

Thank you all of you for your hard and creative work through the past academic year! The web sites you created for the Digital Magazine Unit are still running. Your access was restored as soon as the admin of marking was over, and you are all welcome to continue to use them for the next few months. There are SO many good publishing ideas here, so I really hope at least some of you would like to set up and run your own sites – own your own space in the world of publishing. This is how exciting things start!

Which was whose site?

If anyone can't remember their 'site number,' there's a list on the home page of the 'top level' <http://blurbmagazine.com> site. This will show you which 'site number' was yours and let you browse what you have already published. There's also a way to contact me in this top level page if you get stuck.

In order to EDIT and add new content, you need to add your site number *and* /wp-admin to the URL to get to your log-in page. For example, if your site is <http://www.blurbmagazine.com/01> then your log-in page is at <http://www.blurbmagazine.com/01/wp-admin>. If you try to log in to the 'top level' BlurbMagazine.com page that won't work.

As I promised during the DMP unit, your sites here will continue to run for a few more months. For anyone that wants to carry on going with your site I will happily help you set up your own web site with your own domain name and transfer over your existing work. I'll explain the details below, but I will provide hands-on help individually as well. I'll give examples using the blurbmagazine.com domain name for simplicity, so remember to think of these with your own site name.

The basics

A 'domain name' is the first part of a web address, for example 'blurbmagazine.com' or 'arts.ac.uk' or 'bbc.co.uk'. Changing the domain name is NOT something you can do from within your WordPress admin controls. Please don't try to do that! In order to have your own site running from your own domain you will need to

- (1) buy your own web domain name and arrange for it to be hosted somewhere,
- (2) set up WordPress on it (generally very simple) and then
- (3) do an export/import of the existing WordPress site into your new one.

If you don't want to use WordPress as your publishing engine that's fine, but it does help make ongoing article creation very easy to manage. It's also free to use on your own sites. I will be very happy to help you get set up with your own domain and so on so you can carry on publishing and really be your own publisher.

Setting up a web site involves two things:

- (1) Registering a domain name, and
- (2) Arranging web hosting for that name (a location online where that domain name is linked to).

Both these things have an annual cost, although nothing horrendous. Then, when someone types in your domain name, clicks a link or whatever, they are directed to the place on the specific web server computer where your web site files are stored.

Your domain (web site) name

Many of your sites have great magazine concept names, but I'm sure many of these names will have already been registered as domains by someone. There are web sites that can help you find available names, but you will probably find you have to be a little creative. Consider how easy a name might be to tell someone or for someone to remember. Using a dash between two words (for example blurb-magazine) can sometimes help if your first choice is gone.

Another thing to consider is the 'top level domain' (tld for short). This is the .com, .co.uk etc. part at the end of your unique name. If the .com version is gone, what about .net, .org, .co.uk or others? Some of the funkier ones such as .london or .magazine sound cool but can cost quite a bit more per year, so don't let your excitement carry you away!

ukreg.com is a useful tool for finding new domain names. It uses its own synonym dictionary to suggest alternatives, so if you're struggling to find something that works, try putting two or three separate words into the search field, for example 'blurb' and 'magazine,' and see what it suggests. Write it down and try saying it to someone before you make your final decision.

Whatever site you use to FIND your domain name, I advise that you DON'T use that to actually register it. Instead, do this with the same company that you use for the domain hosting (see below). I've found the hard way that using one company for both simplifies things a lot and helps avoid accidentally letting a domain name expire.

Web hosting company

I've been looking around to see what's currently the best for the requirements you guys will have without charging too much, and I can thoroughly recommend **Dreamhost.com**. This happens to be the same company I've used for my web hosting work since 2006, and I have always had really good assistance from their tech support people.

<https://www.dreamhost.com/wordpress/shared-wp-hosting/>

Costs

The web hosting cost from Dreamhost is a little under £40 a year when paid annually. This includes a domain name for the first year; after that, the domain name registration will be around £8 a year.

Bottom line: you're looking at an annual cost of a little under £40 a year for the first year and around £45 each year after that (to include the annual domain name renewal). Important note: these prices won't suddenly increase; it's not a 'special starter price' that catches you out later, the way most web companies seem to work.

If you'd like email as well (for example 'editor@blurbmagazine.com') the first year cost is a little under £50 a year instead of a little under £40, and around £55 ongoing after the first year. That's something you could upgrade yourself to later if you preferred, so don't feel you have to do that now.

I know £40-£50 is still 'a real chunk of change' as the saying goes, but this means you're an active working publisher with a live site that can be used for anything. It can help you rise above the competition when looking for internships or work, you can embed surveys in your own pages for your research projects, and so on.

— Keith