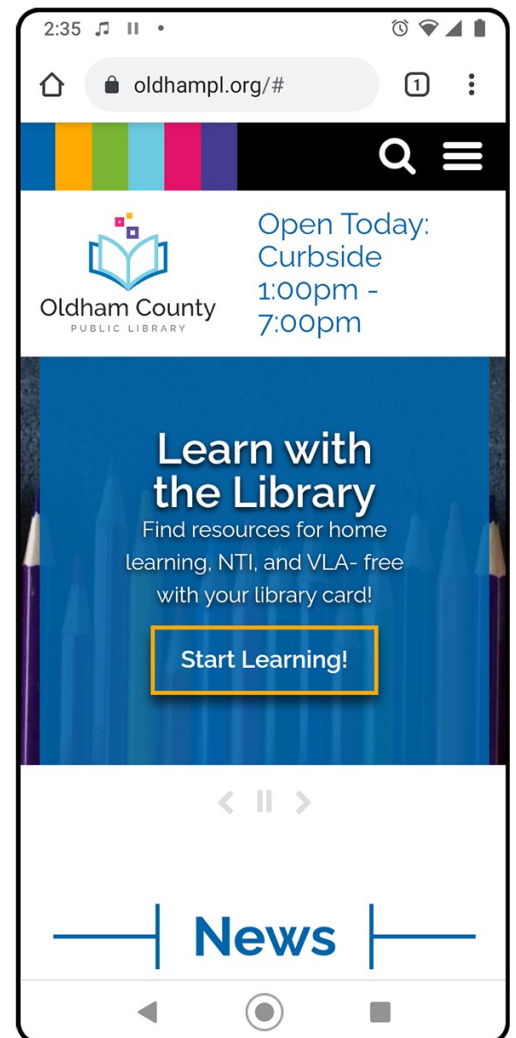
OCPL chose Mugo Web as its development partner, and its new site went live in November 2020 – on time, on budget, and to a welcome reception by the library's staff and patrons.

The Process

The reason the OCPL project went so well, while other libraries run into so many problems, was careful planning and a focus on identifying and solving any obstacles, regardless of where they might arise.

"So many projects fail because the web developer does not take a big picture view of where the website fits in with all of the other technology," said Peter Keung, Mugo Web's Managing Director.

"People tend to say 'it's not my problem,' – no, it is going to be a problem, and somebody has to fix it, whether or not you signed up to sort out the previous Windows server or internal DNS, or whatever," Keung said. "The web team has to be willing to drive the process forward."

The Project

- Mugo Web worked with design partner Spin Key Media to create a new logo, font set and color palette that would work not only on the new site, but also on letterhead, business cards, social media, and all other visual communications.
- OCPL's old site was hosted on-site and managed on the IT side by a third-party service that focuses on library tech. The library's main catalog system is TLC's LS2 PAC, which remains locally hosted. The new site, built on the Ibexa DXP, is entirely web-based. Mugo Web worked with IT to catalog all dependencies and avoid costly project delays.
- The new OCPL site is based on the library-centric features developed by Mugo Web. Each of the library's three branches has a page dedicated to its operating hours, location, and other features. The events calendar, a standout feature of the Mugo solution, can be filtered by both category and branch location.
- Mugo Web trained OCPL team members on site operations in advance of the launch. These users managed content migration to the live production environment, which had the dual benefit of enforcing their training and providing QA testing on the new site.

For a detailed case study of the OCPL website project, visit us at mugo.ca/ocpl.

The Reception

The library began seeing positive results from the new site immediately. In fact, even before the site went live to patrons inside the physical library, users began signing up for events through the new site's registration system.

"This is just such a wise investment," Powell said. "With the capital campaign coming up, it's a really strong brand statement to the community.".

About Mugo Web

Mugo Web has developed and maintains a wide diversity of business-critical websites, including those for libraries and library systems.

Mugo specializes in supporting clients by providing business solutions that are efficient and effective. Mugo thrives on long-term relationships, providing stability, broad technical expertise, and friendly, professional service to our clients. Our solutions empower you to better manage, monetize, and future-proof your digital assets.

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